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American Folk Festival Announces Second Round of Performers

Celtic, Gypsy Jazz, and Reggae groups are among latest performer announcement

BANGOR, MAINE – The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront has released the names of the second group of artists scheduled to appear at the three-day event in August. Announced cultures include Cape Breton, Haitian *misik* raisin, Gypsy jazz, reggae, and Western Swing. All five groups being announced today will be first-time performers at the American Folk Festival.

"We're just a couple of months away from this year's Festival, and we can feel the excitement brewing as more and more details are announced." said American Folk Festival executive director Heather McCarthy. "This group of performers will allow the audience to experience musical traditions from Jamaica, Haiti, Mexico, Quebec, and more, even if they stay at just one of the festival stages for a few hours."

The artists announced in this round are:

Ben Miller and Anita MacDonald – two young Celtic artists who weave Gaelic song in with the rich traditional sound of the Cape Breton fiddle and the fiery edge of the Scottish Border pipes. The CBC heralds them as "one of the most important folk acts on the island of Cape Breton today."

Doug Moreland & The Flying Armadillos is a true renaissance man – as both an accomplished musician who leads his group The Flying Armadillos to performance dates across the country, and yet still finds time for chainsaw carving! Originally from west Texas, Doug (and the Armadillos) perform a fresh twist of Texas and Western swing music, with his original songwriting for good measure. He will bring his full band to Bangor: twin fiddles, upright bass fiddle, swing guitar, mandolin, and drums.

The acoustic jazz ensemble **Rhythm Future Quartet** is working to keep the spirit of Gypsy jazz alive and expand it in today's musical universe. Named for a Django Reinhardt tune, the group performs dynamic and lyrical arrangements of both Gypsy jazz standards and original compositions that draw upon diverse international rhythms.

Culture Featuring Kenyatta Hill is reggae's preeminent harmony group. Born in the 1970's – the golden age of reggae – the group garnered continual US and international acclaim for its long series of classic roots albums. Culture's legendary "Two Sevens Clash" was Reggae Album of the year in 1977 and is acknowledged today by Rolling Stone Magazine as the #25 "coolest record of all time". Now led by Kenyatta Hill (son of founder Joseph Hill), Culture is touring to celebrate the 40th anniversary of that album, and to show that their classic style of reggae is still as engaging and relevant as ever.

Formed in 1990, the Haitian group **RAM** is based in the city of Port-au-Prince, and is described by its founder as "Vodou rock 'n roots." Firmly rooted in a city that has seen much political upheaval, RAM has been a target of regime censorship, and has continued to be a voice for the people of Haiti throughout upheaval and change. One of the prominent bands in the *mizik rasin* musical movement, the band incorporates traditional *Vodou* lyrics and instruments, such as *rara* horns into modern styles. The band performs in Haitian Creole, French, and English.

These artists join previously announced performers Selwyn Birchwood (blues); Cora Harvey Armstrong (Gospel); Les Poules a Colin (Quebecois); C.J. Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band (zydeco); and Las Cafeteras (Angeleno)

Artist videos:

Ben Miller and Anita MacDonald - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dc14Of65YDs>

Doug Moreland - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3LjepkIcdo>

Rhythm Future Quartet - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_5b7Q-Ab1U

Culture - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bym8zCDPYLE>

RAM - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohYDGrJ0r24>

About the American Folk Festival:

The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront is scheduled for August 25th, 26th, and 27th, 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 2017 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, please visit www.americanfolkfestival.com or call 207-262-7765.