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## State, local musicians' 'Such a Night' event to re-create The Band's final concert

By James Grant of The News-Sentinel  
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In celebration of the rock group The Band's illustrious career and influential music, a show entitled "Such a Night — Recreating The Music of The Last Waltz" will take place at 8 p.m. Saturday at C2G Music Hall.

The show will feature an accomplished group of musicians from Indianapolis plus several well-known local musicians, including Dave Todoran who'll play Bob Dylan. The group will re-create The Band's celebrated final concert, "The Last Waltz," which also was made into a film.

The concert included not only The Band, but such musical giants as Dylan, Eric Clapton, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young and Neil Diamond.

The Band, known for their Americana/roots rock style of music and expert musicianship, created one of the most revered catalogs of music from the rock era.

Comprised of members Robbie Robertson, Levon Helm, Rick Danko, Garth Hudson and Richard Manuel, The Band created such memorable classics as "The Weight," "Up on Cripple Creek" and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down."

The group also recorded legendary albums "Music from Big Pink" and their self-titled album "The Band," which Rolling Stone magazine ranked 34 and 45, respectively, on its 2012 list of the 500 Greatest Albums of All Time.

Originally known as The Hawks when they backed Dylan, a folk/rock icon, on his infamous 1966 "electric" tour, The Band had a huge impact on fellow musicians, including Clapton and George Harrison, who reveled in the group's roots approach to music.

The Band's career peak lasted from 1968 to 1977 and culminated in 1978 with the release of "The Last Waltz," an album and documentary film by Martin Scorsese, which chronicled the last live performance of original configuration of the group.

Two Fort Wayne natives, Bill Mallers and Eric Evans, were part of a small group of Indianapolis players who got together in 2012 after the death of Helm to play songs of The Band in tribute to Helm.

Mallers said the idea for a tribute show grew out of that initial meeting and evolved into a re-creation of "The Last Waltz."

"I was playing at the club where this all began, and there were a lot of musicians there that night," Mallers said via email. "Levon Helm had passed away a week before, and folks started talking about how we should do a tribute show for Levon."

"So many people wanted to be a part of the show, so it was decided to re-create 'The Last Waltz' so that everyone could have a part," Mallers said. "One guy would be Dylan, another Clapton, etc."

"After the rhythm section was formed to be 'The Band,' they approached the Johnny Socko horns to be the horn section for the show," Evans added.

"The Band exemplifies classical rock as well as any band from that era," Mallers continued.

"They were influenced equally by all the elements that made rock popular — country, blues, gospel and jazz," he said. "There were no gimmicks. Just great songs, played well. Plus, they had three of the best rock vocalists in one band!"

Both Mallers and Evans are pleased to come back to Fort Wayne and share this experience with musicians from their hometown, and both see the "Such a Night" show as one of the highlights of their careers.

"It's nice to bring some of the local music community together for one night," Mallers said. "I mean, David Todoran as Bob Dylan, Marn'ee as Joni Mitchell, G Money as Muddy Waters? Geez, the list just goes on and on."

"Such A Night' is maybe my favorite musical group to have ever been a part of," Mallers said. "So, performing this show in the town I grew up in is really special."



### More Information

#### The Band tribute

**What:** "Such a Night — Recreating The Music of The Last Waltz" features local and Indianapolis musicians re-creating the last concert of the legendary rock group The Band.

**When:** 8 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** C2G Music Hall, 323 W. Baker St.

**Cost:** \$15 in advance, \$20 day of show. Tickets available at [www.c2gmusichall.com](http://www.c2gmusichall.com); local Wooden Nickel Music stores at 3627 N. Clinton St., 3422 N. Anthony Blvd. and 6427 W. Jefferson Blvd.; and Neat Neat Neat Records and Music, 1836 S. Calhoun St.

**Note:** A portion of proceeds from the show will be donated to a Fort Wayne food bank. People also are asked to bring a canned food item for distribution by C2G.

"I grew up in Fort Wayne and had my formative years as a musician there, and then was lucky enough to return years later in the '90s with a band that was really popular in town, so I got to have many great musical experiences there," Evans added.

"My brother-in-law took me to see 'The Last Waltz' for the first time at the Cinema Center in downtown Fort Wayne when I was in high school," Evans said. "Seeing that film that day opened up my eyes to the concept of playing trumpet as a rock instrument, and it would certainly be fair to say I have dedicated my life to doing just that.

"To get the chance to return to The Fort and play this show just blocks away from where I first experienced it on the big screen," Evans added, "is a career high for me."