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5TH ANNUAL
BLUE OX
MUSIC FESTIVAL

EAU CLAIRE, WI • JUNE 13-15, 2019



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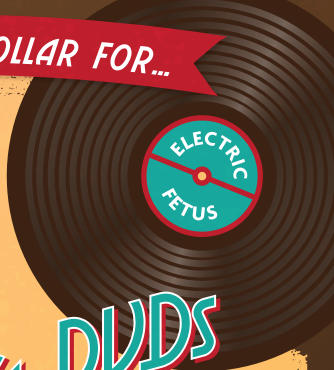


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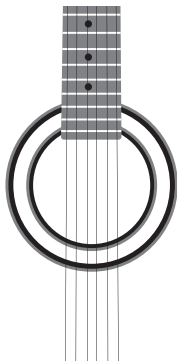
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WELCOME TO THE BLUE OX

Welcome to the 5th annual **Blue Ox Music Festival!**

We hope you feel just as at home here at the beautiful Whispering Pines Campground as we do. The team that puts on the festival is honored to bring some of the premier artists in the world, right here to the Big Woods of the north.

So much energy and effort go into making this festival what it is – we couldn't do it without you, our community of friends, families and fans that support live acoustic and roots music!

Thank you to the entire Blue Ox Staff and the many tireless volunteers for helping make the **Blue Ox Music Festival** great, and ensuring it has a lasting legacy in this community and beyond!

Be kind and take care of each other.

Happy Blue Ox Festival!

The Bischel Family & Pert Near Sandstone

GUIDE TO THE FESTIVAL

Carry-in food and beverage are only allowed in the campgrounds. Carry-ins are not allowed into the Blue Ox Festival Bowl area. Water stations are located within the perimeter so bring an empty container to fill.

If you would like to sit during shows, please bring a chair into the festival grounds with you, to set up in the designated seating area. Large pop-up tents will not be allowed in the festival area. Tents must be under 4 feet tall. All chairs and tents must be taken down at the end of each day.

Smoking is allowed at the festival, but please be considerate of others around you. We want all guests to be comfortable.

We want you to have a safe festival experience. Security and medical personnel are on-site 24 hours a day. If anyone needs medical attention, visit our Medical Tent or notify staff and they can help get medical personnel to you. All information shared with Medical Staff is confidential, so please be honest with them, so they can provide you with the best treatment possible.

It is up to each one of us to ensure **Blue Ox** is a fun and safe experience. Take care of one another, as well as the environment around you! ENJOY!

ENTRANCE SCHEDULE

PINES GATE

Wednesday, June 13 – 9:00AM to 8:00PM (Reserved camping only)

Thursday, June 14 – 7:00AM to 9:00PM*

Friday, June 15 – 9:00AM to 6:00PM*

Saturday, June 16 – 10:00AM to 6:00PM*

**After Pines Gate is closed all traffic will be diverted to Fields Gate.*

FIELDS GATE

Wednesday, June 13 – 9:00AM to 8:00PM (Reserved camping only)

Thursday, June 14 – 7:00AM to 12:00AM

Friday, June 15 – 9:00AM to 12:00AM

Saturday, June 16 – 10:00AM to 11:00PM

You are allowed to drop off your belongings at your campsite in General Admission Camping until 7:00PM on Thursday, June 13.

After this time, people who do not possess a Car Camping Pass will be directed to overflow fields parking. Only people being issued their Car Camping Pass for the first time upon arrival, may enter the Whispering Pines Camping Area with their vehicle. People arriving with a Car Camping Pass already affixed to their vehicle will be directed to overflow fields parking. A Car Camping Pass does not allow in and out privilege. **Whispering Pines Camping Areas will be closed to ALL vehicle traffic at 9:00PM.** This includes people with a Car Camping Pass.

CAMPING GUIDE

Please note that if you take your vehicle out of the campgrounds, (even with a Car or RV Pass), you will be directed to our overflow parking when you get back to the festival.

Electric access is for those who reserved electric sites, you are not allowed to run extension cords to non-electric campsites.

Unreserved camping is on a first come, first served basis. Please be respectful of others, and make sure there is room for everyone!

Family camping has a curfew at 12:00AM, that is strictly enforced. if you do not want this restriction, please move to another area.

There are no pets allowed in the camping or festival area for the safety of humans and animals.

Campfires are allowed in enclosed rings, (dependent on local burning bans). Fireworks are not allowed at any time.

