

# Unique musical performance set for May 18 at The Palace Theatre in the Village of Hamburg

*Multiple members of Buffalo Music Hall of Fame will hit the stage next month*

**By Daniel Meyer**

Original music written, produced and performed by some of the most talented musicians to come out of Hamburg will be featured at The Palace Theatre in the Village of Hamburg as part of a massive musical celebration that organizers hope becomes an annual tradition.

Hamburg Rocks! will take place on Friday, May 18 inside a historic venue that will host six different members of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame as part of what promises to be an entertaining evening of live music that will highlight Hamburg's connection to Western New York's rich music scene.

"These guys know how to rock out," says Dan Sawers, one of the Hamburg residents who is helping to coordinate the event. "The track record and list of accomplishments of all of these musicians speaks for itself. For us to be able to work with them and have them all agree to come together and play at the same place on the same night and to do it inside an awesome venue like The Palace is just incredible."

Hamburg Rocks! is headlined by Gurf Morlix and Peter Case, a pair of musicians who have both traveled extensively to perform music in careers that eventually landed them both into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame. The name recognition and extensive portfolios of work that both men possess figures to drive ticket sales for next month's musical celebration inside The Palace.

Morlix performed with Blaze Foley and was a member of Lucinda Williams's band for over a decade, producing two of her records and performing at thousands of concerts across the country. Morlix, who has also produced albums for Ray Wylie Hubbard, Robert Earl Keen, Mary Gauthier and Slaid Cleaves, is also a member of the Austin (Texas) Music Awards Hall of Game and was presented the prestigious honor of "Instrumentalist of the Year" in 2009 by the Americana Music Association.

Case may be best known for his versatility, with an extensive resume that includes musical performances in the rock 'n roll, blues, folk rock and solo acoustic genres. After writing his first song at age 11, Case eventually hit the road and spent years as a street musician before eventually getting his big break as a member of the punk-era band The Nerves. That group later toured nationally, opening shows for the Ramones and Mink DeVille and performing at the same concerts as Devo, Pere Ubu and The Nuns. Case later formed the rock 'n roll band The Plimsouls, a group that had a cult-like following in California. Case later began a successful solo career that has spanned the past three decades.

Special appearances will be made at Hamburg Rocks! by Jim Whitford, Mark Winsick, Tom Stahl, Alison Pipitone (with Graham Howes) and Rob Lynch, with all of those performers excluding Lynch sharing the same claim as being from Hamburg.

“This show is going to be truly special for anyone who lives from Hamburg or used to live here or has some special memory of Hamburg or The Palace Theatre,” says Sawers. “And while we expect many of the audience members to have some type of Hamburg connection, we know that music lovers from throughout Western New York will also be in the crowd because all of these acts have faithful followings and really know how to entertain their fans.”

In addition to the live music, refreshments (beer, wine) will be made available by Mason’s Grille 52 and merchandise (CDs, commemorative concert posters, t-shirts) will also be sold. The Palace Theatre will also have its concession stand open for anyone wanting popcorn, candy, pop, water or other refreshments.

An estimated 600 tickets will be sold for Hamburg Rocks! Tickets, which cost \$17 in advance or \$22 at the door, are currently on sale and can be purchased either at The Palace Theatre box office, online at [www.hamburgpalace.com](http://www.hamburgpalace.com) or by calling (814) 452-4857.

“We encourage fans of any of these performers to buy their tickets now so they don’t miss out on this truly unique opportunity,” says Sawers. “Jay Ruof and Skip Zintz and the folks at The Palace are going to be tremendous hosts and it’s just going to be a fabulous evening for music lovers of all ages, especially anyone who grew up or knows these tremendously talented musicians.”