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**First Performers Announced for '11 American Folk Festival**  
*Festival's Tenth year features favorite music styles*

BANGOR, Maine – Organizers of the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront announced the first five performing groups who will be featured at the event in August. They are: *Super Chikan*, *Leroy Thomas and the Zydeco Roadrunners*, *Rich in Tradition*, *Hot Club of Cowtown*, and *Eden Brent*.

2011 will mark the tenth year of a traditional arts music festival on Bangor's waterfront, and these five performers are just the first of at least 16 groups that will participate in the August event.

Blues artist **Super Chikan** is a blues musician, artist and guitar maker from Clarksdale Mississippi. Bestowed the nickname "Chikan Boy" as a child, he then began composing music while working as a long-haul truck driver, a pastime that quickly became his main focus. He now has five albums to his name, along with awards from the Blues Music Foundation for Traditional Blues album.

**Leroy Thomas**, also known as "the Jewel of the Bayou", is one of the most versatile and dynamic musicians on the zydeco scene. He brings a diverse repertoire of Zydeco, Cajun and R&B to the stage, and mixes an ideal combination of traditional zydeco with his own innovative, funky, hard-driving sound. He will perform in Bangor with his group **The Zydeco Roadrunners**.

From the heart of one of the most fertile grounds of traditional bluegrass comes **Rich In Tradition**, a five-man group that combines a century of rich music experience to create some of the best picking and singing around. From traditional to contemporary Bluegrass, to their own original songs, **Rich in Tradition** covers the bases with precision picking, great harmony singing, and professional presentation

First Artists announced for 2011 American Folk Festival

Western Swing comes to the East Coast this year, on the fiddle strings of **Hot Club of Cowtown**, a dynamic trio out of Austin, Texas. Since their first recording in 1998, Austin-based Hot Club of Cowtown have grown to be the most globe-trotting, hardest-swinging Western swing trio on the planet. Years of crisscrossing the USA through a landscape where local traditions are becoming more and more diluted, and modern life more electronic, have galvanized this Texas trio who are more devoted than ever to keeping their music sincere, free of irony, and focused on a simpler time.

A masterful blues pianist and vocal stylist, Mississippi Delta native **Eden Brent's** piano playing and singing style ranges from a melancholic whisper to a full-blown juke-joint holler. She's simultaneously confident and confiding, ably blending an earthy meld of jazz, blues, soul, and pop as she huskily invites listeners into her musical world.

These five groups are just the first of the list of artists who will 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>, 2011. The American Folk Festival continues to celebrate the roots, the richness and the variety of American culture through music, dance, traditional crafts, storytelling and food. All of the Festival's entertainment is supported entirely by public donations that make it possible to continue to present the Festival in our community.

The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront is produced by the Bangor Folk Festival, in partnership with the City of Bangor, Eastern Maine Development Corporation, the Maine Discovery Museum and the Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine.

For more information about the 2011 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, please visit [www.americanfolkfestival.com](http://www.americanfolkfestival.com) or contact the American Folk Festival at 40 Harlow Street, Bangor, Maine 04401, 207-992-2630.

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Artist images and sound clips are available. Please contact Heather at 974-3218 for information.