SHAUN JOHNSON
BIG BAND EXPERIENCE

BOWLUS
Fine Arts Center

2026-27 Season





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2026-2027 Season

Bowlus Main Stage

Saturday, October 24, 2026
7 PM

205 E. Madison Ave., Iola, KS 66749 • www.bowluscenter.org • (620) 365-4765

SHAUN JOHNSON



The Shaun Johnson Big Band Experience is a rare, newcomer to traditional pop fusing a big band spirit with an inventive edge and garnering a Top 5 Billboard spot with the release of their first album. Shaun, an Emmy award-winning crooner, indelibly stamps vocal jazz and swing with a contemporary punch - to the delight of both traditionalists and newcomers emerging as an original voice in the American Songbook narrative.

Shaun seemed destined for a life of music from the very beginning. “One of my earliest memories,” he says, “is of performing at state fair talent shows with my little sister. We’d sing Sonny and Cher songs - a cappella - when neither of us was quite tall enough to reach the microphone.” Those acappella origins proved prescient when Shaun later launched his musical career with the nationally known vocal group, Tonic Sol-fa. This quartet has sold nearly two million albums independently and has been featured in Newsweek and on the Today Show. Shaun is still an active member.

In 2018, Shaun fueled a lifelong passion and assembled an octet featuring some of the best instrumentalists and arrangers in the Midwest, people who’ve toured with numerous luminaries, who are Music Educators of the Year and who are integral members of collegiate jazz faculties. His vision was to spearhead a big band renaissance: to create a contemporary Pop Big Band sound with a nod to Lake Street Dive and Michael Buble, while giving this music his own twist, performing songs ranging from the “Spiderman Theme” to increasingly popular original work.

Look for the Big Band Experience’s recent appearance on HBO’s “Hard Knocks,” as well as their first PBS special, “Spirit of the Season,” to air across North America.

SHAUN JOHNSON

BIG BAND EXPERIENCE

FAST FACTS

The Big Band Experience can be seen on their very own, nationally televised PBS television special, “The Spirit of the Season.”

The band’s debut album, “Capitol,” debuted at #5 on the Billboard Jazz Chart.

Shaun won his first Emmy in the "Musical Composition/Arrangement" category.

Shaun recently won two Independent Grammys for “Best Original Holiday Song” and “Best Pop Song” out of 650,000 entries worldwide.

Philanthropic efforts include: collaborations with Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Susan G. Komen, Lunch is Served, and Wishes&More, as well as appearances for 360 Communities, Music in the Schools, the Make A Wish Foundation and numerous other charities.

Significant performances include: NBC's Today Show, the Ames Center, Burnsville, MN; Levitt Shell, Memphis, TN, Dakota Jazz Club, Minneapolis, MN, with the SD Symphony at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD; the Hoyt Sherman Theater, Des Moines, IA; the State Theater, Eau Claire, WI; the Orpheum Theater, Sioux City, IA; the Freeman Stage at Bayside, Selbyville, DE; with the Rochester Symphony at the Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN, Jostens, Tastefully Simple, Thrivent Financial, Winnebago, General Mills, etc.



SHAUN JOHNSON
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RAISE THE CURTAIN:
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

We invite you to support our Annual Raise the Curtain Fund, formerly the Bowlus Operations Fund. Your gift directly supports the essential daily operations that keep our building running, from utilities and services to equipment upkeep and repairs. Your generosity keeps the Bowlus thriving for generations.

tickets.bowluscenter.org



The Bowlus would like to recognize and express our appreciation to the following individuals, families, and businesses who have made financial contributions to the Bowlus this year.

BRAVO!

Jim & Mary Ann Arnott
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Kevin & Amanda Hensel
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Diana Asher
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Ken & Kit McGuffin
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Paul Zirjacks

Gifts of $50 - $99

The FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS mission is to promote activities at the BOWLUS FINE ARTS CENTER, to provide needed resources to help purchase major equipment and enhance the beauty of the building.

