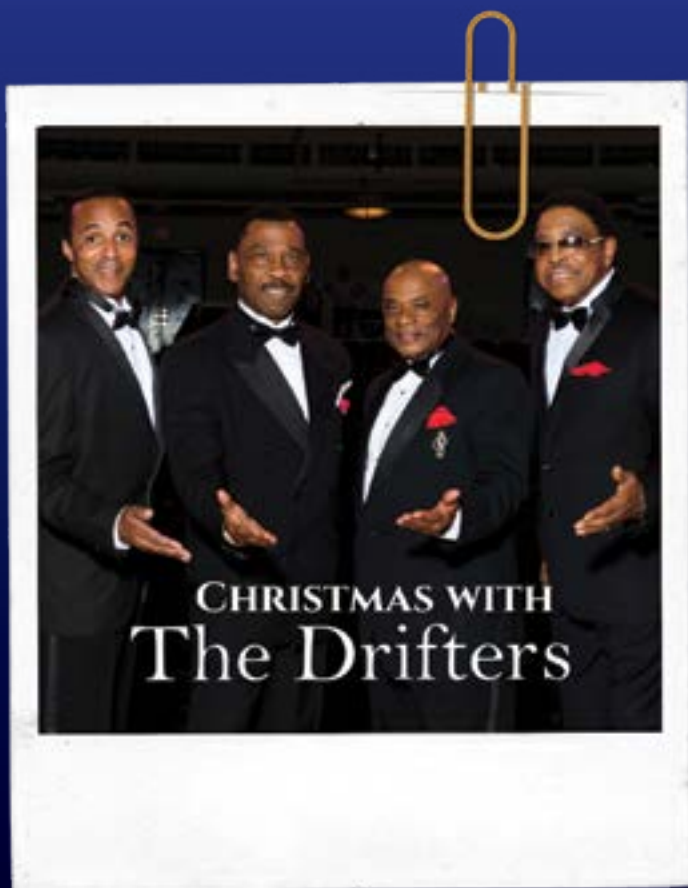




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## Christmas with The Drifters

Bowlus Main Stage

Saturday, December 13, 2025

7 PM

## *The Drifters* *A Half Century of Classic American Music*

There's a very good reason that Rolling Stone magazine, in their iconic issue "500 Greatest Rock and Roll Performers" said of the Drifters "No group has done it this well for this long--no one, not even the Rolling Stones." That's quite an accolade to live up to but hopefully, on their latest tour, the Drifters will once again prove Rolling Stone to be the sage of rock and roll.

Through their historic journey which began in the 1957, the Drifters have had no less than 5 legendary lead singers including Rock and Roll hall of Famers Clyde McPhatter and Ben E. King. Such stalwart and famed individual lead singers as Charley Thomas, Bill Pinkney and Johnny Moore have passed through the group over the years, each recording their share of Drifters hits. And today, as has been the case for nearly 25 years, their star lead singer is Jerome Jackson who also performed as the lead singer for the Main Ingredient in the 1970s.

There are many "firsts" for the Drifters; they were the first group inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame along with fellow inductees The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Bob Dylan and the Supremes. Just reflect for a moment if you will, on that class of Rock and Roll stars that the Drifters were an integral part of.

They were the first musical rock and roll group to include string instruments into rhythm and blues music with their hauntingly beautiful song, "There Goes My Baby".

They were the first musical group to sell two million records with their pop classic "Up on the Roof".

Their classic tune "Under the Boardwalk" is the most played R&B disc of all time. They have sold over 200 million records across the world; a feat that has only been outdone by Michael Jackson, the Rolling Stones and Adele.

They were part of the longest running sold out concert show in Las Vegas history. For fifteen years, every night along with the Platters and the Cornell Gunther Coasters, sold out first at the Sahara Hotel, then at the Hard Rock Cafe and finally, at the Paris Hotel. No other show has come near that level of success anywhere.

Their performance last year for President Bush Senior, at his 90th birthday party, was the sixth president that the Drifters have performed for over the last 35 years from the Inaugural Balls of President Reagan, Clinton and Ford to President Nixon's birthday party and President Obama's daughter's graduation--when history is made, the Drifters have been part of the celebration.

When the Berlin Wall fell and Billy Joel was there to commemorate it, what act do you think was there to support him. If you guessed the Drifters, you would be right. When the US Government did their first official government sanctioned tour of Russia, Premier Gorbachev was there to greet them. They have performed for the Pope, the Queen of England, Nelson Mandela and toured for the USO in three different war zones from Korea to Iraq.

And what about their wonderful songwriters and producers. Everyone from Leiber & Stoller, to Carole King, Jerry Goffen, Neal Diamond, Phil Spector have had a hand in writing hits for the Drifters.

And on their latest tour, as they move beyond their 50 year mark, with a lineup of veterans and new voices, they once again perpetuate the Drifters story. In their last tour, they sold out over 75 performing arts centers crisscrossing the country. And now they are gearing up for a monumental celebration of their hit song catalogue as they prepare their latest CD The Drifters Salute the Great American Songbook Live.

