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Bowlus Main Stage

Saturday, May 16, 2026

7 PM

Swingin' the Disney Songbook!

Band Personnel

Matt Johnson, drummer/artistic director/host

Drummer Matt Johnson, lauded as “a hurricane on sticks!” (the Los Angeles Times), is the creator and artistic director of Swingin’ the Disney Songbook! The show reflects the profound impact that Disney Magic has had on him throughout his life - first, as a youngster growing up in Orange, CA, in the shadow of Disneyland, and subsequently as a Disneyland Cast Member himself. He served as a full-time musician at the Disneyland Resort from 1979 to 1990 and continues to appear regularly in shows in and around the Resort. Throughout his freelance music career, Johnson has also performed with a wide range of entertainers, among them singers Julie Andrews and Andy Williams, surf-rock pioneers Jan and Dean, big band legends Billy May and Les Brown, and comedy legends the Smothers Brothers. Since 2014, he has toured annually with A Swingin’ Little Christmas! starring Jane Lynch (Glee, The 40-Year-Old Virgin, The Weakest Link) and Kate Flannery (The Office, Dancing With The Stars). In addition to his busy performance schedule, Johnson is the Professor of Drum Set Studies at Fullerton College, in Fullerton, CA (1993 to present), influencing the next generation of musicians. Chris Barron, piano/music director Pianist Chris Barron, who launched his musical career at age 19 on Disneyland’s Tomorrowland Stage, is the music director and arranger for The New Jet Set. His distinctive original arrangements for the band reflect his tremendous affinity for the Disney songbook. In-demand as a studio musician as well, Barron earned his considerable Latin music bona fides performing with such luminaries as Celia Cruz, Poncho Sanchez, and the Banda Brothers. Barron has also developed an innovative keyboard curriculum, The Piano Pyramid, to help pianists achieve improvisational freedom.

Chris Barron, piano/music director

Pianist Chris Barron, who launched his musical career at age 19 on Disneyland’s Tomorrowland Stage, is the music director and arranger for The New Jet Set. His distinctive original arrangements for the band reflect his tremendous affinity for the Disney songbook. In-demand as a studio musician as well, Barron earned his considerable Latin music bona fides performing with such luminaries as Celia Cruz, Poncho Sanchez, and the Banda Brothers. Barron has also developed an innovative keyboard curriculum, The Piano Pyramid, to help pianists achieve improvisational freedom.

Miles Jensen, guitar

Latin GRAMMY-winning guitarist Miles Jensen, whose music and artistry reflects his diverse cultural influences, was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan, and has also lived in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York. His broad musical depth, fiery improvisational skills, and varied performance experiences make him a sought-after guitarist who has recorded and collaborated with a range of artists in the jazz, funk, and R&B arenas, among them Clayton Cameron, Afro-Peruvian Jazz Orchestra, and Nora Germain. An audio engineer as well, his credits include working on numerous music and film scoring sessions in addition to producing and mixing his own work. Jensen is a graduate of the renowned Studio Guitar Studies program at USC's Thornton School of Music and earned a Masters degree on a full scholarship from the school in 2017.

David Miller, bass

Bassist David Miller was raised in a musical household and caught the performance bug at an early age. He has performed, recorded, and toured internationally with such leading artists and ensembles as Ornette Coleman, Betty Carter, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, and the Royal Crown Revue. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Jazz and Contemporary Music from the New School in NYC and a Fine Arts Masters degree in Jazz Bass Performance from the California Institute of the Arts.

Crystal Lewis, featured vocalist

Born and raised in Southern CA, Crystal Lewis is a 3-time Grammy nominated, multi-Dove award winning singer/songwriter and original cast member of the critically acclaimed Nickelodeon show ROUNDHOUSE. She has graced the world's biggest stages... From The Walt Disney Concert Hall in LA to Carnegie Hall in NY to The Royal Albert Hall in London, and has performed alongside and recorded with Donna Summer, Bono, Mary J. Blige, Arturo Sandoval, Kirk Franklin, Tori Kelly, Kate Flannery, Ally Brooke, Yolanda Adams and CeCe Winans among many others. In addition, both Katy Perry and Tori Kelly consider her an inspiration. Having beautifully transitioned from her more than three decades in gospel music to the wide and wonderful world of Jazz, Crystal brings a whole lot of love and light to the stage. In addition to her long-standing musical career, Crystal now adds AUTHOR to her resume, having written and published her first kids book *Claire Clementine Finds Her Voice*.



BOWLUS
Fine Arts Center

THANK YOU

**FOR YOUR SUPPORT
THIS SEASON!**

Your support helps the arts thrive,
inspires our community,
and makes every performance possible.

We can't do it without you!



BOWLUS
Fine Arts Center

**SEASON
ANNOUNCEMENT
Party!**



JUNE 16



**6:00
PM**

*Be the first to know what's
coming to our stage next!*

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

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!

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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

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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 JordanFacility 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, John Masterson, Lisa Wicoff, and John Wilson.

BOWLUS COMMISSION

Matt Rehder (City Administrator) (Chair), Ken McWhirter (Vice Chair)
Amanda Stammers (Secretary), Dan Davis, Stanley Grigsby, Jan Knewton (Friends of the Bowlus) Katrina Springer, Tony Works, and David Lee (County Commissioner).

BOWLUS USHERS

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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.

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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<p>SUMMER THEATRE CAMP JUNE 15-26 Act, Perform, Make memories that take center stage!</p>	<p>101 Dalmatians</p>
<p>KIDS ART CAMP JULY 6-16 Paint, create, and explore your artistic side!</p>	<p>CSTW JULY 13-25 Step into the spotlight and bring stories to life!</p>

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ON AIR

Upcoming Events



SUMMER THEATRE CAMP

Disney's
101 Dalmations
KIDS

JUNE 15-26, 2026



BOWLUS 2026-2027 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT PARTY

6.16.2026 | 6 PM



KIDS ART CAMP

JULY 6-16, 2026



CSTW CHILDREN'S SUMMER THEATRE WORKSHOP

JULY 13-25, 2026