OFFICIAL PROGRAM

FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
AUGUST 25, 26, 27

4 stages, 3 days, 65 vendors: an International Block Party in Bangor, Maine

Suggested Donation $10 per day

AmericanFolkFestival.com
Welcome to the Weekend when Bangor Shines Bright with Visitors from Around the World, Showcasing Their Traditional Cultures and Experiencing a Global Variety of Music, Dance and Art.

The arts are a force in Bangor these days. Music, dance, theatre, and creativity are enriching our community year-round. Opportunities to learn, explore, and showcase diverse arts can be found in our vibrant downtown, and throughout our region. Recent research published in the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 Report shows that the arts directly account for $10 million in economic activity in Bangor annually.

On behalf of the Folk Festival team, we’re thrilled to be along for this ride. Seeing the growth of a multitude of arts in the same way that the AFF has taken root in our community speaks to the value that we all see in the power of the arts to create new energy, and sustain this forward movement. Today, Bangor is seeing itself in a new light, thanks to the shining examples all around us.

We’re dedicated to being part of Bangor’s recipe for success for many years to come. We work year-round to raise the funds and recruit the volunteer teams that make the Festival happen each year. And here’s the key to that continued success:

We need your help.

Welcome to the 2017 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront!

Welcome to the weekend when Bangor shines bright with visitors from around the world, showcasing their traditional cultures and experiencing a global variety of music, dance and art.

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We need your help.

The American Folk Festival is presented admission-free to our community, because of the generous gifts of time and support from our community. Each year, we need to schedule more than 500 volunteers, and raise nearly $900,000 in support. Those are two pretty large goals, especially to continue to meet (or exceed!) them year after year. But we continue to work at it, because the Festival and what it represents is important to our residents and visitors. I hope that it’s important to you as well.

Please be generous when you see the Bucket Brigade at this year’s Festival. Kick in the suggested donation of $10 (or more!) per day. And if you’re able to contribute some “sweat equity” to keeping our Festival going, a couple of hours of your volunteer time would be a big part of this year’s success – and a lot of fun, as well!

Thank you for your support of the American Folk Festival – celebrating 16 years and counting!

Heather McCarthy, Executive Director

To support the American Folk Festival through a financial contribution or volunteering, visit www.americanfolkfestival.com or contact the festival offices at 207-262-7765.
The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront is only possible through the hard work of hundreds of volunteers, committee members, directors and staff. The following people are among those who have dedicated their time and skills to make the 2017 American Folk Festival a success.

**Board of Directors:**
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**Office:**
Heather McCarthy, Executive Director
Robin Merchant, Development Coordinator
Denise Libby, Site Services Coordinator
Kerrie Tripp and the GBCVB, Logistics Coordination
Clayton Joseph Chenier was born September 28, 1957 - the son of the great King of Zydeco, Clifton Chenier. CJ’s father was the first Creole musician to win a Grammy Award. CJ spent his childhood in the tough tenement housing projects of Port Arthur, Texas. His earliest musical influences were an eclectic mix of funk, soul, jazz and Motown, and his first musical instruments were piano, tenor saxophone and flute.

Coming into adulthood, CJ’s interest in the music of his ancestors grew and after college graduation he joined his father’s legendary Red Hot Louisiana Band on the road. After his father’s death in 1987, CJ assumed leadership of the band. While he continued to develop his personal accordion style, CJ also gradually began grafting on influences from his boyhood. As CJ explains, “I play it the way I play it. All my father really told me was to do the best I could do with my own style.”

In 1995, appearances on the Jon Stewart Show and CNN brought CJ’s music to his widest audiences yet. But all this attention didn’t change his philosophy toward his music. “You go to a gig by a jazz band,” he says, “and everybody’s sitting down, sipping drinks. You play zydeco and you see shoes flying off. You can’t come to my show and stay unhappy all night long. You’re going to break a smile and stomp your foot before too long. This is happy music, and it makes you dance.” Perhaps that’s why Jazz Police calls CJ Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band “One of the best zydeco party bands on the planet.”

Les Poules à Colin

Taking their name from a popular traditional song, Les Poules à Colin are an infusion of young energy into a time-tested recipe - five childhood friends who still live on the same street, sharing a history of music-making and family ties. Les Poules are a dynamic and creative group that turn heads wherever they go. Exposed to Québécois and other folk music from the moment they were hatched, these offspring of trad musicians were immersed in music. They have grown up with and learned their craft firsthand from some of Québec’s finest, whether backstage at international festivals or at lively kitchen jams in Lanaudière, arguably Québec’s most musical region.

The five members of the latest and youngest band out of the hot Québécois traditional music scene are entrancing and sparkle with unpretentious, natural talent and respect for their repertoire – including beautifully arranged original and folk-trad songs and tunes. The group’s sound is a seamless blend of their strong folk upbringing and North American influences that range from old-time to jazz, with some provocative and moody effects. Their repertoire is a mix of original and traditional pieces, primarily in French but with some English compositions, and it reveals gorgeous vocal, instrumental and rhythmic prowess. Their adaptations of traditional songs speak eloquently to their generation while retaining the timeless beauty of their musical heritage.

Fiddle, guitar, bouzouki, banjo, mandolin, piano, bass and foot percussion form a rich and varied backdrop for inventive arrangements.

