



MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL
music in concert with the landscape®



Moab Music Festival Celebrates America's Diverse Roots for its 2026 season

Celebrating 34 years of award-winning performances and canyonside concerts under the Utah Sky.

MOAB, UTAH — The Moab Music Festival announced its 34th season, a three-week celebration of music set amid the red-rock canyons and rivers of southeastern Utah from September 2 - September 18, 2026. Led by Artistic Director **Tessa Lark**, the Festival's 2026 season centers on the theme "**This Land**," exploring the diverse musical roots that have shaped American music over the past 250 years.

"American music reflects the meeting of many cultures and traditions," said Artistic Director **Tessa Lark**. "This season celebrates those intersections—where histories, sounds, and communities come together—and how those influences continue shaping the music of today."

Rooted in the extraordinary landscape of Moab, the Festival continues its tradition of pairing exceptional music with unforgettable settings—from red-rock grottos and Colorado River floats to desert trails and private venues. These distinctive experiences invite audiences to listen deeply while connecting with one another and with the remarkable land that surrounds them.

This year's lineup includes:



Composer-in-residence: GRAMMY-winning cellist and composer [Andrew Yee](#) is a genre-defying artist celebrated for spellbindingly virtuosic performances. A founding member of the Attacca Quartet and Juilliard graduate, Yee's Moab residency highlights their interdisciplinary practice, including the personal solo project *Halfie*, which explores bi-racial and non-binary identity. You can experience Yee's art at the following events:

- **Opening Night Celebration on September 2:** The festival's opening night will take place at the Red Earth Venue where solo and chamber music performances from world-class artists will kick the celebration off.
- **Floating Concert I: Halfie on September 4:** Yee will perform a compelling and deeply personal program of works for strings 'Halfie'.
- **Music Hike I: The Cello Quintets on September 5:** The world premiere of Yee's canyon-inspired work joins Schubert's monumental String Quintet in C Major, echoing the timelessness of the red rocks.

- **American Collage on September 5:** At Red Cliffs Lodge, the American Collage program will trace 250 years of inventive American sound, featuring a second performance of Yee's Festival commissioned work.
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Special Guest Stars:



Cécile McLorin Salvant

(September 6, Red Cliffs Lodge): The three-time GRAMMY-winning vocalist will perform an evening of genre-defying jazz and theatrical storytelling.



Huntertones

(September 12, Sorrel River Ranch): The Brooklyn-based ensemble brings their high-energy, horn-driven blend of jazz, funk, and soul.



Sam Reider & The Human Hands

The Latin GRAMMY-nominated collective will perform September 7 - 9, fusing global folk traditions with contemporary improvisation.



Cataract Canyon Raft Trip

An immersive musical journey featuring **cellist Natalie Haas** and **guitarist/vocalist Chuchi Cuadrado**, with meals curated by **chef-author J. Kenji López-Alt**.



2026 features a special collaboration with From the Top:

For more than 25 years, From the Top has celebrated and empowered young musicians. This festival season in Moab, From the Top curates two concerts - **Floating Concert II** (September 11) and **Music Hike II** (September 12) - showcasing young, rising classical music stars, **Oliver Mar** and **Ava Pakiam**. These performances are anchored by the versatile, 'fearlessly athletic' (San Francisco Chronicle) pianist and From the Top host, **Peter Dugan**.

Learn more at fromthetop.org.



Our annual free [Rocky Mountain Power Community Concert](#) (September 7, Old City Park) features **Native American flute virtuoso R. Carlos Nakai**, **Sam Reider** and **the Human Hands**, and other festival artists. This event underscores the Festival's commitment to community accessibility, providing world-class live music for all ages.

To see the full schedule, lineup and artist information for the 2026 Moab Music Festival, visit our website: [Moab Music Festival](#). For tickets, visit [moabmusicfest.org](#) or contact the Festival Box Office at (435) 259-7003. *All artists, venues and programs are subject to change.*

About the Moab Music Festival



Grammy-nominated violinist **Tessa Lark** serves as Artistic Director of the Moab Music Festival, guiding the Festival's artistic vision as it enters a new chapter of leadership. Known for her extraordinary versatility—spanning classical performance and the bluegrass traditions of her native Kentucky—Lark has been praised for her technical mastery, stylistic range, and imaginative programming. A longtime Festival performer since her debut in 2016, she brings a wide-ranging musical perspective and a passion for connecting audiences, artists, and the natural world through music.

Founded in 1992 by violist Leslie Tomkins and pianist/conductor Michael Barrett, the Moab Music Festival has grown from a grassroots concert in a geodesic dome into an internationally recognized destination festival. Today it is celebrated for presenting chamber music, jazz, and global styles performed by world-class artists in extraordinary natural settings throughout southeastern Utah's red rock landscape.

Dedicated to its mission of “**music in concert with the landscape®**,” the Festival presents concerts on the Colorado River, in wilderness grottos, and along desert trails while also offering year-round education and community programs for the Moab region.

A selection of press photos is available [HERE](#)



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