Feel free to spread out beyond the roads, there is plenty of walk-in camping off the beaten path. The campgrounds are within a larger community, so please stay within the boundaries of Whispering Pines Campgrounds. Please do not cross fences and trespass on our neighbor's property.

SHUTTLE TO THE FESTIVAL

Right Way Shuttle Service will be operating between the **Whispering Pines Campgrounds** and the hotels listed below.

Prices: \$30 for a 3-Day Pass and \$15 for a 1-Day Pass

Rides are unlimited for the day purchased. Please have exact cash ready when purchasing your pass from the shuttle driver. Reservations not necessary.

All shuttle routes are available Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The times listed are departure times. Please be ready to board the shuttles at the listed times. Shuttle service will return to all locations after the close of the last show each night. No buses will leave the festival unless they are full from 9:00PM to the end of the last show on the Main Stage.

THE OXBOW HOTEL – 516 GALLOWAY STREET

Thursday – 4:00PM, 5:00PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:00PM

Friday and Saturday – 11:00AM, 12:00AM, 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 4:00PM, 5:00PM, 6:00PM

THE LISMORE HOTEL – PARKING RAMP DOWNTOWN – 333 GIBSON STREET

Thursday – 4:05PM, 5:05PM, 6:05PM, 7:05PM, 8:05PM

Friday and Saturday – 11:05AM, 12:05PM, 1:05PM, 2:05PM, 3:05PM, 4:05PM, 5:05PM, 6:05PM

SHUTTLE TO THE FESTIVAL

QUALITY INN – 3117 CRAIG ROAD

(Pick-up location is on Craig Road between Quality Inn and Super 8)

SUPER 8 – 1151 WEST MACARTHUR AVENUE

(Pick-up location is on Craig Road between Quality Inn and Super 8)

Thursday – 4:10PM, 5:10PM, 6:10PM, 7:10PM, 8:10PM

Friday and Saturday – 11:10AM, 12:10PM, 1:10PM, 2:10PM, 3:10PM, 4:10PM, 5:10PM, 6:10PM

AMERICA'S BEST VALUE INN – 809 WEST CLAIREMONT AVENUE

Thursday – 4:15PM, 5:15PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM, 8:15PM

Friday and Saturday – 11:15AM, 12:15PM, 1:15PM, 2:15PM, 3:15PM, 4:15PM, 5:15PM, 6:15PM

HAMPTON INN – 2622 CRAIG ROAD

Thursday – 4:20PM, 5:20PM, 6:20PM, 7:20PM, 8:20PM

Friday and Saturday – 11:20AM, 12:20PM, 1:20PM, 2:20PM, 3:20PM, 4:20PM, 5:20PM, 6:20PM

BEST WESTERN TRAIL LODGE – 3340 MONDOVI ROAD

Thursday – 4:25PM, 5:25PM, 6:25PM, 7:25PM, 8:25PM

Friday and Saturday – 11:25AM, 12:25PM, 1:25PM, 2:25PM, 3:25PM, 4:25PM, 5:25PM, 6:25PM

**The last shuttle leaving the festival is at 12:30AM.*

**Bus schedules may change during weather related emergencies.*

SERVICES

CAMPSTORE | FESTIVAL OUTFITTER

Providing on-site camping gear and accessories. Plus everything to make your festival experience comfortable, fun and safe.

Wednesday – 12:00PM to 1:00AM

Thursday, Friday and Saturday – 9:00AM to 1:00AM

Contact: Nick Stelmack **Telephone:** 614.322.5164

ABT WATER SERVICE

Providing on-site non-potable water fill for RV Campers. \$25 / fill.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday – 12:00PM to 5:00PM

Contact: Kelly **Telephone:** 715.505.4918

CESSPOOL CLEANERS AND PUMPING SERVICES

Providing on-site cleaning and pumping for RV Campers.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday – 12:00PM to 5:00PM

Contact: Troy **Telephone:** 715.577.9744

JAMGRASS TV | WWW.JAMGRASS.TV

Watch and Listen to the 2019 Blue Ox Music Festival Live Stream Online! **Presented by the Bluegrass Situation!**

CONVERGE RADIO 99.9FM | WWW.CONVERGE.ORG

Tune in and Listen to the 2019 Blue Ox Live on the Radio!