Les Poules a Colin perform:
Friday, 9:00pm, BDN Railroad Stage
Saturday, noon, BDN Railroad Stage
Saturday, 2:45pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage
Sunday, noon, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (“Fiddle Traditions” talk/demo session)
Sunday, 1:30pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage (“French Connections” talk/demo session)
Sunday, 4:45pm, BDN Railroad Stage

CJ Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band perform:
Friday, 9:15pm, Dance Pavilion
Saturday, 12:30pm, Dance Pavilion
Saturday, 9:00pm, BDN Railroad Stage
Sunday, 1:30pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage (“French Connections” talk/demo session)
Sunday, 4:45pm, Dance Pavilion
Main Food Court
Aucoin Concessions - Lemonade, Fruit smoothie, unsweetened ice tea, hot chocolate, water & iced tea
Dip Em Donuts - Mini donuts, hot coffee, iced coffee, mini donut ice cream sundae, applewood smoked shredded chicken sandwiches, applewood smoked shredded turkey sandwiches, bacon wrapped hot dog on a stick, homemade chopped suye, homemade chili
Hampden Congregational Church - Strawberry Shortcake, Blueberry Shortcake, Water
Jeff's Bloomin Onion - Bloomin onions
Stone Fox Farm Creamery #1 - Homemade ice cream, frappes, ice cream sandwiches and other ice cream treats
Yogi's Traveling Kitchen - Doughboys and funnel cakes
Whoopie Pie Café - Salads, Sandwiches, Wraps, 30 Flavors of Whoopie Pies
St. George Greek Orthodox Church - Coffee, tea, fresh lemonade, spanakopita (spinach pie), Dolmathes (stuffed grape leaves), beef/lamb gyros, chicken souvlaki, potato burrito, combo platter, vegetarian plate, baklava, kourambiethes (cookies), Rixogats (rice pudding)
Taj India - Samosa and onion banti, nan and garlic nan, chicken masala, mix vegetable curry, chana masala, sagdamer, lassi and mango lassi, mango jouse.
Vicky's Thai Food - Crab Rangoon, chicken satay, pad thai noodle w/ vegetables, thai fried rice w/ vegetables, pad woon sen w/ vegetables, broccoli chicken, sweet & sour chicken, thai green curry w/ vegetables, peanut w/ chicken
Fat Guys Concession - Sausage sub, steak sub, kielbasa sub, combo sub, hamburger, cheeseburger, hot dog
Mr. Jack's Catering Service - Hot Dogs, burgers, sausage, turkey legs, steak tips, fries, deep fried mac'and'cheese, chicken fingers
Philiys' Good Eats - Arepas - gluten free - handmade, stone ground corn patty stuffed with all natural mozzarella cheese, lemonade
Que Quesadilla - Roasted Red Pepper Quesadilla, Black Bean quesadilla, chicken quesadilla, pesto quesadilla, hand cut sweet potato fries, lemonade
Three Leaf Foods - Sautéed Fresh Veggie Wraps w/cheese and sauce, sauteed veggie wrap with marinated chicken or tofu
We're All Ears - Corn on the cob, lobster rolls, crabmeat rolls, lobster stew, fish chowder, pies, cake, ice cream novelties
Maine Dish - Crabmeat rolls, Lobster rolls, hand cut french fries, cheesecake creamy changa, tender basket, chicken wrap
Margarita's Restaurant - Street Tacos (chicken, beef, pork), chips & salsa, chips & guacamole, Jarritos (grapefruit, mango, pineapple, orange, seltzer)
Melt - Sandwich melts, poppers, fries, chimis and wontons

Railroad Food Court
First Congregational Church of Brewer, UCC - Root Beer Floats, Orange Floats
Island Cow Creamery - organic ice cream, organic sorbetto
Nickerson's Kettle Korm - Kettle Korm
Northwoods Gourmet Girl - Jumbo Lump Crabcake Sandwich, organic lemonade, organic field cookies, grilled vegetable panini, pastrami egg roll, green goddess salad
The Smoothie Shack - Smoothies, wraps

Dance Food Court
The Donut Boys - Donuts - Glazed, Cinnamon and Sugar, Coconut, Chocolate Coated, Maple w/ bacon bits, hot and iced coffee, hot tea, hot chocolate
Fast Eddie's - Ice cream, shaved ice, milk shakes, sea dog biscuits
Siri Grill - Grilled chicken, Veg Rice/noodles, fried plantains, veg egg roll
Hot Dogs From Around the World - Hot dogs of various makes, small personal bags of chips
Southern Bar-B-Que - Milkshakes, Carolina style BBQ - Chicken, pork, beef

Marketplace Vendors
Allagash Tails LLC - Maine author of 7 books that detail his 32 years as a Maine Park Ranger.
Cynthia Taylor Studio - Whimsical illustrated maps, prints, and greeting cards with an emphasis on all things “Maine”.
Dan Johnson Designs - Original watercolor paintings printed on wood trivets, placemats, and coasters.
Sharon's Decorative Art - Original acrylic paintings on birch bark, art prints, note cards.
Custom Designs by Jill - Variety of purses, totes, key togs and more
MoonCrazy Fibre Arts - Handmade felted soaps, felted cattows, soap dishes and knitted items
Maine Alpaca Experience, LLC. - Soft alpaca clothing, gifts & yarn. Durable hypo-allergenic clothing for all seasons. Experience Alpaca!
Simply Prudence Creations - Hand sewn 'Catcher Bags' for multi use
Think Greene - Sustainable Maine made products to fit the eco friendly lifestyle
Human Nature - Working with nature to produce bath, body and household products that are good for you and good for the earth.
Mountain Mama of Maine - Botanical skincare products
Naturally Bee-Ewe-ful - Handmade skincare for the entire family made from beeswax, botanical and food grade ingredients with no chemicals.
Sunshine Apothecary - Wild crafted Maine herbal products including PRIM Pain Relief In Minutes, creams, salves, tinctures, teas, and chaga mushrooms
Circle Stone Designs - Silver, Gold, Copper and Brass jewelry, belt buckles, and key rings
Earth Metalworks - Earthy and rustic mixed metal and torch fired enamel jewelry. Handcrafted for men and women
Lightwing Designs - Original handmade stained glass jewelry with hand cut and constructed sterling pictoral overlay.
M&M Links Jewelry - Lightweight exotic and colorful jewelry
Seamack Designs - Variety of accessories from jewelry and hair adornments to Pendulums and suncatchers
Southwest Expressions - Native American Jewelry
Caricatures by PJ - Cartoon portraits drawn with humor and artistry.
Hymns of Henna - Organic temporary Henna tattoos, and face painting
Remarkable Blackbird - 100% Natural henna body art hand drawn by a skilled artist. Celebrate with Henna!
Down to Earth Pottery - Functional pottery with wildflower decoration
Beast Feast Maine - Maker of BBQ sauces, hot sauces, marinades, and rubs.
Grey Goose Gourmet - Pepper Jellies! 12 varieties to choose from, mild and savory to hot and spicy - “Simple, yet amazingly good!”
Gryffon Ridge Spice Merchants - Organic herb and spice offerings with over 50 handcrafted culinary blends
Sweet Tooth Fudge - Fudge made at our Winthrop home and cut and served to order at the event.
Dicks Sticks - Walking sticks and wooden items
Durum Tempus Hardwood Clocks - Wall clocks out of hardwood with carved designs
Normebega Woodcarvers - Flora, Fauna and scenes of Maine
Wood-N-Crafts - Framed wooden items made with various kinds of wood - wine stoppers, bracelet helpers.
To enable us to continue to present the Festival as an admission free event, we must raise over $900,000 each year from a variety of sources. Here are the ways you can help support the Festival:

**Bucket Brigade.** Thousands kick in every year during the Festival. Suggested donation is $10 per person per day/$20 per family per day.

**Individual Gifts.** We could not do it without your generous support! We rely on donations from individuals, families, businesses and community organizations. Whether you contribute $25, $100, $500 or more, your support is key to ensuring that the AFF remains a vital part of Bangor’s summer calendar each year.

**The Producer’s Circle.** When you join the Producers’ Circle with your annual gift of $1,000 (or just $83.33 a month), you’ll attend the Festival as part of an elite giving team, receive exclusive benefits and know that you’re helping to ensure the sustainability of the AFF.

**Sales of AFF merchandise at the Festival.** When you purchase CDs, T-shirts, ball caps and other items, you are supporting the AFF!

**Volunteer!** Did you know it takes over 1,200 volunteer shifts to make the Festival happen? Sign up with a friend – it’s fun!

**Foundations and Grants.** Private and government foundations provide grant support for various programs at the Festival. If you know of a foundation that may be interested in supporting our programming, let us know.

**Corporate Support.** Sponsoring the AFF gives your business the opportunity to strengthen your brand while also enhancing your corporate image within the community. The AFF offers a variety of sponsorship packages with many marketing benefits that will meet your business needs.

**CLYNK.** The American Folk Festival accepts your returnable bottles and cans through Clynk donations at your local Hannaford Supermarket. It’s easy! All you need to do is contact the office at 207-262-7765 and we will supply you with the bags to collect your bottles and cans in.

**Stocks/Planned Giving.** Simply speak with your financial planner and advise them that the Festival is set up to accept these contributions through our account at RBC Wealth Management.

**Color Bangor 2018.** Color Bangor is Bangor’s first 5K fun run/walk (run, walk, jog or stroll!) where participants of all ages will pass through color zones and get splashed with color. Join the fun May 12, 2018 for our colorful fun run/walk event.

For more information on any of these ways to support the Festival, contact us at (207) 262-7764 / info@americanfolkfestival.com / www.americanfolkfestival.com
Las Cafeteras

Las Cafeteras have taken the music scene by storm with their infectious live performances and have crossed genre and musical borders.

Born and raised east of the Los Angeles river, Las Cafeteras are remixing roots music and telling modern day stories. The band creates a vibrant musical fusion with a unique East LA sound and positive message. Their Afro-Mexican beats, rhythms, and rhymes deliver inspiring lyrics that document stories of a community seeking love and justice in the concrete jungle of Los Angeles.

Using traditional Son Jarocho instruments like the jarana, requinto, quijada (donkey jawbone) and tarima (a wooden platform), Las Cafeteras sing in English, Spanish, and Spanglish and add a remix of sounds, from rock to hip-hop to rancheras. Las Cafeteras use music as a vehicle to build bridges among different cultures and communities, and create ‘a world where many worlds fit’.

As they blend hip-hop and rock & roll with Veracruz-style music, Las Cafeteras produces the type of music you can dance and sing along to at all hours of the day and night.

