Main Stage

See #8 on festival map for stage location.

12pm-12:45pm: Peter Siegel

Hailing from Vermont, Mr. Siegel contributes a radical chord to American roots music. Influenced by the songwriting of Pete Seeger, rugged old time jams, traditional Northern tunes, and the blues, Mr. Siegel’s music defies categorization.

1pm-1:45pm: Mattabesset String Collective

Mattabesset is a five-piece acoustic ensemble playing an eclectic mix of bluegrass, folk, mountain, country, and rock, all in a string band style. The band features Barry Charnoff, Marc Eisner, Rebecca McCullum, Chad Roddick, and Gil Silverman.

2pm-2:45pm: Honey and the Sting

Formed at Wesleyan University in 2012, this band composed ten songs that honor the Connecticut River and the people and animals that inhabit its banks. The band aims to create art that activates its audiences and connects them to their environment. Featuring Gamma Smith ’13, Melanie Hsu ’13, Skip Robinson, Jessica Best ’14, and Sam Long ’12.

3pm-3:45pm: Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem

Harmony, rhythm, indelible songs—these are the hallmarks of Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem. Many of their songs plumb the human condition, with topics ranging from joy to death, loss, aging, blackbirds, and red-haired boys. Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem are Rani Arbo, Andrew Kinsey, Andar Naylor ’96, and Scott Kissell ’93.

4pm-4:45pm: The Royal Boys

The Royal Boys sing and play the music of mariners in the age of sail. Geoff Kaufman and Craig Edwards ’83 are among the world’s foremost performers and scholars of sailor music. They are joined by banjoist/ singer Dan Spurr as they sing shipboard work songs, ballads, whaling songs, and dance music as it could have been heard on clipper ships, whaling ships, fishing schooners, and river craft, or in waterfront saloons and dance halls.

Kid’s Stage

See #5 on festival map for stage location.

12:15pm-1:15pm: Circophony by ARTFARM & Oddfellows Playhouse

Circophony members will share selections from their 2014-2015 original show: Circus On the High Sea! Circophony is a select youth circus company committed to providing first class training to aspiring circus performers. Circophony is a collaboration between ARTFARM and Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater. The company is open by audition to young people ages 12 to 18.

1:30pm-2pm: Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem

Members of the Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem band will perform music that charms the entire family. They dig deeply into the American musical tradition by performing everything from funky Delta blues to Appalachian ballads and spirituals.

2:15pm-3pm: Anastasia and Christopher Jankowski

Interactive music, yoga, theater, and circus arts for children and families by husband and wife duo.

3:15pm-4pm: Margie Warner

With a unique understanding of what makes kids tick, Margie Warner teaches the joy and humor of life through her lively and entertaining family concerts.

4:15pm-5pm: Middletown High School Band

Members of the Middletown High School Band will play river-related songs under the direction of Kimberly Evasen.
Feet to the Fire: Riverfront Encounter features live music, visual art installations, plein air painters, a kids’ activity zone, environmental education exhibits, a craft fair, and a farmer’s market—all designed to bring visitors closer to the rich culture, history, and science of the Connecticut River.

Festival Map Legend

1. Pedestrian Tunnel Sound Installation by Cecilia Lopez: Resonances of Vigilante Margarita in Middletown
   Listen to Wesleyan University graduate student Cecilia Lopez and her Buenos Aires-based pop-indie band Vigilante Margarita’s recorded songs about the river in Buenos Aires, as well as water, nature, and animal life. These recordings will be played in the pedestrian tunnel connecting Harbor Park with downtown Middletown.

2. Wesleyan Class Project: Confluence
   Explore a living sculpture envisioned and built by Wesleyan students in Visiting Professor of Environmental Studies Joseph Smolinski’s “Art in a Mediated Landscape: Contemporary Issues of Art and the Environment” course. The earth mound sculpture asks visitors to experience the park and river in a new way, to contemplate their relationship to the river, and to reconsider how we choose to interact with nature in everyday life. Visitors are invited to touch, climb, sit on, and explore.

3. Craft Fair
   Vendors will be on hand with their environmentally friendly wares. See list of participants on reverse for details.

4. Gone Fishin’
   Learn how to fish, and discover more about what swims in the Connecticut River. Dr. Deborah Simmons constructed a twelve-foot sail/row boat, incorporating images representing a navigational map of the Connecticut River using water-soluble inks, acrylics, and gold and silver leaf.

