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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American Folk Festival Announces Final Round of Performers

Total of 20 artists scheduled to perform at 15th American Folk Festival.

BANGOR, MAINE – The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront has released the final round of artists scheduled to appear at the three-day event in August. The latest announcement adds Tap dance, beat-boxing, throat singing, Ethiopian, Colombian Champeta, and Native American hoop dancing to the already robust roster of performers.

"The 15th American Folk Festival is going to feature more performers than recent history," said American Folk Festival Executive Director Heather McCarthy. "The lineup this year is a great celebration of the 15 festivals we've produced. There is a mix of new artists with those who have performed here before, and some favorite cultures mixed with some that are a little more rare for this festival. All-in-all, this lineup is amazing and we cannot wait for festival-goers to experience it live."

Among the artists announced today, [Tribu Baharu](#) is an afro-champeta music crew from the Colombian Caribbean. The Champeta is a term that refers to a knife used by fishermen to remove fish scales. Champeta is a fishermen music with influences including Soukous (congo), Calipso, and reggae. Tribu Baharu's main objective is to convey the joy of being Caribbean through dance, using music as a vehicle.

[Leo Sandoval](#) is a Brazilian-born tap dance artist, described by the Chicago Sun-Times as "strong yet fine-boned, capable of authority and nuance." Sandoval began his dance studies at the age of six. When he was 11, he began appearing on Brazilian TV and at 18 he was invited to Los Angeles to attend the Debbie Allen Dance Academy and the L.A. Tap Festival.

[Fendika](#) is an Ethiopian act performing traditional music and dance. Performances draw from Ethiopia's azmari – like bardic – tradition while adding creative movements and sounds that extend the ancient musical forms. The group does not see the experience of dance as just a performance, but rather a cultural expression, life, and the practice of culture.

[Nakotah LaRance](#) has been called The World's Best Hoop Dancer. At the young age of 26, LaRance took top honors in the Hear Museum's 25th World Hoop Dance Championships both last year and this year, and is a master of his own 5-hoop routine. The Native American Hoop Dancer is also an actor (he's appeared in *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* and two other motion pictures), LaRance has also spent time as a featured artist with Cirque du Soleil's *Totem* and his dancing was featured in a music video for The Knocks and Fred Falke.

[Alash](#) is a trio of master throat singers from Tuva, a tiny republic in Central Asia. Named for the Alash River, which runs through Tuva, Alash is made up of three members who were trained in traditional Tuvan music since their childhood. Alash has won a number of awards, and has been praised by media in America, including the *Washington Post* calling their music “utterly stunning.”

[Shodekeh](#) is a professional beat boxer who has been performing since he was 9-years-old. He credits the popularity of the artform in the 1980s as his inspiration to give it a try. Calling beatboxers “vocal mad scientists,” Shodekeh holds the title of Best Poetry DJ for the 2006 Poetry for the People Awards, and won an award for Baltimore’s Best Accompanist in 2007.

“We are in the process of seeking volunteers for the festival, which is always a fun experience,” said McCarthy. “Our volunteers come back year after year because of the fun they have interacting with the artists, other volunteers, and people who visit Bangor annually for this festival. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit our website for a truly unique experience.”

The final six artists announced join previously announced artists representing Western Swing, Bluegrass, Portuguese, Salsa, Chicago Blues, Prince Edward Island, Sri Lanka dance, Jazz, and more. The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront is scheduled for August 26th, 27th, and 28th 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 2016 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, please visit www.americanfolkfestival.com or call 207-262-7763.

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

Tribu Baharu - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LI4HJUdVA1s>

Leo Sandoval - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mXZaS5yEil>

Fendika - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5UUjdebjYY>

Nakota LaRance - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6d24m7t8Sk>

Alash - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uY-u9w07S4>

Shodekeh - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caoz0xVLU9Y>

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=17kIDfqmLgk>

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>

The Treme Brass Band - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wx0LI4Qaalg>

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

Vishten - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KO1ZI14G-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>