

culture CONT.

BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE IN THE CITY

THE NATIONAL

708 E. Broad St., thenationalva.com

Making history on Broad Street for over a century, the vaudeville-turned-movie-theater-turned-derelect-venue was resurrected and restored 17 years ago, reopening as The National. The concert hall has hosted artists such as Lady Gaga and GWAR, an epochal, crowd-funded appearance from The Foo Fighters, and much more. "We hit every genre, with a welcoming and open environment," says manager Zach Hanbury.

2. The Broadberry
3. The Camel

BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE IN THE COUNTIES

THE TIN PAN

8982 Quioccasin Road, tinpanva.com

Attentive silence is the unique charm of this West End listening room. "People come for the music," says co-owner and director Patrick Zampetti. "We work hard to attract artists who may feel like they are too big for the room and an audience appreciative enough that you could hear a pin drop." Upcoming performers include Take 6 on Aug. 31 and David Cook on Sept. 11.

2. The Meadow Event Park
3. Hanover Vegetable Farm



JUNIOR ASSEMBLY COTILLION

juniorassemblycotillion.com

The Junior Assembly Cotillion curtsies into a fourth year of top honors in this survey. For more than 80 years, the JAC has instilled social confidence in youths through dance instruction and etiquette training. Their traditional, partner and line dancing lessons offer sixth through ninth graders weekends away from screens. "Last year, we developed an affirmation wall. It's a wall of stickers with encouraging messages on them. The kids get to choose [a sticker] that resonates with them before each dance," says owner Liz Stanka. "This is one of the many ways we pour into them. We are constantly looking to remind them of how valued they are."

BEST DANCE OR EVENT SERIES

2. Richmond Ballet's "The Nutcracker"
3. Richmond Ballet's Moving Art Series (formerly Studio Series)

BEST YOUTH DANCE INSTRUCTION

2. Bella Ballerina
3. TIE: Regency Dance Academy, West End Academy of Dance

BEST MUSIC FESTIVAL

RICHMOND FOLK FESTIVAL

Downtown riverfront and Brown's Island, richmondfolkfestival.org

The Richmond Folk Festival is a free, world-class, globe-spanning event held annually in the fall. "You can go in with no knowledge of a performer's genre and leave with them being your favorite," says organizer Venture Richmond's Director of Events Stephen Lecky. "It's a true representation of the community pride, for all ages, all ethnicities. There are no ... VIP sections, just an event for every human to enjoy."

2. Iron Blossom Music Festival
3. Richmond Jazz and Music Festival



BEST NON-MUSIC FESTIVAL OR EVENT

ARTS IN THE PARK

The Carillon in Byrd Park, richmondartsinthepark.com

An over half-century-old neighborhood event, Arts in the Park raises funds for the Carillon Civic Association. "What makes it special is the around 400 wonderful artists who participate, the people who attend and the volunteers who make it happen," says Gene "Butch" Walter, a lifelong resident and association treasurer. Proceeds support the Carillon Tot Lot playground and Dogwood Dell shows, among other worthy causes.

2. Richmond Greek Festival
3. Lebanese Food Festival

BEST LOCAL BAND OR MUSICIAN

KOS BAND

kosband.com

Originally the Kings of Swing, the KOS Band played their first gig the day Kings Dominion opened in 1975 and has adapted to decades of change — from Tommy Dorsey to Earth, Wind & Fire. "If it makes you happy, we play it," says founding member Bruce Swartz. "We have been making memories for 50 years." The group has played for countless audiences, governors and more than one president.

2. TIE: Susan Greenbaum; No BS! Brass
3. TIE: Bart Chucker Band; Lucy Dacus; Pat O'Brien