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American Folk Festival Announces First Performers
Annual 3-day festival set for end of August on the Bangor Waterfront

BANGOR, MAINE – The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront has released the names of the first several artists scheduled to appear at the three-day event in August. Announced cultures include Blues, Irish, Quebecois, Puerto Rico Salsa, and New Orleans Ragtime. Additional performers covering a range of cultures and genres will be announced over the next several weeks.

"Part of the charm of the American Folk Festival is welcoming new people to Bangor, and that includes both festival attendees and performers," said American Folk Festival executive director Heather McCarthy. "What people might not realize is that for most performers, once they've been to this Festival, they want to come back. It's a well sought-after gig. So it's always nice for us as an organization to bring more new people to Eastern Maine to experience this wonderful place and its wonderful people."

The artists announced today are:

Annika Chambers (Blues) has a range of musical influences, from Yolanda Adams to Dottie Peoples to Whitney Houston. It is her combination of blues and soul that has won over audiences around the country. Her debut album was released in 2014, which earned her a nomination for the 2015 Blues Music Award for "Best New Artist." Her sophomore release "Wild & Free" quickly followed, debuting at #7 on the Billboard Blues Chart. A crowd-favorite at festivals from South America to Europe and all over the US, Annika Chambers will use her performances to shift the spotlight to local youth musicians while using her own talents to entertain audiences young and old.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZErEUBB1ck>

Open the Door for Three (Irish) is the name of a tune that has been showing up in collections of music in Ireland and Scotland for well over two hundred years. Group members Kieran O'Hare and Liz Doyle started playing a version collected in the southwest of Ireland by a piper named James Goodman in the mid-nineteenth century, and published by the Irish Traditional Music Archive in Dublin in 1999. For the group, the tune is emblematic of two of their interests: breathing new life into old and forgotten melodies, and adding their own fresh harmonic component to their arrangements of music in the Irish tradition. They figured it was emblematic enough to stand as the title of their first CD with Pat Broaders, and then the name just stuck as they started working more and more as a trio with an evolving approach and sound.

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHWMOCdDT_g

Tuba Skinny (New Orleans Ragtime) will be the parade band at the 2018 American Folk Festival. Formed in 2009, the group has performed at festivals in Australia, Spain, France, Italy, and the U.S. Winners of the 2014 Best of the Beat Award for Best Traditional Jazz Album, Tuba Skinny is a solid ensemble dedicated to bringing the traditional New Orleans sound to audiences around the world. In addition to live performances, Tuba Skinny's latest album was released in August of 2017, and the group was featured on HBO's "The Treme" in 2012.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBFTQkZmBMI>

Genticorum (Quebecois) is a traditional Quebec group that has become a fixture on the world, folk, and Celtic music circuit. With five albums under their belt, Genticorum weave precise and intricate fiddle, flute and accordion into their music with amazing vocal harmonies, energetic foot percussion and guitar accompaniment. The result is a distinctive sound and a sense of humor and stage presence that make Genitocum a crowd pleaser.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTXsdxQF-OI>

Orquesta el Macabaeo (Puerto Rico Salsa) is made up mostly of musicians who have played in groups with genres including rock, punk, ska, and reggae. The 12-member band has been together for 10 years and offer a unique sound in a dwindling salsa music scene in Puerto Rico. The group has developed a unique perspective on salsa, and use it to tell stories in a way that breaks the current mold of Latin music. Through a number of albums released since 2010, Orquesta el Macabaeo has developed international interest in their music and their stage presence.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqIRBTzqRw4>

The American Folk Festival is set for August 24 – 26 on the Bangor Waterfront, with the first major fundraiser of the year – Color Bangor 2018 – scheduled for May 12. Standard pricing of \$40 per person (\$33 for individuals on a team, and \$25 for kids 4-12 years old) is available until April 15 before pricing increases to \$50 for adults through the day of the race. Individuals and teams can register for Color Bangor at <http://ColorBangor.AmericanFolkFestival.com>.

About the American Folk Festival:

The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront is in its 17th year and celebrates the roots, the richness and the variety of American culture through music, dance, traditional crafts, storytelling and food. The Festival is supported entirely by public donations that make it possible to continue to present the Festival in our community.

For more information about the 2018 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, please visit www.americanfolkfestival.com or call [207-262-7763](tel:207-262-7763).

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