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## **American Folk Festival Announces Second Round of Performers**

List includes five artists returning to the Festival for the 15<sup>th</sup> year.

BANGOR, MAINE – The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront has released the second round of artists scheduled to appear at the three-day event in August. The latest announcement includes A Capella Gospel, Bluegrass Piano, Cajun, Quebecois, Maine Fiddle Music, Chicago Blues, and a New Orleans Parade Band.

"The American Folk Festival has become known musically for the diversity in cultures and quality of performances," said American Folk Festival Executive Director Heather McCarthy. "This year's lineup is very representative of the fifteen-year history of this festival in that respect, and we are excited to bring some favorites back to the Bangor Waterfront who have performed at this festival in years past and been anxious to make a return visit."

Among the returning artists, the [Treme Brass Band](#) is a New Orleans Parade Band and will serve as the American Folk Festival's parade group this year. Treme Brass Band was at the first National Folk Festival hosted in Bangor in 2002. The group plays traditional New Orleans-style brass band music and leads the Marching Krewe KOE on their Fat Tuesday Parade throughout the French Quarter in New Orleans.

[The Jeff Little Trio](#) performed as part of the American Folk Festival in Bangor in 2006 and returned in 2007. An Acadian performing group, the Jeff Little Trio is unique featuring the piano as the trio's lead instrument, which is rare in traditional music. The National Council for the Traditional Arts called Little's style "breathtaking in its speed, precision and clarity."

[Vishten](#) will return to the Festival for the first time since 2004, bringing Quebecois to the Bangor Waterfront. The trio is made up of direct descendants of the first colonial families that inhabited their respective islands and second-generation traditional musicians. Vishten recently won the East Coast Music Association 2016 award for Roots/Traditional Group Recording of the Year for their latest album, *Terre Rouge*.

[Erica Brown](#) performed at the American Folk Festival in 2005 and will be bringing her Maine Fiddle music back to the Bangor Waterfront for the 15<sup>th</sup> American Folk Festival. Brown has been performing in Maine and around New England for more than 25 years with her considerable talents, including as a member of the Bates College "Fighting Bobcats" Orchestra for five years, in the Maine All-State Music Festival, and in winning a number of fiddle contests throughout New England and Canada.

The [Northern Kentucky Brotherhood Singers](#) is an African-American a cappella gospel group making a return to Bangor. The group was at the festival in 2011, although Hurricane Irene wiped out the Sunday schedule for that year, so the group performed on Monday at The Gracie Theatre at Husson University as an unexpected weather-related extension of the American Folk Festival. The group is described as Quartet-style, performing in the old-school a cappella fashion with intricate and emotional four-part harmony. Over nearly 30 years of performing, the Northern Kentucky Brotherhood Singers has sung all over the world and has collected a number of awards.

[Bonsoir, Catin](#) is a Cajun group making its first visit to the American Folk Festival. The six-piece band was formed in 2005, performing at Louisiana dancehalls and festivals with a fresh sound that blends ancient ballads, dancehall era gems, swamp pop stylings, and rock n' roll blues.

[The Lurrie Bell Band](#) is a Chicago Blues group lead by a man who has amassed jarring number of awards and accolades for his talents. Lurrie Bell first picked up the guitar at the age of five and formed his first blues band while in high school. Bell has been called “the premier guitarist in the Windy City” by Boston Blues News, and credited with “An incendiary fusion of Chicago Blues boilerplate and his own mercurial imagination, hyperkinetic energy, and dazzling technical dexterity” by the Chicago Reader.

“We had a wonderfully successful day with the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Color Bangor last weekend,” said McCarthy. “We had hundreds people show up to have fun on a beautiful day along the Waterfront all to benefit the American Folk Festival. With that event in the rearview mirror, we are now laser-focused on the festival, prepping the music, food, crafts, and folklife for the final weekend in August on the Bangor Waterfront.”

The latest seven artists announced join previously announced artists representing Western Swing, Bluegrass, Portuguese, Salsa, Prince Edward Island, Sri Lanka dance, and Jazz. Another round of artists scheduled to perform at the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> will be announced within the next few weeks.

The American Folk Festival 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 2016 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, please visit [www.americanfolkfestival.com](http://www.americanfolkfestival.com) or call 207-262-7763.

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**NEWLY ANNOUNCED Artist sound/video clips are available at the following links:**

The Treme Brass Band - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wx0Ll4QaaIg>

The Jeff Little Trio - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3d-e9sA-tk>

Vishten - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KO1ZlI4G-qk>

Erica Brown - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0WdKThTYxU>

Northern Kentucky Brotherhood Singers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Z6LpTUMc24>

Bonsoir, Catin - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09oHTnp2ca8>

The Lurrie Bell Band - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiujMSlrN3s>

**PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED Artist sound/video clips are available at the following links:**

Gerardo Contino y Los Habaneros - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCAwLhcTgts>

Nathalie Pires (after emcee) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIQWxl75ks>

The East Pointers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17klDfqmLgk>

Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgri3KmoLgA>

The Western Flyers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLLVp6QdPA8>

Michael Mwenso & The Shakes - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpTij9DJQ1U>

The National Women’s Dance Troupe of Sri Lanka - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHMnbtFxXOo>