



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release: July 14, 2020**

### **Roswell Arts Fund announces physically distant but social Pop Up Performance featuring the John Driskell Hopkins Band (*of Zac Brown Band*), with special guests Mike Rizzi & Friends**

Roswell Arts Fund (RAF) is proud to present **John Driskell Hopkins Band with Special Guests Mike Rizzi & Friends** on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> (rain date August 22<sup>nd</sup>) in the Connexion Shopping Center Lot in front of From the Earth Brewing Company at 1570 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell GA 30076. Parking and seat assignment will begin at 7:00 pm, concert will start at 8:00 pm. This is the third event in RAF's **2020 Pop-Up Performance Series**.

For Tickets, visit: <http://www.freshtix.com/events/raf-john-driskell-hopkins-band>

#### **What will the audience experience look like?**

In order to create a safe and fun community event for artists and audiences, Roswell Arts Fund and From the Earth Brewing Company are reimagining how to produce concerts as physically distanced but still social live events in parking lots.

Parking lot spaces will be used as box seats. Each parking space (or "box") will be assigned to a ticketholder for a maximum of 4 guests per party. Patrons will park and then visit the ticket booth to be assigned their box in their respective ticket section. Guests are welcome to bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets within their seating area. Physical distancing will be enforced with 6 feet between other parties of concert-goers at all times. Face coverings will be required. From The Earth Brewing Company will have food and beverage will be available for purchase throughout the concert. Ticket prices range from \$100 - \$180 (for a party of one to four).

For Tickets, visit: <http://www.freshtix.com/events/raf-john-driskell-hopkins-band>

#### **About the Roswell Arts Fund Pop Up Performance Series**

Tickets benefit the Roswell Arts Fund and its mission of bringing world-class arts opportunities to Roswell and greater north metropolitan Atlanta.

RAF envisions creating a new, state-of-the-art and regionally distinct performance space. Having completed a feasibility study in 2019, RAF understands how a new performance space for music, theatre, and dance—a place where our community gathers to enjoy a favorite band or ballet production, a destination for entertainment, inspiration, and laughter, and to present fresh opportunities to showcase emerging talent and bring world-class performances—will expand and enhance Roswell's arts and culture scene.



The 2020 Pop-Up Performance Series presents curated performing arts experiences to engage audiences and strengthen community support for development of the new facility. Additional experiences will be “popping up” throughout Roswell in 2020.

Sponsors for the 2020 Pop-Up Performance Series include our Series Presenting Sponsor **Martin’s Garden at Coleman Farm**, joined by **From the Earth Brewing Company**, **Mojo Vinyl Records**, and **Hitch Law, LLC**.

### **About John Driskell Hopkins**

The musical career of **John Driskell Hopkins** spans more than 20 years. As a member of several rock bands, Hopkins first rooted himself in the Atlanta music scene in 1995 — but he is most well-known as a founding member, vocalist, multi-instrumentalist and songwriter of the GRAMMY Award-winning **Zac Brown Band**.

Hopkins became a founding member of the Zac Brown Band (ZBB) in 2005 as a bass player and has enjoyed engineering and songwriting credits on hit songs including “Toes,” “It’s Not OK,” and “Sic Em On A Chicken,” from the triple-platinum selling record *The Foundation*, as well as “Nothing,” “I Play The Road,” and “Settle Me Down,” from the platinum selling record, *You Get What You Give*. Hopkins also co-wrote the second single from the Zac Brown Band’s third platinum album, *Uncaged*, entitled “Goodbye in Her Eyes”—which was the group’s ninth Billboard No. 1 single. Hopkins met Zac Brown while hosting an open mic night at the Atlanta. Over the next several years, they remained friends and with Hopkins lending a production hand, they released the first Zac Brown album, *Home Grown*, in 2004.

As ZBB continues to garner critical and public success through numerous awards — including three GRAMMY Awards — Hopkins continues to share the spotlight on stage with his band of fellow songwriters and friends. He has added the title of multi-instrumentalist to his ZBB resume, playing Banjo on the single “Homegrown,” which became their 11th No. 1 hit on the Billboard country charts in March 2015, from the album *Jekyll and Hyde*. Hopkins is also a contributing writer on that album’s second single, “Heavy Is the Head” featuring Chris Cornell, which debuted at No. 37 on Billboard mainstream rock chart—marking their first appearance on that chart. The band played both singles as musical guests on “Saturday Night Live” on March 7, 2015.

In 2019, the film “Adolescence” was released, directed by Ashley Avi. Hopkins plays the role of guitarist/singer “Spider,” alongside Tommy Flanagan (“Sons of Anarchy”) as a member of The Bloody Wolves of Venice—a rock band created for the film which plays original music created and sung by Hopkins. A hard rock EP of this music was released in January 2019. Hopkins can also be seen and heard in the 2015 internationally released film “Careful What You Wish For,” featuring Nick Jonas, Paul Sorvin and Dermot Mulroney, produced by Elizabeth Allen. Having always been heavily involved in theatre throughout high school, he graduated from Florida State University with a degree in General Theatre.

In 2015, Hopkins was elected as an advisor to the Recording Academy, Atlanta Chapter, and was subsequently voted to a Governor Seat for two consecutive terms from 2015-2019. In 2019, he became a National Trustee for The Recording Academy and will hold that office until 2021.