Las Cafeteras perform:
Friday, 7:45pm, BDN Railroad Stage
Saturday, 2:00pm, Dance Pavilion
Saturday, 4:05pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage
("Songs of Justice, Songs of Spirit" talk/demo session)
Saturday, 9:15pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage
Sunday, 2:00pm, Dance Pavilion
Welcome to the 2017 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, the 16th year of an annual celebration of authentic traditional arts. We hope that you enjoy this year’s festival, and that you’ll make your plans to experience this grand event with the help of the information in this program guide.

From 2002 to 2004, the city of Bangor hosted the 64th, 65th and 66th National Folk Festivals, celebrating traditional performing arts from cultures across the globe and entertaining tens of thousands of people each year. After a very successful three-year run, the community launched the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront in 2005, carrying on the tradition established by the National Folk Festival.

The American Folk Festival is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to bringing unique opportunities to see a diverse variety of artists to Eastern Maine. The AFH has proven that authentic traditional arts have a long-lasting place in the heart of Bangor.

This year’s American Folk Festival features 16 performing groups for your enjoyment.

Festival Admission
There is no admission fee to attend any of the festival’s programs, including performances, demonstrations, and children’s activities. However, presenting the festival free-of-charge costs nearly $1 million, and we need your help to cover these production costs. The suggested donation is $10 per day per person or $20 per day per family. As you enter the Festival, or when you see the donation buckets, please, consider a gift to support the event!

Bucket Volunteers
The volunteers who make up the Bucket Brigade and the Donation Stations are a happy corps of community volunteers who encourage festival-goers to support the American Folk Festival. Donation Stations are at the main festival entrances and throughout the festival site. The Bucket Brigade travels throughout the festival site. Please, drop your contribution (suggested donation: $10 per person per day) in the bucket to help cover the cost of the festival.

Festival Parking
People familiar with downtown Bangor are invited to park in any street-side parking, surface lots, or the Pickering Square Parking Garage.

During the Festival, both sides of Broad Street (from Washington Street to Front Street) are reserved for festival patrons needing handicapped parking spaces.

Bicycles
Free bicycle parking will be available near the Railroad Street entrance to the Festival (next to Main Street at the back of the Railroad Stage) in a special bicycle parking area overseen by Folk Festival volunteers.

Remember that Maine law requires a helmet and rear red reflectors visible from at least 500 feet when riding at night. Flashing taillights and light-colored and/or reflective clothing are highly recommended. The law requires helmets for anyone under 16, but everyone should wear a helmet to prevent head injury.

Information Booths, Festival Schedules
General festival information, the schedule of performances, and area information will be available at three information booths: near the Dance Tent, near the Railroad Stage entrance, near the Main Food Court.

What to Bring
You may want to bring comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen, and sunglasses. A credit card may come in handy to buy festival memorabilia and CDs of performing artists. Bring your ID if you wish to purchase beer or wine. Collapsible chairs and a blanket might make your festival visit more comfortable. Some stages will have seating, but others, such as the Railroad Stage, require that you bring your seating.

Don’t forget your prescription medications and, just in case, bring your insurance and medical cards.

Beer and Wine Sales
There are two locations for beer and wine sales at the American Folk Festival – at the Railroad Stage and at the Dance Stage. Make sure to bring your ID if you wish to purchase beer and/or wine.

What if it Rains?
Tents cover many festival stages and presentations. If the weather appears threatening, bring an umbrella. The show will go on, rain or shine, unless there is a concern for public safety.

Pets
Please, do not bring pets (other than service animals) to the American Folk Festival. The large crowds — with many people seated on the ground — will appreciate your animals staying at home. Your pets will be more comfortable at home than in the midst of the festival crowds.

Smoke-Free, Please
Smoking is prohibited within any Festival tents, and in the food courts and picnic areas. Throughout other areas of the Festival, please be courteous and refrain from smoking when in a crowd of people.

Medical and Emergency Services
Minor medical emergencies will be treated at the First Aid Center, located just before the Craft Marketplace vendor tents. Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems sponsors and coordinates the First Aid Center.

Lost People
Children who lose track of their caretakers should find a festival volunteer or staff member, who will contact security to escort them to the First Aid Center (located just before the Craft Marketplace vendor tents). All lost people will be directed to the First Aid Center unless their parties have made arrangements to meet elsewhere.

Restrooms
Portable restroom facilities and hand-washing stations are located at numerous spots throughout the festival site. See the map for the facilities closest to you.

Handicapped Accommodations
During the Festival, both sides of Broad Street (from Washington Street to Front Street) are reserved for festival patrons needing handicapped parking spaces.

Several stage performances and demonstrations will be translated in American Sign Language. See the schedule in the center of this program or check at an information booth.

For liability reasons, the festival is not able to provide golf cart transportation to festival-goers.

Baby-Changing Station
The Festival’s baby-changing station is located near the Children’s Village, just upriver from the Main Food Court on Front Street.

Returnables and Recyclables
For your convenience, there are bins for returnable bottles and cans and other recyclables placed throughout the festival.

Schedule Subject to Change
Programs and performances were accurate at press time, but could change. Check at information booths for performance and scheduling updates.

