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Women of the Festival Fact Sheet

Description:

Although women are gaining increasing power and prominence in the music industry as artists and producers, the industry remains a male-dominated domain in the U.S. However, **Bohemian Nights** at NewWestFest, now in its seventh year, is countering that trend.

If you go behind the scenes, you will find women running the show. Merry Hummell, the Director of Music Events at **Bohemian Nights**, and Peggy Lyle, Programming and Events Director for the Fort Collins Downtown Business Association, are the driving forces behind **Bohemian Nights** at NewWestFest. Together they manage the overall logistics for putting on this high-quality festival each year for the City of Fort Collins. (**Bohemian Nights** is solely produced by **Bohemian Nights** LLC. [NewWestFest](#) is produced by the [Fort Collins Downtown Business Association](#).)

And on stage, you will see many female artists – from Susan Tedeschi of the Tedeschi Trucks Band to Colorado native Adrienne Yauk of the all-female bluegrass band Giddyup Kitty – adding their unique vibe to **Bohemian Nights**. From behind the scenes to center stage, these women are helping to build a national reputation for **Bohemian Nights**, focusing the spotlight on Colorado and the great music originating here.

Women of the Festival Bios:

Merry Hummell

Contact: Andrea Ridder, 970-818-1670

- Merry Hummell is the Director of Music Events at **Bohemian Nights**. She started with Bohemian Foundation in 2005 where she was asked to enhance the musical offerings at the Downtown Business Association's annual NewWestFest festival. Hummell, a native

of Fort Collins, says although she doesn't have the background one would think you need to run a large music festival, she feels her unique personal and work experiences guided her to **Bohemian Nights**. With anthropology and education undergraduate degrees from CU Boulder and a Master's degree from Boston University, plus fifteen years of non-profit operations management experience, Hummell uses the best of these disciplines in her event planning. Hummell says months of planning, hard work and fun come together to create a very special moment in time for the event organizers, the artists and the Fort Collins' community at large. She adds that Sunday night following a successful weekend is the best feeling in the world! Hummell also serves on the board of the Fort Collins Musicians Association which produces the Fort Collins Music eXperiment event each April, and on the City of Fort Collins Women's Commission.

Peggy Lyle

Contact: 970-484-6500

- Peggy Lyle is the Programming and Event Director for the Fort Collins Downtown Business Association. In the past eleven years she has produced numerous festivals and events including NewWestFest. She spearheads the DBA's collaboration with Merry Hummell of **Bohemian Nights** and directs the DBA staff efforts for the festival. Lyle serves as the overall coordinator for the non-music components at the festival and has served on the Talent Advisory Committee for the **Bohemian Nights** music lineup for the past seven years. Lyle and her husband Chris are also founders/owners of The Rhythm Company & The Jumpin' JiveCats who have provided Fort Collins with swing and salsa dancing for more than 15 years. They will be featured on the Dance Showcase Stage at the festival on Saturday. Lyle is wholeheartedly committed to promoting Downtown Fort Collins, co-producing a high quality show, supporting local artists and encouraging successful collaborations that make Fort Collins a great place to live.

Liz Barnez

Contact: 970-988-0674

- Liz Barnez has played NewWestFest off and on for the past 20 years or so (after 20 she stopped counting!). Barnez is working behind the scenes this year for **Bohemian Nights** as the Artist Relations and Hospitality Coordinator. She is happy to be working with all the artists to ensure that they have a good experience at the festival. Barnez worked with Andrew Schneider at KRFC 88.9 FM to get some of this year's local artists scheduled for Live@Lunch. She's also helped to coordinate artist merchandise and scheduled video interviews of the artists. Additionally, Barnez creates and manages the Green Room, a gathering place for the artists to go after their set on stage so they can network with other musicians, relax and kick back. Barnez says it's her job to anticipate the artists' needs and ensure that **Bohemian Nights** has the resources to cover them.

Greta Cornett

Contact: 970-481-3734

- Greta Cornett majored in music and graduated from CSU where she fell in love with Fort Collins and never left. She is the trumpet player from 12 Cents for Marvin and the Caleb Riley Funk Orchestra. She currently plays trumpet in the local favorite 3 Twins band and is the talent buyer for Road 34 Bike Bar. Additionally, Cornett is president and co-founder of the Fort Collins Musicians Association which produces the Fort Collins Music eXperiment (FoCoMX) each April. Cornett volunteers with the Live@Lunch team at KRFC

88.9 FM, serves on the Westword Nominating Committee and also does a lot of freelance trumpet work with some amazing musicians around the country. Cornett says she feels lucky to get to blog about the local music scene for **Bohemian Nights**. She is happy to share her love of local music with so many people and thinks it's really cool to see how the festival works from the inside out. She also has performed at **Bohemian Nights** in the past.

Lisa Cameron

Contact: 970-227-7155

- Lisa Cameron is an international award-winning artist known for her work in galleries, private collections and Art in Public Places projects. A native to the Front Range, she revels in her work at her studio above Horsetooth Reservoir, an inspirational and comforting environment for creating. Cameron's work is defined by a technique that is wholly her own. This year Cameron is working on two projects for the Creative Gardens: one includes three large flower sculptures and the other involves creating path-finding chalk art. Cameron's goal for the large flower sculptures is to design eye-catching celebratory party decor to help enliven the Creative Gardens grounds. For the path-finding chalk art, she plans to encourage young budding artists to participate in creating the path and watching it grow throughout the festival.