TORCH SISTERS PERFORMING ARTS

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14 –
MAIN FESTIVAL BOWL**

6:30PM to 7:00PM Aerial Performance

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 –

3:30PM to 3:45PM Flow Performance

6:30PM to 6:45PM Flow Performance

10:00PM to 10:30PM Fire Spinning & Tricks

EAU CLAIRE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Torch Sisters is a troupe of flow artists, fire spinners, and aerialists entertaining all ages. They incorporate elements of dance with flow props and are always continuing to innovate and add surprises to their local performances. Building community and inspiring female empowerment motivates the Torch Sisters to train, create together and share their art with the Chippewa Valley community.

BOATS & BLUEGRASS FAMILY STAGE

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 –

8:30AM The Morning Stretch

9:00AM Talent Show

**Bring any talent you please to showcase to friends and family.*

10:00AM Craft Time

11:00AM Laughter Yoga

1:00PM Parachute Games

3:00PM Face Painting

5:00PM Hula Hoop Workshop

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 –

8:30AM The Morning Stretch

9:00AM Craft Time

10:00AM Sing Along with Stanton West

11:00AM Laughter Yoga

1:00PM Parachute Games

3:00PM Face Painting

5:00PM Dance It Out Workshop

All Day Features: Hula-hoops, Coloring, Beanbag Toss



MUSIC WORKSHOPS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MUSIC YOU LOVE

Blue Ox presents its Music Instrument Workshops to celebrate, Bluegrass, Roots, Americana, and traditional string genres of music. Every aspiring artist is encouraged to bring their own instrument and learn from these great instructors.

**Workshops provide a beginner level instruction.*

FRIDAY, JUNE 14– POTLUCK PICKIN' AREA

10:00AM **Anthony Ihrig** teaches about the unique sounds of the **Bluegrass Banjo**.

11:00AM **Shauncey Ali** teaches the creative beauty of the **Fiddle**.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 – POTLUCK PICKIN' AREA

10:00AM **Adam Keisling** teaches about the range of prolific sounds of the **Traditional American Guitar**.

11:00AM **Max Paley** teaches about the ingenious and essential **Mandolin**.

Anthony Ihrig on the Bluegrass Banjo

Anthony is a banjo player with the High 48s, and composer of progressive music. He has served as a consultant to Béla Fleck, and taught workshops with banjo luminaries Bob Black and Kristen Scott Benson. Anthony has been an instructor at the Grass Seeds Music Academy for eight years.

Shauncey Ali on the Fiddle

Shauncey is an acclaimed performer, educator and composer. Recently featured in Fiddler Magazine, he is noted as blazing creative trails in the acoustic music world. Shauncey is co-founder of the ensemble Graminy, and is the director of Mad-Fiddle, a premiere youth program that explores world folk music.

Adam Kiesling on the Traditional American Guitar

Adam is a steward of the American songbag, bridging styles from one canon to another. A cornerstone to the Minnesota traditional music community, Adam performs with his band Corpse Reviver, which pays tribute to The Anthology of American Folk Music.

Max Paley on the Mandolin

Max is first call session instrumentalist in the Denver bluegrass community and a master of bluegrass and new grass mandolin. Max has taught at Swallow Hill Music in Denver. He has toured with many artists including Oakhurst, The Black Berry Bushes, and That Damn Sasquatch.

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**FRIDAY, JUNE 14 –
MAIN FESTIVAL BOWL**

8:00AM Start your beautiful day with Yoga, led by **Instructor, Meggan Riley, Katie Kuykendall, and Sound Healer, Mike McGuigan**. This is a one hour class.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15 –
MAIN FESTIVAL BOWL**

8:00AM Start your beautiful day with Yoga, led by **Instructor, Meggan Riley, Katie Kuykendall, and Sound Healer, Mike McGuigan**. This is a one hour class.

Meggan will lead students through a gentle and mixed level class designed to prepare body, mind and soul for a day of dancing and connection.

Mike will offer layers of sound healing throughout the practice to compliment movement, breath and the overall practice. Please bring your mat, towel, and water. Students can come to work hard physically, or simply sit and meditate. All are welcome!