Over the years our members have volunteered countless hours at the center, donated to various large equipment purchases and contributed to building improvement projects. Our most recent success was completing a capital campaign drive resulting with the beautiful addition of the new east entrance and plaza area.

We'd like to take a moment to thank those members who have renewed their membership for this new year and to welcome and thank our brand new members joining us in celebration of the performing arts in this incredible treasure of a facility. Those listed below are members and those with an asterik (★) have given a gift byond their memberships dues this year. We'd love to add you to the list!

-Jan Knewtson, President, FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS, INC.

Friends of the Bowlus Membership July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

RUBY LEVEL MEMBERS $100

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Go to bowluscenter.org/Friends to learn more about the Friends of the Bowlus and how to join.
Or scan the QR Code to join today!

BOWLUS FINE ARTS CENTER STAFF

Mandy Moyer.....Executive Director
Carley Swanson.....Financial Director/Assistant Projects Director
Jeff Jordan .....Facility Manager/Technical Director
Bryan Johnson.....Assistant Technical Director
Brady Drury.....Head Maintenance

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Matt Rehder (City Administator) (Chair), Ken McWhirter (Vice Chair)
Amanda Stamness (Secretary), Dan Davis, Stanley Grigsby, Sarah Hart, Jan Knewtson (Friends of the Bowlus) Katrina Springer, and John Brocker (County Commissioner).

BOWLUS USHERS

Linda Brocker, Carolyn Cantrell, Lori Cooper, Elizabeth Cox, Timothy Cox, Carol Crawford, Larry Crawford, Diana Dashnaw, Dan Davis, Marcia Davis, Donna Grigsby, Sandy Haggard, Missy Irwin, Linda Johnson, Bud Jones, Carol Kemp, Shelia Lampe, Halie Luken, Michelle McDown, Wayne McDown, Valerie McGee, Judy McGraw, Jeremy Moyer, Carol Olson, Marie Parker, Lorraine Kuzen-Stephens, Wayne Stephens, Julie Tholen, Vickie Tholen, Marla Wilson, Robin Withrow, and Karen Works.

WILL CALL ASSISTANT

Marla Wilson

BOX OFFICE SERVICES

ONLINE: www.bowluscenter.org
BY PHONE: 620.365.4765 (M-F 9 AM – 4 PM)
IN PERSON: 205 E. Madison Avenue, Iola, KS (M-F 9 AM – 4 PM)
DAY OF SHOW: Lobby Box Office (Open 1 hr prior to the start of show)

TICKET POLICIES

TICKET SALES FINAL

All ticket sales are final and no refunds will be given, unless one of the following exceptions occur: (1) refunds required to correct errors or mistakes in the online ordering process, or errors made by Bowlus staff, or (2) in the event of a Bowlus Cultural Attraction event cancellation, when and only when, another date and time cannot be negotiated between the presented artist and/or production.

FORFEITURE

Tickets which are not picked up in will-call or are otherwise not redeemed at the event are considered as used or forfeited and no refund or exchange will be provided.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Bowlus Mainstage Accessible Restroom is located on the west end of the Main Lobby. (Those not requiring an accessible restroom, please use the restrooms in the lower lobby).

