

Meet The 2022 Renaissance Artists



Luke Lenhart and the Luke Lenhart Band

An all-around musician, playing the mandolin, guitar, banjo, fiddle, doghouse bass, Luke also sings lead and harmony.

Luke has been a fixture in the bluegrass music community since his youth, having played many of the major music festivals throughout the state of Michigan.

He participated in the National Flatpicking Championships and shared the stage with nationally known musicians for the International Bluegrass Music Association.

The Luke Lenhart band is primarily a family band that has local success. For more about the family band see this WGVU interview:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/luke-lenhart-band-rrygt3/>

Here Luke and band perform on WOOD television:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24qH-tR4KP0>

They enjoy playing Beatles songs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF2PVMPf2QA>

See more about Renaissance at <https://www.facebook.com/Renaissance-Enterprises-100372162076879>

Susan Harrison is a vocalist and instrumentalist.

She is the recipient of a variety of awards to include:

- Hospice and the Arts Partnership Grants
- Kalamazoo Arts Outreach Award
- Arts Fund of Greater Kalamazoo Awards
- Philo Farnsworth Finalist Award
- Wolf Trap Silver Medallion Awards
- TRW Challenge Award
- Pharmacia/Upjohn Community Arts Grants
- Gilmore Emerging Artist Grant
- Music City Song Festival Award
- Kalamazoo Artist Development Initiative
- Nostalgia Trippin and more....



More information about Susan is at <https://www.palamazoo.com/>.

"Susan's playful, energetic performances capture the attention of any audience." Julie Duval, Wheatland Music Festival.

"Susan has the ability to observe the needs of her audience and craft her performance to address those needs." Jen Nowlen, Woodland School for Technology and Research.



Carl Emroy is a multitalented singer with a wide range of expressiveness, which allows him to perform genres such as country, classical and gospel music.

He has recorded numerous singles, both in English and German (his first language).

He has performed at the Grand Ole Opry, numerous TV appearances, as well as the famed Bluebird Café in Nashville.

Rendal Wall and the Green Valley Boys

"We always hear from folks who remember my dad, Rem Wall and The Green Valley Jamboree," that ran on channel 3 for over 24 years. The band, including Rendal, was inducted into the Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame in 1977. "We were the only band inducted as a group," Wall says. "I was kinda proud."



Album with the Green Valley Boys

"The main thing is that music brings joy to people," he says. "They've got a smile on their face when they walk through that door."

Rendal followed in his father's footsteps. He says he was barely out of diapers when he picked up his first instrument, an accordion. He took accordion lessons but quickly tired of the instrument and moved on to the lap steel guitar. He then took to playing a pedal steel guitar, which is a console-type, double-necked steel guitar with 10 strings on each double neck, eight pedals and four knee levers.

When Wall was 10, his father's band needed a

drummer, so Rendal, who had also taken drum lessons, began playing with the band in shows and in area bars. "I learned about life at an early age," he says, laughing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PsoCB86xmk> has clips from Rendal's father's television show, with Ren providing some narrative.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyfEoTmkGN8> has Bob Rowe with the Green Valley Boys, including Rendal. He continued the group after his father's passing. The Green Valley Boys still play today with Renaissance Enterprises.

"One woman was so touching to me when she mentioned how hard her physical therapy sessions were and it helped her get through them when we visit and play the old songs from the show!"

*(Includes excerpts from Encore Magazine
November 2018)*



Benjamin Gauthier ("Benjamin")

studied music at Western Michigan University, graduating with a BA in Integrated Arts. He has performed with University Choral, Gold Company II and Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity. Benjamin's main instrument is voice, but he has also studied guitar, piano and percussion.

He and his wife, Analisa, performed songs for thousands of senior residents, students and teachers across the United States. See

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiOm1yZ8ZJA> for an example of his performance style.

"There are miracles that we see every day. I think the best miracles are ones where people's eyes light up with joy as they join in song, playing along, laughing, dancing and causing a wonderful ruckus."

"During my performance, I call on the audience to participate, and then, people add their pizzazz to the show. They become singers, dancers, and quite often they become comedians in the peanut gallery. Then, there are the quiet (and often

sleepy) people I play for, who, after the show, open their eyes to give a gentle smile and a thank you."

Michael Northrop is a multifaceted artist with a Master of Fine Arts degree from Western Michigan University and a Bachelor of Music degree from Olivet College.

He and Bob Rowe released the album Healer of the Universe and has sung with Bob on two subsequent albums, the latest is Bob's new release, Legacy. Together they have led Parish retreats and have guest hosted a nationally syndicated Radio Show.

Northrop is a full-time professor of Art and Humanities at Glen Oaks Community College. For more about his other talents, see:

<http://www.michaelnorthrop.com/index.html>



Candace Corrigan

"My own mother always loved music and was also a songwriter. When time came that she had to go to an assisted living home, she was scared and apprehensive. We were able to bring old time blue grass and country music to her facility on a regular basis and it helped her so much to feel peaceful and at home. We even got her

up to sing with us on many occasions. This program works so well to help the elderly adjust to their new way of life!"

