

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As executive director of NOMA there are so many accomplishments that have made me extremely proud and humbled. The smiles on the faces of young drum students, seeing an aspiring performer blossom on stage, sharing the work of talented songwriters in



our community and bringing talented artists to Omaha.

This is what I envisioned, but I haven't done it alone. I so appreciate all those who are part of the NOMA team. They've been essential contributors to our growth in programs and donors, led us to financial stability and allowed us to build a space where artists can do what they love.

NOMA has and always will be an organization focused on expanding access and opportunity for low-income youth to participate in music education. Yet, NOMA does not aspire to create professional musicians. Our goal is to contribute to students' social, emotional, and academic development, to build discipline, independence, confidence, teamwork and their motivation to achieve.

We have recently taken another significant step in fulfilling that mission with a recent renovation at NOMA that not only freshens up the space, but allows us to fully launch our music education curriculum. We debuted the project in March to rave reviews. Our space now features a new, bigger full-service bar/lounge area, an upgraded and enhanced performance space and a fresh coat of paint which more accurately depicts our brand.

That's just the main floor—the second level is also undergoing changes and will become home to our new music and art labs, launching in the coming months. All these updates allow us to raise the bar of who we are, while taking our educational programs to a whole other level.

Speaking of raising the bar, we have an incredible lineup set for our annual NOMAFEST, Aug. 9th and 10th. Corporate sponsors and grants have allowed us to bring national and Grammy-nominated talent Eric Gales, Ghost-Note and Lakecia Benjamin to Omaha. These incredible jazz, blues and funk artists will have Turner Park grooving on Aug. 9th. NOMAFEST continues on Aug. 10th at the NOMA building with performances from Heidi Martin and myself with Manifesto. It's going to be an incredible weekend.

NOMAFEST 2025 HEADLINERS



Eric Gales



Ghost-Note



Lakecia Benjamin

You can feel the energy at 24th and Lake and we're just getting started. I thank you for your continued support, without you all the tremendous work we are doing wouldn't be possible. Because of you, we're making a difference in the lives of young people throughout our community. Always top of mind is the rich history of music in North Omaha. I have a feeling those incredible artists are pleased and tapping their toes to the good NOMA vibes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'D. Murray'.

Executive Director Dana Murray



Shaping the next generation of music education



When the NOMA dream became a reality, an important part of the mission was to provide access to music education, having a path for the next generation

of artists to grow their talent. In addition, a performance space was essential to honor the rich jazz history of 24th Street.

Our focus on education stems from the desire to reach youth wanting to explore music/arts. The NOMA education team also believes weaving life skills—such as working with others, discipline and respect of others—into their teaching. Stressing these qualities along with the love of music, will take youth far beyond their musical journey.

All this leads to the exciting announcement of NOMA's full music curriculum which will take place in a newly renovated space, on the upper level of the NOMA building. This dedicated area will further enrich the musical and cultural landscape of Omaha with hands-on learning experiences and access to state-of-the-art equipment.

The newly renovated second floor spaces of the NOMA building



NOMA will host a ribbon-cutting celebrating the launch of our new music labs
May 15
at 2 p.m.



THE 2025 CURRICULUM INCLUDES:

PIANO LAB

Students will learn piano and music theory in a group setting. Each student will have access to a keyboard for personalized practice and instruction, as well as collaboration and peer learning.

DRUM AND BASS LAB

Students will explore rhythm, percussion and bass, learning different drumming and bass styles and techniques, training on Roland electronic drum kits and Squier jazz basses.

COMING SOON:

BROADCAST and DANCE STUDIOS

A broadcast studio will be equipped with industry-standard technology needed to introduce students to audio and video production, livestreaming and podcasting. And a dance studio on the upper level will allow us to show students the importance of learning how to move the body to rhythm and melody. These additional skills enables them to collaborate with others and results in a more well-rounded musician and person.

The NOMA team is very excited to bring the curriculum to life in the coming months. Enrollment is open to youth who are passionate about learning. We strive to make these offerings cost effective—removing any boundaries to learning.

Get more info about [NOMA's programming](#).

EVENT NOTES

NOMAFEST promises to be Omaha's music event of the summer

Eric Gales, Ghost-Note and **Lakecia Benjamin** are bringing a taste of blues guitar, a dash of funk and a whole lot of R&B saxophone to the 4th Annual NOMAFEST scheduled for Aug. 9th and 10th.

Due to construction on 24th Street Saturday's concert will take place at Turner Park, with a Sunday session at NOMA featuring Heidi Martin and our very own Dana Murray and Manifesto. "As we continue to build NOMAFEST into THE musical event in Omaha, this lineup is going to help us get there," Murray said. "We certainly wished we could hold Saturday's event on 24th Street, but securing Turner Park was essential, as we wanted to keep NOMAFEST accessible to the North Omaha community. I am very excited about these artists and their music styles are sure to entertain with their various takes on jazz, blues and R&B."

Gales entertains audiences with his unique guitar sound that leans on the blues rock style from the 1960s and 1970s. While the comparisons to Jimi Hendrix often resonate with listeners, he's also woven the styles of Albert King and Frank Gambale into his performances.

Ghost-Note features the Grammy-winning percussion duo of Robert "Sput" Searight and Nate Werth. Alongside are musician extraordinaries who've shared their talents with the likes of Kendrick Lamar, Toto, Justin Timberlake, Herbie Hancock, Prince and many more. Prepare to get on your feet with sounds and talent which are taking funk music to the next level.