Megan Burt

Contact: 303-594-7971

- Music has coursed through Megan Burt's veins since experimenting with melodies and rhythms on her grandmother's piano at age six. At 15 she found her father's old guitar in the attic and was immediately inspired to her life's calling. She began writing songs and only a year later won the Colgate Colorado Songwriting Competition. She graduated an accomplished guitarist and vocalist from Berklee College of Music in Boston and then went on to explore South America, Africa and Asia, soaking in the cultures and listening to the stories of people the world over. Burt wanted to learn the blues so she moved to Mississippi to let her soul experience its roots. After facing a life-threatening illness, Burt came back to Colorado and with a clean bill of health put pen to paper for her debut record. She has performed shows in venues coast to coast including at the legendary Red Rocks Amphitheater.

Giddyup Kitty

Contact: 720-684-8175

- Giddyup Kitty is a four-piece, high-energy, all-female bluegrass band. Weaving fine melodies with rich harmony, these award winning musicians create a show that leaves an audience joyful and asking for more! Adrienne Yauk, a Colorado native and ex-pig farmer, has been performing in the west for longer than she can remember, taking off time to raise a family, travel the world and weather some storms. She is an accomplished vocalist who plays dobro, guitar, piano and the occasional snare drum. As a songwriter she has won accolades at the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas and KBCO's songwriters' competition. Kerry Claxton was inspired to play the mandolin after she first heard David Grisman while living in Steamboat Springs in the late 1980s. Her father, a bass player, took her to her first bluegrass jam at Ralph's Top Service in Denver where she was introduced to the bluegrass subculture of Colorado. Marni Pickens is a little bit country, a little bit rock and roll, and a lot of bass player. Born in the shadows of the

Colorado Rocky Mountains, she moved to New York City as a mere teen. As a city-dweller Marni learned how to navigate intricate subway systems, how to use cuss words effectively, and how to play just about any type of music wafting through the mean city streets. Nancy Steinberger studied classical violin at the Interlochen Arts Academy and the University of Michigan and has held positions with the Ann Arbor Symphony and Fort Collins Symphony. She took first place at the RockyGrass Fiddle Contest.

SHEL

Contact: 970-481-2049

- SHEL is Sarah, Hannah, Eva and Liza, four classically-trained musicians who happen to be sisters. From the artist colony of Fort Collins, SHEL is sophisticated and youthful, emotional and lighthearted, classic and eccentric. SHEL's engaging live show is marked with a prodigy's creativity and a veteran's instinct for entertaining. Audiences delight with their unique songwriting style and fresh, new sound. Sarah is immensely gifted as a violinist and vocalist; she also shines with her bass chops. She is the primary designer of SHEL's original graphics and videography. Hannah is an award-winning young composer and pianist. Hannah sings and helps arrange SHEL's unique vocal harmonies. She has been studying piano performance and composition at Colorado State University. Eva is lead vocalist, one of the primary writers, and plays both acoustic and electric mandolin. She is involved in every phase of arranging and production. Eva records much of the band's tracks in their home studio. Liza is equally proficient on the Djembe and Roland Hand Sonic drum. Her natural polyrhythmic ability was spotted at an early age.

Danielle Anderson

Contact: 303-981-5341

- Danielle "Ate the Sandwich" Anderson is a solid young songwriter, gifted with an ethereal voice and the talent for writing honest observations of an ordinary world. Her melancholy and oftentimes vulnerable songs are nicely contrasted by her humorous and engaging stage presence. Dubbed "Joni Mitchell meets Sarah Silverman," Danielle tours nationally, has licensed songs to various TV shows and significantly understands and works new media on a generational level. As the postings of more than 30,000 loyal subscribers to Danielle's YouTube channel attest, she has rapidly developed an active fan base with which her music and world view resonate.

Erin Jo Harris

Contact: 720-837-6659

- As the newest member of Bop Skizzum, Erin Jo Harris is a lover, a fighter and an artist with a passion for performing, adventure and speaking (or in many cases singing) about the truth. She was born and raised in Denver and considers herself lucky to call this amazing city where nature meets culture home. Erin lived in the Big Apple for six years doing everything from being a real estate agent to a personal chef by day and rocking NYC stages by night. In 2007 the call of the unknown beckoned Erin to sell and give away most of her possessions and move to Costa Rica where she learned how to surf, honed her Spanish language skills, formed her own trio and made a living off of playing music for the first time! She moved back to Colorado in 2008 and is more excited than ever to be using her full range of talents as a performer and writer with her fellow hometown heroes.

Established in 2005, **Bohemian Nights** produces a high-quality, weekend-long, free community music festival that promotes Colorado artists and shares their talent with the world. **Bohemian Nights** is solely produced by **Bohemian Nights** LLC. [NewWestFest](#) is produced by the [Fort Collins Downtown Business Association](#).

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The complete concert schedule is available at [Schedule.BohemianNights.org](#). For more music information, visit [BohemianNights.org](#) or call 970-407-7867. For full festival details, visit [DowntownFortCollins.com](#) or contact Peggy Lyle at the Downtown Business Association at 970-484-6500.