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American Folk Festival Announces Additional Performers

Five more groups added to 3-day festival on the Bangor Waterfront

BANGOR, MAINE – The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront has released the names of the third group of artists scheduled to appear at the three-day event in August. Announced cultures include flatfoot dance, blues, American banjo, Inuit throat-singing, Syrian oud & piano, and Maine's own Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band.

"These artists bring us nearly all the way toward a full schedule," said American Folk Festival executive director Heather McCarthy. "We have an amazingly well-rounded lineup this year and the latest groups announced today will bring some very unique sounds to the Bangor Waterfront while kicking off the festival with some very familiar sounds to people who live here."

It was recently announced that Conde Nast Traveller included The American Folk Festival in its *Best Festivals Around the World* feature. Bangor's 3-day festival is on the prestigious list alongside other big name events like Lollapalooza in Chicago, Puck Fair in Ireland, The Helsinki Festival in Finland and Burning Man in Nevada.

The artists announced in this round are:

The Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band – formed more than 125 years ago, the Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band will kick off the 2017 American Folk Festival, weaving its way through festival grounds on Friday night of festival weekend. More than 100 musicians strong, Pride of Maine is known around the country for the University of Maine's school song, The "Maine Stein Song."

Oudyano is a duo performing Syrian *oud* and piano. Together, the group creates a new combination of Arabic classical tradition meeting American jazz and roots. Issam Rafea comes from Kuwait and plays the Syrian *oud* in Oudyano, and is joined by Steven Hobert who is the group's eclectic keyboardist and improviser.

Inuit Throat Singing returns to the American Folk Festival with **Tarniriik**. This duo is comprised of 12-year-old Samantha Piujuq and 11-year-old Cailyn Nanauq DeGrand. The two create an astonishing array of sounds using only their voices, performing a centuries-old Inuit throat-singing technique known as *katajjaq*. Tarniriik, the Inuit word for "two souls," hails from Ottawa, although the tradition itself originated along the Arctic Sea.

Becky Hill brings flatfoot dance to the Bangor Waterfront for the 2017 American Folk Festival. Hill has won a number of flatfoot competitions and teaches at traditional music camps and festivals throughout Appalachia and the Midwest.

Riley Baugus represents the best of old time American banjo and song. His powerful singing voice and expert musicianship place him squarely in the next generation of the American roots tradition. After being asked to provide music for the Academy Award-winning film *Cold Mountain*, Riley has performed at festivals all over the world.

Maine blues master **Samuel James** comes from a long line of musicians – whose legacy is alive and well in Samuel's performance today. Also, he will lead one of the Festival's popular talk/demo sessions on "Songs of Justice, Songs of Spirit" on Saturday of the Festival.

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); Las Cafeteras (Angeleno); Ben Miller and Anita MacDonald (Celtic); Doug Moreland (Western Swing); Rhythm Future Quartet (Jazz Manouche); Culture featuring Kenyatta Hill (Roots Reggae); and RAM (Haitian Roots).

The American Folk Festival is also actively seeking volunteers to cover any period of time in several areas throughout the festival. Those interested in potential volunteer opportunities should visit www.americanfolkfestival.com or call Denise Libby with the American Folk Festival at 207.262.7765.

Artist videos:

Oudyano - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htmWTBbTBJU>

Tarniriik - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBg1vfe8P1g>

Becky Hill - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nvs8ySsqwi0>

Riley Baugus - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFd9p2AEJM0>

Samuel James – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUVNj7J_3il

Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLu5upuUZZs>

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 207-262-7763.