



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

December 5, 2023

2023-2024 Board Members

President Edwin Peacock

Pres Elect Kim Brattain

Past Pres William Bradley

Secretary John Cantrell

Treasurer Craig Field

Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2022-2024

Will Barnhardt

Glenn Bouley

Margaret Donovan

Laura Little

Mark Norman

Diego Ramon

Robert Shaw

Directors 2023-2025

Patrick Baker

Linwood Bolles

Terri DeBoo

Andy Dinkin

Donna Dunlap

David Head

Joel Ford

Membership Terri DeBoo

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Andy Dinkin



John Tosco, Executive Director, Tosco Music

by **Bill Barte**

John Tosco has changed lives through his personal and professional journey with music. His personal relationship with music began with the Beatles' first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show. This led to guitar lessons and an impactful relationship with a music teacher. This teacher helped introduce John to a wide variety of music that he has retained to this day.

He moved to Denver, CO, in the 1980s and founded the Wild River Band. They toured throughout the Midwest and performed at the Grand Ole Opry. After this John began teaching music. Then came the move to Charlotte where he began the non-profit organization, Tosco Music.

This founding, over thirty years ago, included a former student of his and Charlotte Rotary Club member, **Dumont Clarke**. Clarke, according to Tosco, helped bring ideas, concepts, and legal advice during the initial days of the non-profit. Our Club continues to participate by contributing to scholarships given by the Tosco Music Foundation.

Tosco Music came up with the concept of the Tosco Music Party (TMP) in John's living room. Initially occurring in a 400-seat venue four times a year, it filled up. Next, a venue of 700 and then 1,000, all were filled. The popularity of the Tosco Music Parties continued to grow. The 1,200-person capacity, Knight Theater, is now the home. Friends bringing friends helped contribute to the organic growth of the event.

The quarterly concerts are a celebration of the diversity, inclusion, and richness of the Charlotte music scene. More than 1,000 different ages and cultures from local, to regional, to national acts have graced their talents on the stages of a TMP performance. The popularity caused Tosco Music to add new offerings.

In 2015, the Tosco Holiday Party began. Then in 2019, Fab Fest began. Fab Fest is a weekend celebration of the Beatles' music with speakers, performers, and art contests. Beatles fans diverge on Charlotte during this annual weekend. During the Pandemic, the TMP's were virtual. This helped keep the awareness of music and live performances alive in our community. In 2022 TMP celebrated its 100th performance.

Community outreach supports students, independent artists, and emerging talents with open mic opportunities and professional knowledge and inspiration for different professional music opportunities. This includes performance, production, promotion, and sound engineering.

We were able to meet two scholarship recipients. William Merritt and Anthony Vasquez were both on hand and provided additional music and words to the meaning of music and the Tosco Foundation Scholarship. Both shared their talents with the Club with Dr. Thomas Moore providing accompaniment.

In a video before his comments, Tosco stated that in the end. "It's all about the people. It's all about the connection. It's all about the music."

A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/891596361>
The speaker's introduction begins at approximately 19:30 minutes.