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Gary Louris of The Jayhawks Headlines CDL Song Fest!

CDL Song Fest returns in October for its seventh year. On Friday, October 11, Chelsea District Library (CDL) welcomes Gary Louris of The Jayhawks to the Pasture Barn at Robin Hills Farm. On Saturday, October 12, CDL will spotlight up-and-coming teen talent in the CDL Reading Garden. CDL Director Lori Coryell reflects on the history of Song Fest; “Storytelling is an art, and one of the most impactful and memorable ways that people share stories is through song. We all have particular songs that take us back to specific times and places in our lives. CDL Song Fest was conceived to celebrate this art of songwriting. We are thrilled to welcome the incredibly talented Gary Louris to share his musical talents with our audience.”

Over the last three decades, singer, songwriter, guitarist, and producer Gary Louris has built a deeply compelling body of music whose artistry and integrity has won the loyalty of an international audience and the respect of both critics and his peers. Best known for his seminal work with The Jayhawks, he is one of the most acclaimed musicians to come out of Minnesota’s teeming rock scene. Louris released his first solo album, *Vagabonds*, in 2008. His long-awaited 2nd solo album, *Jump For Joy*, was released in 2021.

Concurrent with his time in The Jayhawks, Louris has been a charter member of the part-time alt-rock supergroup Golden Smog, which at various times has included members of Soul Asylum, Wilco, the Replacements, and Big Star. Reflecting on Louris’s influence, Jeff Tweedy (lead singer of Wilco) commented in a July 2020 *Rolling Stone* article, “The main throughline, with all the different incarnations of the Jayhawks, is Gary’s voice and his songwriting and his guitar playing...He has a real knack for having things sound familiar and comforting and at the same time, sort of disorienting...He’s got some darkness. But he also has the voice of an angel. It’s like some heavenly voice singing some serious venom.”

CDL Song Fest Schedule

- **A Conversation with Gary Louris**

Friday, Oct. 11 | 7–8pm | Robin Hills Farm | 20390 M-52, Chelsea MI 48118 | All Ages

Jeremy Baldwin from WEMU News interviews singer-songwriter Gary Louris of The Jayhawks about his inspiration, career, influences, and craft.

- **Gary Louris Live!**

Friday, Oct. 11 | 8–9pm | Robin Hills Farm | 20390 M-52, Chelsea MI 48118 | All Ages

Lead singer-songwriter and guitarist Gary Louris performs before a live audience in this not-to-be missed concert.

- **Teen Song Fest Showcase**

Saturday, Oct. 12 | 3–5pm | All Ages | Reading Garden | Drop-in

Tune in to this teen concert, featuring local bands and musicians from across Washtenaw County!

CDL Song Fest is made possible by the generosity of the Friends of Chelsea District Library. All Song Fest events are open to the public and do not require a ticket or reservation. Seating will be available on a first come, first served basis.

About Us: Chelsea District Library (CDL) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage, inspire, and equip through evolving services and resources. CDL currently serves 16,126 residents in the Chelsea library district—City of Chelsea, Lyndon, and Sylvan Townships, and the portions of Lima and Dexter Townships within the Chelsea School District. For more information visit chelseadistrictlibrary.org.

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