

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, July 23, 2026
EVENT DATE: AUGUST 14-16, 2026
Mount Vernon Music & Arts Festival

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38th annual Festival returns to downtown Mount Vernon

MOUNT VERNON – The Mount Vernon Music and Arts Festival (MVMAF) will welcome Fredericktown native and country singer **Preston Cooper**, quartet **Six One Five Collective**, tribute band **Forever Seger – The Silver Bullet Experience**, and Central Ohio icons **Phil Dirt and the Dozers** as headline musical acts for this year's event, August 14-16 on the Public Square and streets of downtown Mount Vernon. Headline concerts are at 6:30 and 8:30pm, Friday and Saturday nights. This marks the 38th year for this event, presented by Ariel Corporation as part of the 2026 *Mount Vernon Presents* calendar.

The festival officially opens at 11:00am on Friday, August 14. The 2026 MVMAF will highlight local, regional and national performing, visual and creative artists of all ages. There will also be many food, snack and beverage selections available from a variety of food trucks, downtown restaurants and cafes. A vendor village travels down South Main Street, from the Square to Gambier Street. The 2026 MVMAF is a DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) approved event.

Other events include the first-ever **Brick Fest at The Woodward**, with LEGO-themed art of all types from 3:00-8:00 Friday and 11:00am-8:00pm Saturday at the Woodward Opera House, 107 S. Main St. The **Festival Flower Show**, presented by the Knox County Garden Club, at The Living Center, 201 N. Main St., returns Friday to Sunday. The 3rd annual **Chalk Art Competition** is Saturday at 12:00-3:00pm at Sweet Street Candy and Soda Shoppe on the northeast Public Square. Visitors can also enjoy **KidFest** activities on West Vine Street, the third annual **Kiwanis Pie Auction** at 3:30pm Saturday, the **Wood Challenge Auction** at 5:00pm Saturday, and the annual **Car & Motorcycle Cruise-In** on Saturday along Ohio Avenue at the south end of the Festival grounds.

Other highlights include the annual **Youth Showcase**, Friday (1:00pm) and Saturday (11:00am) on the South Stage, the return of the **Mount Vernon High School** marching band

OUR MISSION: The Mount Vernon Music and Arts Festival exists to present a celebration of the arts; creating experiences that entertain, educate and inspire; uniting artists and audiences within the historic backdrop of Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Friday night at 5:00, the return of the **Titanic** artifact exhibit from 12:00 to 5:00pm Saturday (\$5 cost at 120 S. Main), and street performances from **Madcap Living History** on Saturday.

Other local and regional artists scheduled to perform include Jamee Hersberger, Nate Smith, The Shuman Band, Slight Halo, Side Effects, West African drummers, Chris Petee, MTVarts, Dingler Studio, Lilly Buckley, Norita Hissong, Landon Ross, Jam for Jims, Elaina Arthur, Rewynd, 1numberoff, McKinley Figurski, magician Jeff Eno, and the Royal Princess Party.

Festival hours are 11:00am-10:00pm Friday and Saturday and 11:00am-3:00pm on Sunday. MVMAF is free and open to the public, with parking along South Gay and South Mulberry Streets and other downtown lots. Attendees are encouraged to bring their bag chairs for traditional free open seating areas outside of the ticketed seating.

Preferred seating tickets near the stage for Preston Cooper are \$30 (\$50 VIP are sold out). There are also preferred seating tickets for Forever Seger and Phil Dirt & The Dozers by visiting the Festival or the Mount Vernon Arts Consortium Website (<https://www.mvac.org/>).

Downtown streets, including the Public Square, will begin closing on Thursday morning, August 13 to prepare for the Festival. Learn more about this year's MVMAF at <https://www.mvmaf.org/> or on the Festival's Facebook and Instagram (@mvmafohio).

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