Mark your calendars for August 24, 25 & 26, 2018 for next year’s American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront!
Rhythm Future Quartet

When four young jazz virtuosos decided to join forces, the Rhythm Future Quartet was born. Named after a Django Reinhardt tune, the Rhythm Future Quartet performs dynamic and fiery arrangements of Gypsy jazz standards and original compositions that draw from rhythms heard around the world.

Jason Anick and Olli Soikkeli, the front-men and lead soloists of the group, have been receiving critical acclaim this past year and are considered ‘rising stars’ in the world of Jazz and Gypsy Jazz. Olli Soikkeli, who recently made the move from his home country of Finland to New York City, is rapidly becoming a top call guitarist in the bustling Brooklyn jazz scene and has been aptly coined “the Finnish boy wonder”. Jason Anick, who is also an award winning composer, is one of the youngest professors at the esteemed Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Rhythm Future Quartet has a straightforward agenda: to keep the spirit of Gypsy jazz alive and expanding in today’s musical universe. The virtuosic foursome offers up a newly minted sound, influenced by the classic Hot Club of France, yet wholly contemporary. The quartet performs dynamic and lyrical arrangements of both Gypsy jazz standards and original compositions that draw upon diverse international rhythms and musical idioms. With Max O’Rourke on second guitar and Greg Loughman on bass, Rhythm Future is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of a vital musical genre.

Rhythm Future Quartet performs:
Friday, 8:45pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage
Saturday, noon, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (“Power Players” talk/demo session)
Saturday, 3:30pm, BDN Railroad Stage
Saturday, 5:30pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage
Sunday, noon, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (“Fiddle Traditions” talk/demo session)
Sunday, 3:30pm, BDN Railroad Stage

Culture, featuring Kenyatta Hill

Born in the 1970’s – the golden age of reggae – Culture is devoted to the traditional Rastafarian values of purity, simplicity and justice. Culture’s legendary “Two Sevens Clash” was Reggae Album of the Year in 1977 and is acknowledged today by Rolling Stone Magazine as #25 of the 50 all-time coolest records (the only reggae album to make the list).

In 2006, Joseph Hill, singer, songwriter, and driving creative force behind the band, collapsed and died while on a European tour. His son Kenyatta Hill stepped onstage and delivered electrifying performances time and again until the tour was complete. Since that tour, Kenyatta has continued his father’s songwriting and performing tradition, and has kept the group’s tradition alive and vibrant. This summer’s tour commemorates the 40th anniversary of the release of Two Sevens Clash, and showcases Kenyatta’s songwriting and masterful singing.

Culture, featuring Kenyatta Hill performs:
Saturday, 4:05pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (“Songs of Justice, Songs of Spirit” talk/demo session)
Saturday, 5:45pm, BDN Railroad Stage
Saturday, 8:45pm, Dance Pavilion
Sunday, 12:30pm, Dance Pavilion
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Traveling north or south on I-95, take exit 182A to I-395, then take Exit 3B to Bass Park and festival parking. For visitor and travel information, call 1-800-91-MOOSE.

VETERANS' REMEMBRANCE BRIDGE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25
7:00 p.m. - 10:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26
Noon - 10:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27
Noon - 6:30 p.m.
AMERICAN FOLK FESTIVAL

P & SCHEDULE

- Accessibility
  The festival is handicapped-accessible. Visit any information booth for details.

- Last people?
  In need of first aid?
  Report to the First Aid Center behind the Railroad Stage.

- Information & T-shirt sales
  In need of directions, area information, program schedule? Want to buy a Festival hat or t-shirt? The information & sales booths can help.

- 5 Venues
  Railroad, Penobscot, Two Rivers, the Dance Pavilion and Children’s Village

- Parking
  Marketplace Vendors
  Beer & wine pavilions
  Celebrate Maine

- Food Court
  Regional and ethnic foods, along with festival favorites.

Celebrate the roots, the richness and the variety of American culture through music, dance, traditional crafts, storytelling and food. Enjoy dozens of artists, activities for children, the marketplace, and the many food vendors.

Donations to the festival’s BUCKET BRIGADE help keep the festival free!

Suggested Donation $10/day or $20/family!
All Donations accepted with gratitude.

5:00
- 5:00-5:15 TAMBREK (funk/shoegazing)

6:00
- 6:00-6:15 RHYTHM FUTURE QUARTET (funk/shoegazing)
- 6:00-6:15 DOUG MORELAND & THE FLYING ARMADILLOS (western swing)

7:00
- 7:00-7:15 SELWYN BIRCHWOOD BAND (blues)

8:00
- 8:00-8:15 SHOCK-AY-LOCK (Urban Street Dance)
- 8:00-8:15 LES POULES À COLIN (Quebec)

9:00
- 9:00-10:00 SELWYN BIRCHWOOD BAND (blues)
- 9:15-10:00 LES POULES À COLIN (Quebec)
- 9:15-10:00 CI CHEMIN & THE RED HOT LOUISIANA BAND (Zydeco)

10:00
- 10:00-11:00 CI CHEMIN & THE RED HOT LOUISIANA BAND (Zydeco)

5

Children’s Village
* Hours: Saturday and Sunday, noon – 5pm
* Located beside the Main Food Court
* Activities for all ages: crafts, games, facepainting and a unique Festival photo op!