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KING CARDINAL AUG 3
THEM COULEE BOYS AUG 16
PERT NEAR SANDSTONE AUG 24
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BARBARO-RAGBIRDS
GREG GILBERTSON-LASKA
MIKE MUNSON

Music Schedule & info
www.ThePottersShed.com

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 13 -

MAIN STAGE

5:30PM to 6:30PM

THE LOWEST PAIR

7:00PM to 8:15PM

THE LIL SMOKIES

8:45PM to 10:00PM

HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES

10:30PM to 12:00AM

THE INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS

**Please note that performance start times are subject to change.*

SIDE STAGE

5:00PM to 5:30PM

GRASSFED

6:30PM to 7:00PM

GRASSFED

8:15PM to 8:45PM

OLD SALT UNION

10:00PM to 10:30PM

OLD SALT UNION

**Please note that performance start times are subject to change.*

BACKWOODS STAGE

12:00AM to 12:45AM

BLACK RIVER REVUE

1:00AM to 2:00AM

CHICKEN WIRE EMPIRE

**Please note that performance start times are subject to change.*

**Backwoods stage is located within the campground.*

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 –

MAIN STAGE

11:30AM to 12:30PM	POKEY LAFARGE (SOLO)
1:00PM to 2:00PM	SARAH SHOOK & THE DISARMERS
2:30PM to 3:30PM	JEFF AUSTIN BAND
4:00PM to 5:00PM	DEL MCCOURY BAND
5:30PM to 6:30PM	FRUITION
7:00PM to 8:15PM	THE TRAVELIN' MCCOURYS TIP THEIR HAT TO SAM BUSH
8:45PM to 10:00PM	PERT NEAR SANDSTONE
10:30AM to 12:00AM	TRAMPLED BY TURTLES

**Please note that performance start times are subject to change.*

**Honoring Sam Bush, as he recovers from surgery, The Travelin' McCourys will perform a special set dedicated to the King of Newgrass himself plus original material.*

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 –

SIDE STAGE

11:00AM to 11:30AM	DAVID HUCKFELT
12:30PM to 1:00PM	DAVID HUCKFELT
2:00PM to 2:30PM	BARBARO
3:30PM to 4:00PM	BARBARO
5:00PM to 5:30PM	CASCADE CRESCENDO
6:30PM to 7:00PM	CASCADE CRESCENDO
8:15PM to 8:45PM	LARRY KEEL EXPERIENCE
10:00PM to 10:30PM	LARRY KEEL EXPERIENCE

**Please note that performance start times are subject to change.*

BACKWOODS STAGE

12:00AM to 12:45AM	HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES
1:00AM to 2:00AM	JEFF AUSTIN BAND

**Please note that performance start times are subject to change.*

**Backwoods stage is located within the campground.*

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 -

MAIN STAGE

11:30AM to 12:30PM	THEM COULEE BOYS
1:00PM to 2:00PM	PETER ROWAN'S CARTER STANLEYS EYES
2:30PM to 3:30PM	THE EARLS OF LEICESTER FEATURING JERRY DOUGLAS
4:00PM to 5:00PM	CHARLIE PARR
5:30PM to 6:30PM	THE DEAD SOUTH
7:00PM to 8:15PM	BILLY STRINGS
8:45PM to 10:00PM	PERT NEAR SANDSTONE
10:30PM to 12:00AM	RAILROAD EARTH

**Please note that performance start times are subject to change.*

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 -

SIDE STAGE

11:00AM to 11:30AM	DUSTY HEART
12:30PM to 1:00PM	DUSTY HEART
2:00PM to 2:30PM	FEEDING LEROY
3:30PM to 4:00PM	FEEDING LEROY
5:00PM to 5:30PM	THE WOOKS
6:30PM to 7:00PM	THE WOOKS
8:15PM to 8:45PM	THE PEOPLE BROTHERS BAND
10:00PM to 10:30PM	THE PEOPLE BROTHERS BAND

