

Come Blow Your Horn!

Main Avenue Warehouse Set To Make Brassy RBD Debut Tonight

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When Main Avenue Warehouse arrives in Yankton to perform the headlining act for Riverboat Days, the band will be bringing with it a sound that is hard to find within the area.

The Sioux Falls-based ensemble, which is set to take the stage at 8 p.m. today (Friday) in the parking lot north of the beverage shelter, is an eight-piece horn band that plays in the style of Tower of Power, Chicago, Blood Sweat & Tears, Cold Blood, and other horn groups.

"There are bands that maybe do those types of tunes, but there really isn't a regular working horn band in this area that has a full horn section and a large ensemble like this," said Main Avenue Warehouse trumpet player Jim Speirs.

Speirs said the lack of a similar group was one of the main reasons the band was formed a little over a year ago.

"All of us have played together in various ensembles before, but there was a mutual interest in doing this type of music that really no one does in the area," he said.

Since its creation, the band has played mostly at festivals and various clubs across the state. Earlier this summer, they headlined Automania in Sioux Falls and the Black Hills Corvette Classic in Spearfish.

Speirs said the group has received a lot of positive feedback about its unique sound.

"We did a couple of club gigs in Rapid City and Spearfish, and people commented on how much fun it was to listen to and dance to a big horn ensemble like this," he said. "It's just not typical anymore. A lot of bands are two-, three-, or four-piece groups. To have eight players on stage — four of them being horn players — it's just a lot of energy. It's a real high energy sound."

The members of Main Avenue Warehouse include guitarist and lead vocalist Chris Miller, lead trumpet player Cade Calder, solo trumpet player Speirs, tenor and alto saxophone player Joel Shotwell, vocalist and baritone and tenor saxophone player James Dittman, vocalist and keyboard player Jonathan Kelly, drummer and vocalist Michael Hart and bass guitarist Andrew Reinartz.



COURTESY PHOTO

Main Avenue Warehouse, based in Sioux Falls, performs at Riverboat Days tonight (Friday). The band features a large horn section and offers a dynamic sound reminiscent of brass-driven 1970s bands like Chicago. The band performs in the parking lot north

of the beer shelter on the east end of the park. The performance is free and will pause at approximately 10 p.m. for the annual fireworks display.

"One of the guys that will be very recognizable in Yankton is Chris Miller," Speirs said. "He used to work in Yankton and has

and we wanted to play with our friends. But we also wanted to have a group of musicians that are used to being on the stage and know what it takes to work hard and do a professional gig."

Speirs added that, while the musicians work hard, they know how to have a good time on stage.

"The goal of the band is to connect with the audience. We don't want to make it too serious," he said. "We play some really tough music that we've worked really hard on, but it's all about having fun. You can tell this group has fun playing together."

This will be the first time the band has been to Yankton, although some of the group's members have played in the city before. Speirs said they are excited about the concert and can't wait to perform.

"Riverboat Days has such a great reputation around our state and everyone knows about it," he said. "Many of us have been to it before, so we know what kind of a quality festival it is, and to be asked to be the headlining band on Friday to kick off the weekend is really exciting. It's one of those gigs we've been looking forward to all summer."

played in a group that has performed at Riverboat Days in the past."

All the musicians are professionals, which allows the band to fine-tune the music and take the performance to another level, Speirs said.

"That was one of our objectives when we created the band," he said. "First and foremost, we wanted to do this style of music,



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