Singer, songwriter, actress, and radio and television producer she has had a varied media career mixing historical research with creative work. Examples of her work include:

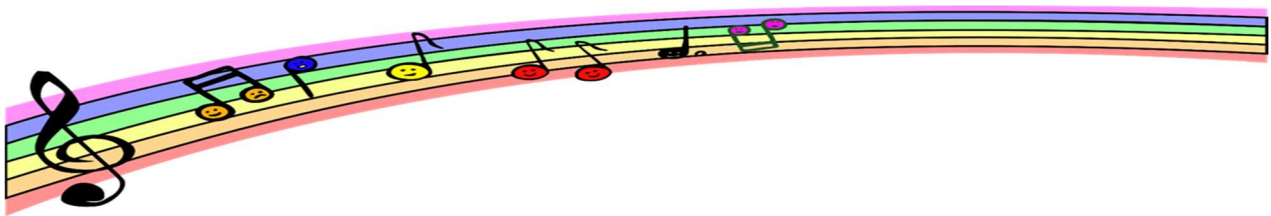


- Her Sampler of Michigan Pioneer Women was a theatrical production based on letters and diaries of actual people that was later produced on public radio.
- Through a Woman's Voice, a project based on the writings of Tennessee women between the 18th and 20th centuries, also found a place on public radio and became a two-CD set of stories/songs.
- Her The Perfect 36 was a radio documentary on women's voting rights
- Running for Freedom was a radio drama about a female runaway slave.
- The album, Talking to a Tennessee Moon, was under the name Candace Anderson then came The Love I'm In, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhkoK5POw-M>.

Larry Johnson has nearly 40 years of performing experience, interrupted only by service in the U.S. Army. Larry learned to play the guitar at an early age, playing at church having taught himself how to pick.

His genre is country music, which he picked up from his mother and grandmother, the latter having been a performing musician also.

Larry is generous with his talent, playing as a volunteer for the Wounded Warrior Project, the Humane Society fund raising events, and, of course, for Renaissance.



Megan Dooley

Dooley is a torch singer. Her voice is a train dressed in satin. It lilts, flirts and storms, and all this musical drama is a performance she's worked more than half her life to develop. But despite all the flare, Dooley says she wants to be one of the "most reliable musicians" in Kalamazoo. Dooley, who started playing guitar at 14, also plays banjolele. She performs with the Kalamazoo bands Dooley Noted, Moxieville and Top Heavy, but also as a solo artist, in venues like O'Duffy's Pub,



Old Dog Tavern, Bell's Eccentric Café and Saugatuck Brewing Co. as well as at fundraisers and private house shows.

Dooley was awarded a \$4,500 Kalamazoo Artistic Development Initiative grant by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo in April 2015 to record *Made in Kalamazoo* at La Luna Recording & Sound." (Excerpt from Review from Encore Magazine "Southwest Michigan's Magazine")

Bob Rowe

Besides serving as executive director of Renaissance, Rowe also performs at nursing homes and other senior care and living centers.



Thirty years ago, musician/song writer Bob Rowe formed Renaissance Enterprises dedicated to bringing live arts to the sick and elderly. Since then, Renaissance has delivered over 3,000 performances, engaging over 100 local artists at over 50 senior and veterans' facilities.

Bob began his career in the 1970's singing in clubs and coffee houses, in Chicago, Detroit, New York, and other cities. He personally benefitted from the inspiration and mentoring of Judy Collins, Joan Baez and Peter, Paul and Mary. Along the way he began to perform for "special" groups and audiences, such as the developmentally disabled, visually impaired, and the elderly. He realized that this is where his heart was leading him, and in 1988 he formed the non-profit to allow expansion of this work. He engaged some of the area's finest artists, artisans and performers that are handpicked because of their ability to reach the special and unique audience we serve.

Today this continues to be only mission work of Renaissance Enterprises – the nonprofit that Bob began.

Bob and Renaissance are recognized nationally for this work, having a plethora of awards including the 2015 Kalamazoo Community Medal of Arts. Meanwhile he continues with a vibrant individual career. See



Cover from one of Rowe's twenty-one

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Rowe#cite_note-visioncouncil.org-2 for more information.

A video of Bob was made recently by the Grotto Network, see:

https://grottonetwork.com/make-an-impact/volunteer/bob-rowe-musician/?fbclid=IwAR0x8MykrK_g2QQfUT0mp4TV4a0ioKold2hl328X7AnTTHGiuzjKZhuSAd8.



Support for Renaissance Enterprises is provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, many local foundations and individual donors. See more about Renaissance at <https://www.facebook.com/Renaissance-Enterprises-100372162076879>