Bringing the R&B, jazz and funk to the stage, Lakecia Benjamin has five Grammy nominations and has played for the likes of Gregory Porter and Theo Crocker, while also being featured on "Everything's Beautiful" with Robert Glasper and Steve Wonder. Her most recent release "Phoenix" has already garnered worldwide acclaim.

Sunday, August 10 at NOMA will feature singer Heidi Martin, whose original voice and artistry is both authentic and defiant of genre, and Dana Murray & Manifesto. NOMA is his vision for respecting the deep jazz history of 24th Street, while developing and showcasing the musical dreams of artists throughout the community.

Join us in August and check back [here](#) for more updates leading up to the music event of the summer. For NOMAFEST sponsorship opportunities, email Regina Tullos-Williams at rtullos.williams@northomahamusic.org.

More upcoming NOMA events:

APRIL 17: Singer Songwriter Showcase & Workshop presented by Omaha Music Group, featuring Jus B, Carver Jones, Leslie Palensky and Christian Dixon - 7 p.m.

APRIL 18: Organist **Mitch Towne** celebrates the release of his much-anticipated album "Refuge" - 7 p.m.

MAY 15: Ribbon cutting by Mayor Stothert celebrating NOMA's new music labs and renovations - 2 p.m.

Singer Songwriter Showcase & Workshop presented by Omaha Music Group - 5 p.m.

MAY 16: All Night Trio with Matt Villinger, Peter Schlamb and Zach Morrow - 7 p.m.

MAY 21: Javier Santiago Trio, LA-based jazz and hip-hop - 7 p.m.

MAY 31: Marty Morrison Quartet, KC-based straight-ahead jazz - 7 p.m.

JUNE 14: Pete Fucinaro Quartet, saxophone-led jazz with NYC-based players - 7 p.m.

NOMA CAFÉ: Beginning in April, the NOMA Café will feature pianists and solo musicians in our newly renovated bar area, creating an intimate vibe with an elevated cocktail menu.



CLOSING NOTES Your giving matters

NOMA's mission is simple—enrich and empower the community through music and art. Our journey is all about respecting the musical history of 24th Street, while growing the future and showcasing the arts in the community.

Through our educational programs, music showcases and jam sessions featuring local and regional talent, we are making our vision become a reality, however we still have much work to do.

We are excited about our recent renovations which has allowed us to expand our educational programs, performance spaces and lounge-like area to create the look and feel of jazz establishments from years ago.

All this can't be possible without donors—those who believe in our mission as deeply as the NOMA team. We have youth craving the opportunity to spread their wings in the arts and you can help make that possible

WAYS TO GIVE

We offer a unique donor opportunity called Giving Circles. You can reach out to a group of friends or family members who share your passion for supporting arts in our community, and decide on a dollar amount you're all willing to give to support NOMA. Then, select one of our programs to designate the contributions toward:

- **Jazz Sessions and Underground**
- **Leadership Development**
- **Keys 4 Kids (Piano Lab)**
- **Master Classes and Concerts**
- **Music Equipment for Classes**

Another way to give back is by volunteering your time and talents at the many NOMA events. From NOMAFEST to our weekly sessions and concerts, we have a spot for you.

If you believe in the arts, providing opportunities for youth, showcasing amazing talent and keeping the rich history of music alive, please consider a donation. Every gift, no matter the size, will have a tremendous impact now and for many, many years to come.

You can learn about donation opportunities [HERE](#).



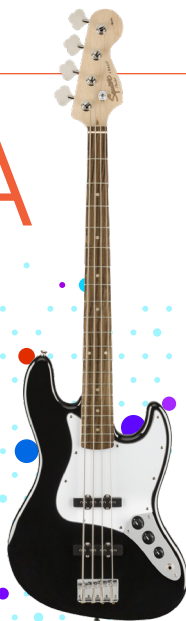
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programming
and concert
announcements

   northomahamusic.org

TIME TO MAKE SOME MUSIC!

2025 NOMA Summer Music Camps



June 2, 3, 4:
DRUM CAMP—\$150

Open to beginner and intermediate drummers in elementary or middle school.

Sessions from 9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.

June 2, 3, 4:
PIANO CAMP—\$150

Open to beginner and intermediate pianists in elementary or middle school.

Sessions from 9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.

June 9, 10, 11:
BASS CAMP—\$150

Open to beginner and intermediate bassists in elementary or middle school.

Sessions from 9-11 a.m.

June 9, 10, 11:
GUITAR CAMP—\$150

Open to beginner and intermediate guitarists in elementary or middle school.

Sessions from 1-3 p.m.

June 16, 17, 18:
RHYTHM SECTION CAMP—\$150

Open to drummers, bassists, pianists and guitarists currently enrolled, or planning to be enrolled in a middle or high school jazz band in 2025-2026.

Sessions from 9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.

June 23-27:
JAZZ BAND INTENSIVE—\$250

Open to advanced musicians currently enrolled in a high school or college jazz band by audition only.

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE.

Sessions from 9 a.m.-Noon & 1-4 p.m.

**All camps are held at the NOMA building:
2510 N 24th St., Omaha, NE 68110**

Register online at:
northomahamusic.org/summer



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try our new
instruments
in our newly
renovated
classrooms!**