**Please note that performance start times are subject to change.*

BACKWOODS STAGE

12:00AM to 12:45AM	ARMCHAIR BOOGIE
1:00AM to 2:00AM	BLUE OX SUPERJAM

**Please note that performance start times are subject to change.*

**Backwoods stage is located within the campground.*



DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE • KACEY MUSGRAVES • JASON MRAZ
 HALF MOON RUN • THE SHEEPDOGS • K'NAAN • ALVVAYS
 CHARLOTTE DAY WILSON • KATHLEEN EDWARDS • COLTER WALL
 THE LONE BELLOW • THE DEVIL MAKES THREE • CAR SEAT HEADREST • SNAIL MAIL
 JOHN SEBASTIAN • MT. JOY • HAWKSLEY WORKMAN • RAYLAND BAXTER
 WILLIAM PRINCE • JULIA JACKLIN • CASS MCCOMBS • MOLLY TUTTLE
 TIM BAKER • LUCY ROSE • COURTNEY MARIE ANDREWS • ZIGGY ALBERTS
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 HALEY HEYNDERICKX • ALTIN GÜN • LUCA FOGALE • DEVON GILFILLIAN
 LOS PACHAMAMA & FLOR AMARGO • CHRISTINE FELLOWS • SARAH SHOOK & THE DISARMERS
 MDOU MOCTAR • WILLIAM CRIGHTON • BEBE BUCKSKIN • COMBO CHIMBITA • SAMANTHA CRAIN
 DANNY MICHEL • MARIEL BUCKLEY • ROMAN CLARKE • THE YOUNG'UNS • STEVE GUNN
 LIVING HOUR • EILEEN IVERS • SEAN MCCONNELL • THE CACTUS BLOSSOMS
 JESSE MATAS • SUNNY WAR • TAYLOR JANZEN • THE SWINGING BELLES • THE TILLERS
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ARMCHAIR BOOGIE

A 4-piece bluegrass folk band formed in the heart of Central Wisconsin and brought to life by Ben Majeska (guitar, vocals) and Augie Dougherty (banjo, vocals) in the autumn of 2014, their Main Street porch performances in Stevens Point, Wisconsin made up their first venue, and so they soon took on the name "Armchair Boogie". The only thing missing was a rhythm section to drive the genre-bending sound. Eli Frieders (bass) and Dan Waterman (drums) held down the beat until Denzel Connor took over behind the kit in 2017. Awarded Summer Camp Music Festival's "On the Road 2017" designation, that year also marked a transitional move to the Madison area which is currently their home base. **Armchair Boogie** released their debut self-titled album in the spring of 2018 and continues to create, collaborate, and promote their funky brand of bluegrass across the Midwest and beyond.

BARBARO

This Minneapolis / Winona quartet has built momentum around their dynamic sound, each set flowing naturally between energetic jams and contemplative interludes. **Barbaro**, Kyle Shelstad (guitar, vocals), Isaac Sammis (banjo), Rachel Calvert (fiddle, vocals), Jason Wells (bass), is at once lively and intimate,

perfect for twirling around the dance floor or cooking with someone you love. Their upcoming album, due out spring 2019, showcases their captivating songwriting, layered over textures pulled from bluegrass, jazz, pop, and country-western. The first single, entitled, *Cold Stack*, was released in May. **Barbaro** has performed at premier Midwest music festivals including Boats & Bluegrass, and Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Association (MBOTMA). In 2018, the band released their first EP and claimed two contest wins at the John Hartford Memorial Festival Band Contest and MBOTMA's Americana Roots Band Contest.

BILLY STRINGS

The improbable child of Pantera and Doc Watson delivers extreme American string band music with energy levels usually associated with a box of dynamite. The industry has taken notice, he was the 2016 IBMA Momentum Awards Instrumentalist of the Year, named a "Top 10 New Country Artist" by Rolling Stone, voted #1 in The Bluegrass Situation's Top 16 of 16 and received praise from top taste-makers in Americana from *No Depression* to *Planet Bluegrass*. Raised in Michigan and based in Nashville, Strings learned music from his father, who learned it from his father, and his father before him. Maybe that's why at 25,

Strings' songs, articulation, entire approach, sound so authentic and steeped in tradition. Billy's debut album, *Turmoil & Tinfoil* is out now.

BLACK RIVER REVUE

Adam Stariha (guitar, vocals, harmonica), Ian Kvale (bass, vocals), Nate Hynum (mandolin, vocals), and Tim Leutgeb (banjo) crafted their own sound made up of mostly original music which can be heard on their debut album, *Garbage Pickin* (April 2013). Described as freshwater bluegrass and Americana from the twin ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin – **Black River Revue's** second album, *Spring Thaw* (2014), embodied a fruitful year of songwriting and live performance experience to their sound. Five years of touring, personnel change, and personal growth inspired a third LP, entitled, *Just Can't Win* (2017) which has had radio play worldwide, charted on independent and college radio stations across the United States, and was awarded "Album of the Year" in 2017, by the *Duluth Reader Weekly*.

CASCADE CRESCENDO

Crafting their own brand of bluegrass since 2013, **Cascade Crescendo** draws from their range of collective influences.