5. Kids’ Stage
   Family-friendly performances will keep all ages entertained. See performance schedule on reverse for details.

6. Environmental Action Zone
   Meet members of local environmental groups and businesses to learn about what is going on in the community and how you can get involved. See list of participants on reverse for details.

7. Farmer’s Market
   Enjoy locally grown and made produce, bread, and other delicious goods. Festival patrons can blend their own smoothies with electricity generated by bicycles.

8. Main Stage
   Encounter the Connecticut River while listening to the music of five exceptional bands. Short talks about the history, science, and culture of the river will be given between musical sets. See performance schedule on reverse for details.

9. Riverfront Encounter Fish Sculptures
   American shad swim up the Connecticut River between April and June, and have done so for centuries. Painted by regional artists and area youth, 40 sculptures featuring the shape of the American Shad have been designed and constructed by artist Jerry Zinner and line the walkway of Harbor Park.

10. Kids’ Activity Zone
   Engage in fun activities designed for all ages to learn more about the Connecticut River and engage your creative side. Activities organized by Kidcity Children’s Museum, Jonathan Center for Earth and Art, and Wesleyan University’s Rho Epitson Pi.

11. Middletown High School Crew
   Learn how to row and test out a rowing machine with members of the Middletown High School crew team.

12. Wishing Well Water Stations
   In an effort to combat plastic waste, water stations will provide free, purified water to visitors. Wesleyan University students designed these stations as part of an environmental design competition in 2013.

13. River Run
   As a tribute to the Native Americans who lived along the Connecticut River, the Mattabesett Canoe Club will be holding up to six passengers as it travels along the river equipped with personal work spaces for artistic creation. Tours will depart approximately every 30 minutes.

14. Central Connecticut Rowing Club
   With a mission to grow the rowing community within Middletown and throughout Connecticut, this club offers rowing programs for everyone ages twelve and up, from the novice to the experienced rower, from recreational to competitive.

15. Wesleyan Class Project: Research Methods in Environmental Studies: River Encounter
   Wesleyan students in this class have developed a variety of arts-based programs to help visitors learn more about the Connecticut River. Activities include a tea ceremony, a site-specific dance, and more. The course was co-taught by Environmental Studies Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow Helen Poulos and choreographer Jill Sigman.

16. Middletown Garden Club
   Butterflies fluttering and bees buzzing add a lovely dimension to the beauty of the garden. The Middletown Garden Club will be selling containers of plants that will bloom throughout the growing season. These plants are host and nectar plants for pollinators that are in a perilous state in backyard gardens.

17. Food Trucks
   Taste delicious treats from local food trucks, including Firedog, Jammed 4 Thyme, Mamoun’s Falafel Cart, NoRA Cupcake Company, Pizz to the People, and Spud’s Your Way.

18. Sandbox Arts Boat Tours
   The Sandbox Arts Collective invites you to explore the Connecticut River through the means of creation. The local arts collective created a river vessel (cata-canoe) that will hold up to six passengers as it travels along the river equipped with personal work spaces for artistic creation. Tours will depart approximately every 30 minutes.

19. Mattabesett Canoe Club
   Enjoy food and beverages at this picturesque riverside restaurant. Visit the back patio for a great view of the river with a relaxed atmosphere.

20. Drum Circle
   Enjoy a percussive jam session or bring your own drums and join in! From 2pm to 4pm. Organized by The Buttonwood Tree Performing Arts & Cultural Center.

Various Locations

Plein Air Painters (located throughout the park)
Watch artists paint the landscape of the Connecticut River and Harbor Park throughout the day of the festival. Organized by the Art Guild of Middletown.

Anne Cubberly’s “Water” Puppet
Meet “Water,” a giant puppet designed by Connecticut artist Anne Cubberly, as she roams the festival from Noon to 3pm.

PHOTO CREDITS: Shown above, clockwise from top left: Peter Siegel; Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem; “Water” by artist Anne Cubberly; The Royal Boys.

Saturday, May 9, 2015 from Noon until 5pm

Walk or Bike to the Festival. For directions, visit www.wesleyan.edu/cfa/riverfrontencounter

Free parking at Melilli Plaza and Arcade parking lots

Pedestrian entrance/exit to Harbor Park under Union Street bridge

Pedestrian entrance/exit to Harbor Park via Tunnel Pavilion

Festival information booth

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