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American Folk Festival Announces First Artists

BANGOR, MAINE – The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront has released the names of the first group of performers scheduled to appear at the three day event in August. The only returning artist announced so far, *Wylie & the Wild West*, brought fans to their feet with what was arguably the most recognizable 5-seconds of music in the early 2000's during his performance at the American Folk Festival back in 2003. The three announced newcomers to the festival, *Preston Shannon*, *Mickey Galyean & Cullen's Bridge*, and *Imamyar Hasanov*, will bring a diverse display to the Waterfront this year.

"We are excited to bring all of this together," said Heather McCarthy, Executive Director of the American Folk Festival. "We have a performer who had experienced coming to the festival as it was just beginning, and we also have artists on the other end of the spectrum who are brand new to the American Folk Festival family. We're eager for them to see how the event just keeps growing, and to announce more performers during the coming weeks."

[Wylie & the Wild West](#) – The well-known voice of the *Yahoo!* company's yodel, Wylie Gustafson is a real 4th generation cowboy from Northern Montana. Known as the combination between modern roots country and western swing, Wylie and the Wild West have played thousands of shows around the world, including more than 50 appearances at the *Grand Ole Opry* in Nashville, Tennessee and have even guest starred on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*.

[Preston Shannon](#) – Seen as the Grammy nominated reigning "King of Beale Street", Preston delivers soul-filled gritty vocals and mesmerizing sound. As a slick blues artist from Memphis, his music calls to mind the sounds of Otis Redding and Bobby Womack. Shannon has played for former president Bill Clinton and was on the second season of *The Voice*.

[Mickey Galyean & Cullen's Bridge](#)–With demanding vocals, and traditional bluegrass sounds, Mickey Galyean's efforts to pay homage to his father Cullen's generation of banjo players has not gone unnoticed. While both doing material that his father wrote and covering well known classics, they also write original music that contains Mickey's powerful voice and their collection of well-written songs.

[Imamyar Hasanov](#) – Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, Imamyar Hasanov is known as a virtuoso on kamancha. As an ancestor to the violin, it is one of the most important instruments in Azeri music. Imamyar has participated in music festivals all over the world and won a variety of national and classical music competitions.

These artists are just the first to be announced out of the full lineup that will perform at the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront on August 28th, 29th, and 30th. The American

Folk Festival celebrates the many cultures that make up America, and gives those cultures a chance to shine through. The Festival is supported entirely by public donations that make it possible to continue to present the Festival in our community.

The staff at the American Folk Festival is currently prepping for the second year of Color Bangor, a 5K color fun run/walk, held on the Bangor Waterfront. Last year's event brought nearly 2,000 participants to the Bangor Waterfront, with all proceeds going to benefit the American Folk Festival. Color Bangor 2015 is scheduled for Sunday, May 17. Early bird registration features the lowest available pricing for the event, and runs through Monday, March 16. To register, visit colorbangor.americanfolkfestival.com.

For more information about the 2015 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, please visit www.americanfolkfestival.com or call 207-262-7763.

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Artist sound clips are available at the following links:

Wylie & the Wild West (The Yodeling Fool) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwqCp0N_VjU

Preston Shannon (The Sky is Crying) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwTxMW0q9o8>

Mickey Galyean & Cullen's Bridge (Loving You) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VhgrvX-tBk>

Imamyar Hasanov ay Īshiginda) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJTzBOnMPf0>