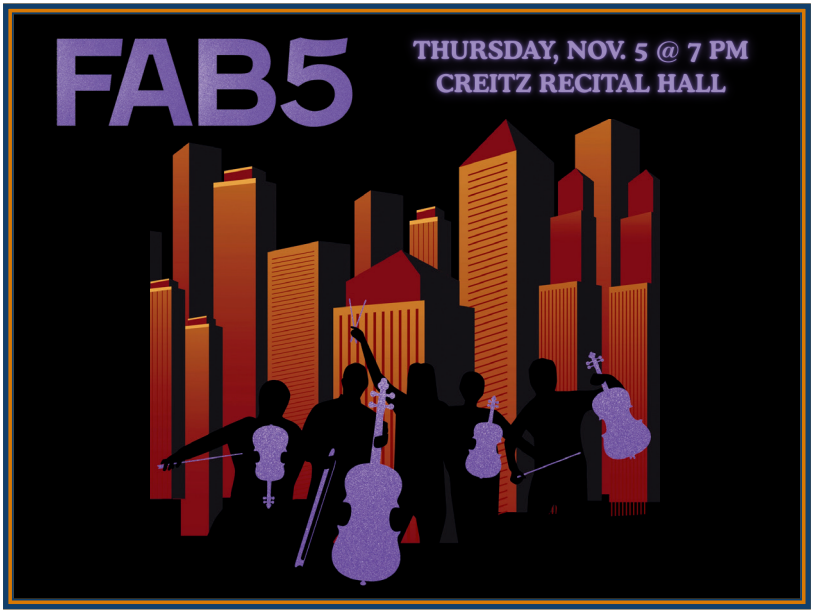
Wheelchair and Companion Seats are available for those with mobility needs, either online or at the Box office.

Assisted Listening devices are available for all performances. Please ask Ushers or ask at the Will Call Box.

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

Please be courteous to other audience members. Remember to turn off or silence all electronic devices and refrain from checking e-mail, texts, or social media during the show as the device backlight is disturbing to others. If you must excuse yourself during the performance, please do so quietly during breaks in the program and NOT during a performance. We ask that you please take any noisy or restless children to the lobby.

Scan code for digital version of the program:



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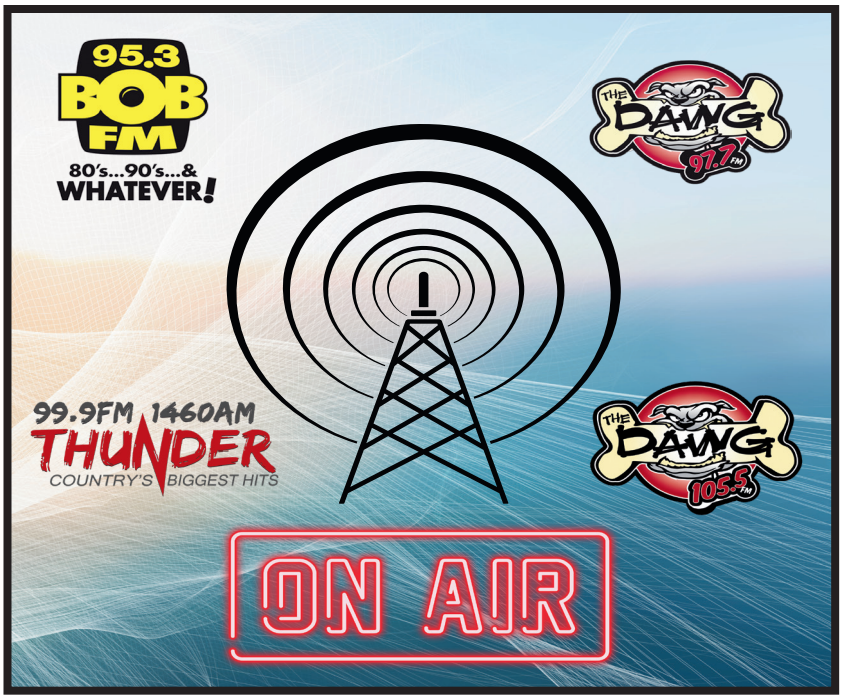
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Upcoming Events



RECITAL SERIES

FAB5
11.5.2026 | 7 PM



IOLA AREA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A SYMPHONY OF THE SEASON
12.5.2026 | 7 PM



FAMILY SERIES

TAKE3 CHRISTMAS
12.13.2026 | 7 PM



MUSIC SERIES

QUEENZ THAT ROCK
1.16.2027 | 7 PM