The celebration continues!
Come to next year’s American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront August 24, 25 & 26, 2018

For more about the American Folk Festival, call 207-262-7765 or visit our website at www.americanfolkfestivals.com
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RBC Wealth Management

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Woodard & Curran
Becky Hill and Riley Baugus

Becky Hill grew up in Michigan and currently calls West Virginia home. She apprenticed with both Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble and Rhythm in Shoes and has studied with an array of percussive dance luminaries. She’s won flatfoot competitions at several festivals, including the Appalachian String Band Festival, and teaches at traditional music camps and festivals throughout Appalachia and the Midwest. Together with noted folklorist Gerry Milnes, she produced a documentary film on West Virginia dance traditions entitled “Reel ‘Em Boys, Reel ‘Em.”

Riley Baugus represents the best of old time American banjo and song. His powerful singing voice and his expert musicianship place him squarely in the next generation of the quality American roots tradition. Immersed in music both at home and at church, Riley worked as a welder and blacksmith, playing banjo and making instruments in his spare time, until called upon to provide music for Academy Award-winning film Cold Mountain. From there, Riley has made his own path, building in-demand instruments and performing at festivals all over the world.

Riley Baugus and Becky Hill perform:
Saturday, noon, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (Riley only in the “Power Players” talk/demo session)
Saturday, 1:30pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage
Saturday, 3:45pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage
Sunday, noon, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (Riley only in the “Fiddle Traditions” talk/demo session)
Sunday, 2:45pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage
Sunday, 5:15pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage

Cora Harvey Armstrong

Faith is at the center of Cora Harvey Armstrong’s 50-year career in gospel music. She was born and raised in the tiny Newtown community of King and Queen County, Virginia. Her family members were dedicated church attendees, and deeply spiritual. Armstrong remembers being enthralled by church music at an early age; she surprised her family and congregation with her ability to play piano by ear at the age of five. Her parents decided to enroll her in piano lessons, where she learned to read music. She soon joined her sisters Clara and Virginia with their mother for the family’s singing group, The Harvey Family.

Armstrong played and sang at the church regularly, going on to serve as her home church’s musical director for more than 40 years. She studied music at Virginia State University, where she joined the VSU Gospel Chorale under its legendary director, Larry Bland. She began accompanying the group on piano in the 1970s and later assisted with directing the group, and with them wrote, performed, and recorded original compositions. A much acclaimed performing artist regionally and abroad, Armstrong has concertized and lectured in Japan, and toured Europe with Stellar Gospel Music Award-winning artist Earl Bynum. Armstrong is studying for her master of divinity degree at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Divinity at Virginia Union University, and continues to sing and spread her ministry with the Harvey Singers. Richmond-born musician and producer Bill McGee describes Armstrong as “Aretha Franklin on piano, Mahalia Jackson with her voice, and Shirley Caesar with her style.” That’s high praise indeed.

Cora Harvey Armstrong performs:
Saturday, 1:15pm, BDN Railroad Stage
Saturday, 4:05pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (“Songs of Justice, Songs of Spirit” talk/demo session)
Saturday, 7:45pm, BDN Railroad Stage
Sunday, noon, BDN Railroad Stage
Doug Moreland and the Flying Armadillos

Classic Western Swing is alive and well when Doug Moreland has his fiddle in hand. Doug’s traditional styling draws strongly on the heritage of western swing master Bob Wills, mixed with humor the likes of Roger Miller.

Originally from the Fort Davis mountains in west Texas, Doug Moreland performs a fresh twist of Texas and Western swing music, with his original songwriting and his dandy band The Flying Armadillos. Being the eldest son of a wainwright, blacksmith, and fiddle-playing ranch hand, Doug set out in 1992 for a career in the music business. After a short stint in Ruidoso NM as a funny man in a dinner show, he then toured with various acts around the country as a fiddle sideman. During this time, he recognized his desire to front his own band and write his own songs, and also discovered the art of chainsaw carving, which all brought him to Austin TX in late 1999. There he progressed from a comedic, solo act with a singing dog as the finale, into a full dancehall band with his wit and charm playing right back into a familiar instrumentation of twin fiddles, upright bass fiddle, swing guitar, mandolin, and drums.

Among his accolades, Doug has received the Will Rogers Cowboy Award for Male Performer of the Year, and continues to gain new fans wherever he performs.

Doug Moreland and the Flying Armadillos perform:
Saturday, noon, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (“Power Players” talk/demo session)
Saturday, 5:30pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage
Sunday, noon, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (“Fiddle Traditions” talk/demo session)
Sunday, 3:45pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage

Samuel James

Samuel James has blues in his blood. His grandfather played the blues guitar of the early 20th century. His father was a professional pianist and trombone player. Samuel learned to tap dance at five, learned piano at eight and toured the Northeastern circuit professionally by 12.

Samuel fully discovered his musicianship after a young woman broke his heart. He booked a flight to Ireland figuring the gray and rainy climate would match his mindset. Short of funds to make it home, he learned harmonica from local street musicians. Collecting enough change to make it back to Maine, he gave up a nascent painting career and dove head first into the guitar. Today, he brings his mastery of fingerstyle, slide, banjo, harmonica, and piano to the stage, interpreting blues classics and sharing his unique brand of storytelling through his music.

Samuel explains, “Pre-war blues is much more intimate for me . . . much like a conversation. I’m not really drawn to anything contemporary because it’s not nearly as engaging.” Based on consistent standing ovations, Samuel James clearly knows engaging.