In late summer, 2015, Hopkins fulfilled a dream when he collaborated with the Atlanta Pops Orchestra on a Christmas album entitled, *In the Spirit: A Celebration of the Holidays*. Featuring 12 tracks of timeless holiday tunes, the album features soaring arrangements and wonderful special guests such as the Indigo Girls, Balsam Range, and actress/singer extraordinaire Laura Bell Bundy. The album was released in November 2015, and a vinyl edition was released in 2016.

In 2017, Hopkins released his second holiday album, *You Better Watch Out*, a collaboration with The Joe Gransden Big Band featuring special guests including: Aoife O'Donovan, Bela Fleck, and Clay Cook and Daniel de los Reyes (of the Zac Brown Band). His third holiday album, entitled *Our Finest Gifts*, was released in November 2019—this time he collaborated with ATL Collective, and it features special guests such as: Trombone Shorty, Ruby Velle, Dionne Farris, David Ryan Harris, Jason Eskridge and Maureen Murphy.

When he's not touring, Hopkins works out of his Brighter Shade Studios songwriting and producing a growing crop of talent. Hop continues to perform at music festivals and venues across the country with his original six-piece band, The John Driskell Hopkins Band, which includes: Mike Rizzi on drums/vocals; Sean McIntyre on bass/vocals; Leah Calvert on fiddle/vocals; Greg Earnest on banjo; and Brian Bisky on keyboard/vocals. There are 11 episodes available of Hopkins' ongoing Podcast, "Under the Influence with John Driskell Hopkins" on iTunes — most of which were recorded while on the road with other bandmates or fellow tourmates. Another favorite activity is taking his Harley out for a lap of the city du jour.

Hopkins shares his life, on and off the road, with his amazing wife and three beautiful daughters.

### **About Mike Rizzi**

A native of a small upstate New York town called Endwell, Mike Rizzi was practically born with drumsticks in his hands. At age 3, he began drum lessons and was reading music before fully knowing the alphabet. During this time, he developed an affinity towards singing and creating songs while drumming, accelerated by his discovery of The Beatles. Embracing Ringo's approach to drumming, he was drawn to their strong melodic songwriting. By ninth grade, Rizzi began singing lead from behind the drum kit with his band, Uncle Jam. Throughout high school, he was writing and recording albums while selling cassettes out of his locker daily. After experiencing the power of performing original music and seeing the affect it had on others, he was determined to make this his life's work.

Mike Rizzi has spent 30 years touring drumming/singing with numerous artists/groups including: The Sweet Tea Project (featuring singer/songwriter Ed Roland of Collective Soul), John Driskell Hopkins Band (of the Zac Brown Band), Five Eight, Sonia Leigh to name just a few. Sharing stages with groups including REM, Zac Brown Band, Grace Potter and the Nocturnals, Styx, Foreigner, The Jayhawks, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, Chicago, Blackberry Smoke, Need to Breathe, Lynyrd Skynrd, Drivin-N-Cryin, Starship, Cheap Trick, The Killers, Collective Soul, Seven Mary Three and many more.

In 2003, Five Eight was featured on Atlanta's legendary 99x radio station with two singles in heavy rotation: "Square Peg" and "I'm Still Around." and hand-picked by REM to open their Around The Sun world-tour (2004).

In 2007 he relocated to Los Angeles, developing music for video games (with the band Ghost Hounds) They recorded a full-length record produced by Nile Rodgers (Chic) and engineered by Bob



Clearmountain. Two of these tracks, “Ashes to Fire” and “Wind Me Up,” were featured on the Rock Band II video game.

Rizzi has a featured song, entitled “Nothing Fades,” on The Sweet Tea Project’s new album, Alder Lane Farm released in 2017. Rizzi/Hopkins recorded music for a soon-to-be-released movie, Adolescence. Hopkins plays a biker (Spider) who sings in a band dubbed The Bloody Wolves Of Venice and Rizzi plays the drummer. Rizzi also serves as the drummer in the John Driskell Hopkins Band and already started recording Hop’s new album called “Lonesome High” due out in the fall.

Today, Rizzi readies his debut solo record “Appreciate What Remains”. It serves as a tribute to his son who lives in Holland. His first single/video “Great Divide,” debuted on CMT, staying in the top 10 for the 9 weeks allowed. The album is produced by Hopkins and Rizzi. The music represents his favorite and diverse genres, ranging from Rock to Americana, and Folk to Country. AWR is a melodic record, full of personal lyrics coming directly from the heart.

Rizzi shares, “It’s cathartic to revisit my feelings of the past and present — from the darkest struggles to the most euphoric moments; embracing them equally and finding motivation to move forward in a positive direction while honoring the experiences. The songs on Appreciate What Remains explores the challenges of remaining positive while experiencing life’s intense highs and lows. In the end, I hope the lesson everyone experiences is getting to a place of gratitude.”

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### **About Roswell Arts Fund**

**Roswell Arts Fund**, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is the designated arts agency for the City of Roswell. Roswell Arts Fund was founded to strengthen the scope of the arts in the city and to champion the ability of diverse cultural experiences to excite the imagination, strengthen public places, and encourage conversation. Through each of our initiatives, Roswell Arts Fund aims to **IGNITE** creative conversations, **INSPIRE** residents, visitors, and businesses to create, support, and become engaged in the arts and **IMPACT** the economy by making Roswell a cultural destination.

For more information, please see  
[www.roswellartsfund.org](http://www.roswellartsfund.org)  
[www.freshix.com/organizations/RoswellArtsFund](http://www.freshix.com/organizations/RoswellArtsFund),  
and RAF’s social media channels.

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