So, the Drifters are looking forward to performing at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center for you, where we continue our five decade long party.



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*Christmas*




**Dr. Richard & Jan  
Knewton**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**




## ***RAISE THE CURTAIN: ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN***

We warmly invite you to support our Annual Raise the Curtain Fund, a continuation of what many will remember as the Bowlus Operations Fund. This renamed initiative carries forward the tradition of sustaining our beloved center, ensuring that its doors remain open and its mission fulfilled. Contributions directly assist with essential day-to-day operations, including utilities, professional services, office materials, equipment upkeep, and building repairs. Your ongoing generosity helps safeguard the Bowlus for generations to come!



**Visit: [bowluscenter.org/givetoday](http://bowluscenter.org/givetoday)**

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  
Dr. Richard & Jan Knewton  
In Loving Memory of Steven & Cecelia Orcutt

### **STANDING OVATION**

Diana Asher

### **STANDING ROOM ONLY**

Phillip & Sherry Ekstrom  
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Donna Lower Nord

### **APPLAUSE**

Fred Gardner  
Stan & Donna Grigsby  
Alan & DeAnn Hauser  
Ken & Kit McGuffin  
Mary Ann Magnuson & Dr. Max Patterson

### **CURTAIN RAISER**

Joyce Atkinson  
Heartland Meadows LLC  
April Hudson  
Mary Knudsen

### **Gifts of \$1,000 or more**

Walt & Mary Ann Regehr  
David & Debra Roe  
Dee & Paula Sell

### **Gifts of \$500 - \$999**

Iola Senior Citizens

### **Gifts of \$250 - \$499**

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Robert & Julie Tholen

### **Gifts of \$100 - \$249**

Playscape LLC  
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Tom & Julie Strickler  
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### **Gifts of \$50 - \$99**

Bill Mentzer  
Connie Rutledge  
Jane Stout



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 beyond their memberships dues this year. We'd love to add you to the list!

**-Jan Knewton, President, FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS, INC.**

### Friends of the Bowlus Membership July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

#### RUBY LEVEL MEMBERS \$100

Jonathan & Dawny Adams	Donna Lower-Nord
Allen County Chiropractic-	Susan Lynn & Brian Wolfe
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Diana Asher*	The McDown Family
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Rick & Rita Berntsen	Kathy McMurray
Alice Boler Bolin	Alexander & Alison Mih
Dale & Carol Buck	Miss Chelsea's Dance Academy
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In Memory of Loretta Julich	Richard & Paula Sutherland
Dr. Richard & Jan Knewton*	Toronto Lumber Company
L.C. and Mary Lacy	Pat & Debra Tynon
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David & Tracy Lee	Earl T. Walter
Vernon & Karen Lee	Alan Weber
Nicholas & Robin Lohman	Faith Weber

#### RUBY LEVEL MEMBERS \$100

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Steve & Annette Womack	Paul L. Zirjacks

#### EMERALD LEVEL MEMBERS \$75

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Betty Miller	Iola Insurance Associates,
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#### SAPPHIRE LEVEL MEMBERS \$50

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Dianna Cuppy	Bill Shirley
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Dave & Lisa Fontaine	Lois A. True
Ann C. Houk	Max & Beth Ann Turner
Sarah Huskey	Sharon Utley
Don & Shelia Lampe	Utley's Auto Body

### 2025-2026 Friends of the Bowlus, Inc. Board of Directors

Officers:	Board:	Members:
Jan Knewton, President	Ceri Coffield	Julie Tholen
Stephanie Larson, Vice-President	Donna Grigsby	Chelsea Lea
Carol Olson-Secretary	Jessica Morrision	Julie Tholen
Rita Berntsen-Treasurer	Michelle McDown	Jill Wilks
Tom Strickler, Member-at-Large	Ken McWhirter	Jessica Morrison

**Go to [bowluscenter.org/Friends](http://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

## BOWLUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jennifer Taylor (President), Dan Willis (Vice-President), Doug Dunlap, Tony Leavitt, Robin Griffin-Lohman, John Masterson, and John Wilson.

## BOWLUS COMMISSION

Matt Rehder (City Administrator) (Chair), Ken McWhirter (Vice Chair)  
Amanda Stammess (Secretary), Dan Davis, Stanley Grigsby, Jan Knewton (Friends of the Bowlus) Katrina Springer, Tony Works, and David Lee (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, Paige 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](http://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.



Scan code for digital version of the program:

## 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.





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# *Upcoming Events*



## *RECITAL SERIES*

LELM & LANGFORD  
FROM BACHARACH  
TO BROADWAY  
1.29.2026 | 7 PM



## *MUSIC SERIES*

HELEN WELCH  
FIRST LADIES OF SONG  
2.14.2026 | 7 PM



## *SPEAKER SERIES*

RANDY OTTO  
IS WINSTON CHURCHILL  
2.20.2026 | 7 PM