Samuel James performs:
Saturday, noon, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (“Power Players” talk/demo session)
Saturday, 4:05pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (“Songs of Justice, Songs of Spirit” talk/demo session)
Saturday, 6:30pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage
Sunday, 1:15pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage
Sunday, 5:15pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage
Syrian oud player Issam Rafea was born in Kuwait in 1971. Rafea studied in Kuwait and Syria at the High Institute of Music in Damascus. In Oudyano, he is joined by multi-instrumentalist Steven Hobert, eclectic keyboardist and improviser. Rafea, and Hobert join on stage to create a new combination of Arabic classical tradition meeting American jazz & roots. This seamless blend of the old and new world will enchant audiences at the American Folk Festival.

Oudyano performs:
Friday, 7:45pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage
Saturday, noon, LL Bean Penobscot Stage ("Power Players" talk/demo session)
Saturday, 1:45pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage
Sunday, 12:30pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage
Sunday, 3:15pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage

The Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band was founded in the mid-1880’s as a cadet corps attached to the school’s ROTC program. For much of its history, it was a student- and community-organization known simply as the Black Bear Marching Band.

Under the guidance of Christopher White, the band has added “Pride of Maine” to their name, and has grown to more than 100 musicians. Pride of Maine is known around the country for the “Maine Stein Song.” (Written in 1902 by a pair of University students inspired by a German drinking song.) By 1907, the school adopted it as its school song, and Festival audiences can expect to hear it live and in person during the Friday Night Kickoff Parade at this year’s AFF!

The Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band kicks off the 2017 American Folk Festival with a parade at 7:00pm on Friday evening.
Rara, or Haitian street music, goes back to the country’s early days as the first independent nation in the Caribbean. For nearly three decades, the band RAM has been one of the preeminent proponents of rara music and they continue to broaden the scope of their musical outreach.

RAM formed in 1990, after bandleader Richard A Morse (from whom the group gets its name) visited the homeland of his mother, a famous Haitian folk singer. Morse fell in love with the country, the music and his future wife, Lunise, who also sings with him in the band. The musical style of RAM combines vodou rhythms with rock and roll, but also includes influences from across the musical spectrum, from the blues to funk and more. Elements of other Haitian and Caribbean musical traditions find their way into the music as well. Their lyrics are a mixture of English, Haitian Creole and French, and many of the songs are narratives of the personal experiences of the band, or social commentary on current events in Haiti.

Haiti’s French traditions are one of the pillars of the band’s musical heritage (don’t miss their participation in the “French Connections” talk/demo session on Sunday, with artists from Quebec and Louisiana). But African-style guitar also has a presence in the band’s music. When Haiti won its revolution back in 1804, the majority of its citizens had been born in Africa. That’s one reason so much diverse African culture has survived there, including woven through the threads of RAM’s intricate musical tradition.

Ben Miller and Anita MacDonald

Since meeting at the 2013 Celtic Colours Festival, Ben and Anita have toured and performed together, blending the rich traditional sound of the Cape Breton fiddle with the fiery edge of the Scottish Border Pipes. Ben’s interest in traditional music stems from his exposure to the pipes at a young age, in his hometown of Queensbury New York. He began studying the Highland Bagpipes but then shifted his focus to the Scottish smallpipes and Border pipes. Anita is an accomplished musician, dancer, and Gaelic singer from Little Narrows, Cape Breton. She began step-dancing at age four and picked up a fiddle a few years later.

Ben Miller and Anita MacDonald perform:
Saturday, 12:15pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage
Saturday, 3:45pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage
Sunday, noon, LL Bean Penobscot Stage (“Fiddle Traditions” talk/demo session)
Sunday, 2:30pm, BDN Railroad Stage
Sunday, 4:15pm, LL Bean Penobscot Stage

Ben Miller and Anita MacDonald perform:
Saturday, 4:30pm, BDN Railroad Stage
Saturday, 7:15pm, Dance Pavilion
Sunday, 1:30pm, EMHS Two Rivers Stage (“French Connections” talk/demo session)
Sunday, 3:30pm, Dance Pavilion
With his fiery guitar and lap steel playing, his trailblazing, instantly memorable songs and gritty, unvarnished vocals, Selwyn Birchwood is among the most extraordinary young stars in the blues. His deep familiarity with blues tradition allows him to bust the genre wide open, adding new sounds, colors and textures, all delivered with a revival tent preacher’s fervor and a natural storyteller’s charisma.

Birchwood’s high-octane blues—at once deeply rooted, funky and up-to-the-minute—are played with passion and honest emotion. With his band feeding off his drive and exuberance, the striking 6’3” young man with his trademark Afro roams the stage (often barefoot), ripping out memorable guitar licks with ease, his soulful, rocks-and-gravel vocals firing up the crowd. His ability to win over an audience—any audience—is proven night after night on the bandstand.

With his warm, magnetic personality, Birchwood is as down-to-earth as his music is fun, thought-provoking and vital. His mission is to spread his music far and wide, to share his joy, to play his heart out, and to push the blues into the future. “There’s nothing I’d rather be doing than playing the blues,” he says. “And I try to convey that with every song and with every performance.”
When you hear Tarniriik, you can’t believe these two young girls are creating an astonishing array of sounds with only their voices, breathing life into a centuries-old Inuit throat-singing technique known as katajjaq. Manipulating their mouth and larynx, 12-year-old Samantha Piujuq Kigutaq and 11-year-old Cailyn Nanauq DeGrandpre produce two different tones: a huffing, lower foundation and a whistling, higher melody. The result is mesmerizing.

