

Night Out For You Listen to the Music

By Jenna Caputo



Kate Hockford knows what it's like to wait in fear for lab results. As a stage four breast cancer patient, Kate has been in enough waiting rooms to fully understand the stress, fear, and burnout that comes with cancer treatment. But it wasn't until she met another woman going through treatment that the idea for **Night Out For You (NOFY)** was born. This woman had been through 91 chemotherapy treatments before her doctor told her the tumors were no longer responding. Her next step was surgery. She was tired of being sick and scared of what came next. Kate told her, "YOU CAN DO THIS!" The two women continued to keep in touch, and Kate sent her a gift card to a local restaurant so the woman and her daughters could go out for an evening and enjoy themselves.

Kate wanted to help other cancer patients have a break, too. With the help of her husband and friends, Kate created NOFY in 2016 to offer a customized Experience to any adult fighting cancer so they can have "a time to remember who they are by forgetting their diagnosis for a few hours." NOFY creates a customized day or night "Experience" based on whatever activity brings the recipient joy. Just having something to look forward to—even just a few hours—can offer so much hope and love in the long run. Some past Experiences have included things like spa treatments, sporting events, musical or comedy shows, outdoor activities, day trips, and many

more. Family and friends are encouraged to join their loved one on the Experience.

NOFY hit their 100th recipient milestone in 2022 and is still going strong. It is a 100% volunteer-based organization, and they rely on individual and corporate donations and fundraising to fulfill these Experiences. To help with that cause, they're hosting a **benefit concert on Sunday, November 5th at 1pm at the Cohoes Music Hall**. "Listen to the Music: A Concert Benefiting Night Out For You" will present an afternoon of varied music with: **Amanda Case**, a singer/songwriter originally from Troy who pairs her personal journey with adventurous inspiration and "stuck-in-your-head" lyrics to create her distinctive sound; **Tops of Trees**, an original-music group with a drum- and base-focused vibe featuring a soulful horn section, fervent guitars, and classic organ for a modern interpretation of soul music steeped in early R&B, funk, and blues; and **Big Sky Country**, a high-energy, modern country band known for putting on a great show. Their repertoire includes original hits as well as covers of country greats like Carrie Underwood, Jason Aldean, Johnny Cash, Blake Shelton, Shania Twain, Travis Tritt, and more.

To buy tickets, find out more information on how you can help, or to fill out a form for an Experience from NOFY, visit their website at www.nightoutforyou.org.

