ELKIN, N.C. — With its mission to "keep Yadkin Valley's music alive and kicking," the Reevestock Music Festival returns for its ninth year, Aug. 2-3.

The festival began as a Saturday-only event at Elkin's Hidden Amphitheater and has grown over the years to include a Friday evening filled with music in downtown Elkin.

This year's Saturday headliner is Mipso, a Chapel Hill-based quartet performing a unique brand of Americana that has been lauded by Rolling Stone magazine and enjoyed by audiences at AmericanaFest, Merlefest and the International Bluegrass Music Association awards.

"Their style is kind of hard to pin down, in a very positive way. You're able to get some of the bluegrass sound, you get the folk element, singer-songwriter fans will enjoy what they do and they are great instrumentalists," says festival director Sam Tayloe. "And, they bring great songs to the table on top of all that."

Prior to Mipso, Time Sawyer performs at 7 p.m. Saturday. Time Sawyer has local roots and a sound that runs the gamut from introspective ballads to high-energy crowd-pleasers with songs that settle into that rootsy sweet spot where folk, alt-country and rock join as one.

Saturday's lineup also includes: Songs From The Road Band at 5:30 p.m., Nicholas Jamerson at 4:15 p.m., Isaac Smith at 3:15 p.m. and Shay Martin Lovette at 2 p.m. Martin Lovette and his band won the 2019 Merlefest band contest, earning a Saturday night Merlefest gig.

"Reevestock has really been growing the last couple of years, so every year I'm excited to see it get bigger and bigger," Tayloe says. "We try really hard not to replicate lineups from the past and this is a fun lineup. I think we cover a lot of bases this year."

In addition to its impressive music lineup, Reevestock features one of the state's most distinct venues. The Hidden Amphitheater is tucked away in a residential setting just two miles north of downtown Elkin. The stage is framed by hills, trees and terraces.

Saturday's portion of the festival is family-friendly with a kids' zone during daylight hours. Local restaurants and food trucks are on hand, and that local focus extends to beverage offerings with Angry Troll Brewing, Skull Camp Brewing and Slightly Askew Winery on site.

Friday's evening festivities start with a free Downtown Get-Down Block Party with Swim in the Wild from 5-8 p.m. in front of the Reeves Theater, followed by a ticketed show by Brent Cobb & Them at the theater at 8 p.m. A free late-night hoot, featuring Akita, takes place at 10 p.m. just down the street at Angry Troll Brewery.

The festival benefits the Reevestock Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to seniors at Elkin High School, East Wilkes High School and Starmount High School.

Tickets for Friday evening's concert range from \$20-\$30. Saturday-only tickets are \$23 through July 31, and \$30 afterward. A limited number of two-day bundle tickets are available ranging from \$38-\$48. There is also a four-pack ticket option for \$75 in advance.

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.Reevestock.com.

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