Though Tarniriik is based in Ottawa, the Inuit originated along the Arctic Sea. When men would depart on long hunting trips, women and children entertained themselves by competing in a throat-singing game. Two singers stand face to face, grasping each other’s arms, and engage in a friendly competition as one takes the lead and the other follows. During the playful exchange, the voiced sounds and breath of each singer combine to form rhythmic melodies that imitate sounds from nature, and the singer who stops or laughs first loses the competition. This two-tone singing tradition is practiced almost exclusively by women. In 2014, Québec designated katajjaq as its first recognized example of intangible cultural heritage.

Samantha and Cailyn met during after-school throat-singing classes at the Ottawa Inuit Children’s Centre. Fast friends, they began performing together, becoming an Internet sensation in Canada after demonstrating Inuit throat-singing during Justin Trudeau’s swearing-in ceremony as Canadian prime minister. They now perform as Tarniriik, the Inuit word for “two souls.”

Shock-a-Lock & The Street Dance Volcanoes

Brooklyn, NY’s Kevin “Shock-a-Lock” Porter came of age in New York in the 1970s, when hip-hop culture was being fomented at block parties, community centers, and house parties. As a young dancer, Shock-a-Lock was on the ground as the dance style known as “locking” emerged. He is one of the dancers credited for sparking interest in the form, which finds a dancer freezing from a fast moment and “locking” into a position. Locking, along with popping and b-boying, are core elements of urban street dance.

The beginning of locking can be traced to an accident. At a public event in the late ’60s, dancer Don Campbell couldn’t do the “funky chicken” and stopped at a particular point mid-dance, in effect “locking” his position. Forgetting where to go next with the funky chicken, he made a halting movement before remembering his next move. Audiences went wild for his mistake. These halts soon became part of Campbell’s style, which came to be known as “Campbellocking.” Young dancers started to take notice, mimic, and improve on this happy accident.

Inspired by Campbellocking, the iconic dancers of Soul Train, and family members who did dances from the era of blues and soul, Shock-a-Lock fell hard for street dance, and started by wanting “to simply be the first locker/robot at (high) school.” Nearly 40 years later, Shock-a-Lock is still at the forefront of the urban dance scene, inspiring the next generation of lockers.

At the American Folk Festival, Shock-a-Lock & The Street Dance Volcanoes will be highlighting masterful locking, as well as poppin’, bruk-up, lite-feet, and other new flavors of street styles that are found in urban dance in New York and across the world.
Located next to the Main Food Court on Front Street is the Children’s Village - sponsored by the Bangor Savings Bank - which offers a variety of games, crafts, activities, and fun for younger festival-goers.

The activities in the Children’s Village provide chances to be creative, play at your own pace, and sit down to learn traditional games from Inuit throat-singers Samantha and Cailyn.

Stop by between noon and 5:00pm on Saturday and Sunday for a chance to color your own t-shirt, have your face painted, pose for a custom Festival photo and more!

Other groups providing activities this year are Penquis, the Bangor Chinese School, and the Maine Multicultural Center.

Make sure to plan some time in the Bangor Savings Bank Children’s Village with your youngsters!

Make a Great Match at the AFF!

The connections to be made at the AFF are numerous. You can connect to your heritage, or learn about a new tradition. You can connect with your neighbors and friends. And you can even connect with the perfect health care provider, thanks to Eastern Maine Medical Center. Just a few simple questions on the EMMC website (matchme.emmc.org) will match you with a provider who’s perfect for you!

Eastern Maine Medical Center and the American Folk Festival have teamed up to show you how easy it is to make a great match to a primary care provider. Find out more: when you arrive at the Festival, pick up your MatchMe festival guide at the EMMC booth and see the Festival! Throughout the site, you’ll find opportunities to match cultural traditions from around the world to the artists who are performing on the Festival stages.

This year, EMMC invites you to make your match with MatchMe at the AFF! It’s one way EMMC helps make your life a little more remarkable.

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While there’s no argument that the best way to experience the festival is live in-person, there are lots of other ways to connect with the fun.

**Listen up**

No, really -- turn your radio dial to WERU from noon-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday during this year’s folk festival to listen to a live broadcast of performances on the Bangor Daily News Railroad Stage. For more than 10 years, WERU-FM Community Radio (89.9 Blue Hill, 99.9 Bangor and weru.org) has broadcast the festival and live streams performances on the Internet.

**Get connected**

From Facebook to Twitter to Instagram — we’re there. Search for American Folk Festival and you can’t miss us. It’s the place to be for festival and related event updates year round.

**There’s an app for that**

The 2017 AFF app is free and has all the up-to-date information you’ll need to keep your Folk Festival weekend on track. A few favorite features: The ability to create your own schedule to remind you of your favorite performances and send an alert right before they begin, and a photo gallery where you can upload and post your pics from the festival to be featured on Facebook and Twitter.

**Watch and listen**

Want a sneak peek at this year’s artists to help plan your festival weekend? The American Folk Festival channel on YouTube features a playlist of videos of this year’s artists. To find us, search YouTube channels for “American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront.”

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