They play original, high-energy bluegrass, jamgrass, and Americana music with captivating lead vocals by Hunter White, blazing fast mandolin licks by Aden Beck, and creative, thumping bass lines by Taylor Skiles. Duluth, Minnesota banjo player, Harrison Olk, joined the band in late 2015, bringing with him solid Scruggs-style banjo sounds and high lonesome harmony vocals. Their first studio album in 2016, *Caught in the Rain*, was recorded at The Hallowed Halls in Portland, Oregon, their hometown. The popular album features fiddle player, Allie Kral (Yonder Mountain String Band) and a guest appearance by drummer Nick Werth (Yak Attack, SP3). In 2018, they released their second album, *Chasing The Sun* which quickly gave them a loyal bluegrass following. **Cascade Crescendo** completed their first national tour in 2017.

CHARLIE PARR

Charlie Parr has been traveling and performing his Resonator-fueled folk songs ever since leaving Austin, Minnesota in the 1980s in search of Spider John Koerner. The experience changed his life, made him more or less unemployable, and transformed him into the force of nature known to fans today. Those who have been following **Charlie Parr** through his escapades of nonstop touring already know that the Duluth-based songwriter

has a way of carving a path straight to the gut. Later this summer Charlie will embark on a world tour in support of his new self-titled record coming September 27, 2019 on Red House Records / Compass Records.

CHICKEN WIRE EMPIRE

Contemporary tones blend with traditional roots in the music of Milwaukee's unparalleled Chicken Wire Empire. Since their formation in 2014, Ryan Ogburn (mandolin), Jordan Kroeger (upright bass), Greg Brundage (guitar), Jon Peik (banjo) and Ernest Brusubardis IV (fiddle) have wasted little time establishing themselves as one of the hottest up and coming bands on the local and regional music scene. With the addition of Jon Peik (banjo), Ernest Brusubardis IV (fiddle), and Greg Brundage (guitar), a new sound was found in Milwaukee, and Chicken Wire Empire joined the roster of high energy jamgrass. The band's journey from traditional to progressive style of music was documented by director Ross Monagle in the film, *All It Takes*, and premiered in 2016 at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee. Their latest album, *What Moves Mountains*, was recorded at Axis Recording by Vinny Millevolte, and mastered by Justin Perkins. With support from their family and friends, *What Moves Mountains* was released January 1, 2019.



BLUE OX MUSIC FESTIVAL WHISPERING PINES CAMPGROUND

- FOOD
- BEER
- CAMP STORE
ICE • FIREWOOD
- SHOWER
- FIRST AID
- TICKET OFFICE
- FESTIVAL MERCH
- WATER
- PARKING
- POT LUCK
PICKIN' AREA
- MAIN STAGE
- SIDE STAGE
- BACKWOODS STAGE
- KID'S STAGE
- BLUE OX LOUNGE
- ONE WAY ROAD



DAVID HUCKFELT

In the autumn of 2018, **David Huckfelt** left behind the comfort of his home in Minneapolis, along with the camaraderie of his critically acclaimed band, The Pines, and relocated to America's most remote and least visited national park, Isle Royale. Six hours by boat off the Michigan coast, Isle Royale is an isolated stretch of wilderness seemingly forgotten by the 20th century. As an Artist-In-Residence, selected by the National Park Service, Huckfelt spent two weeks writing in solitude, channeling the mysterious and lonesome island's spirits into his stunning debut solo album, *Stranger Angels* released February 2019. The album, recorded in a 100-year-old Wisconsin farm, is a twelve-song stream-of-consciousness opus and provides a stirring soundtrack to the "thin places" where the world, seen and unseen – collide.

DEL MCCOURY BAND

For over fifty years, **Del McCoury's** music is a living link to the days when bluegrass was made only in hillbilly honkytonks and on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. Born in York County, Pennsylvania, Del McCoury was hooked after hearing Earl Scruggs' banjo in the early 1950s. McCoury became a banjo picker, working the rough but lively bar scenes into the early

1960s. He joined Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys in 1963 giving him a lifetime's worth of bluegrass tutelage leading to the eventual formation of today's **Del McCoury Band** featuring Del (guitar), and sons Ronnie (mandolin) and Rob (banjo). The band earned cast membership in the legendary Grand Ole Opry in 2003. They hold two Best Bluegrass Album Grammy Awards and nine International Bluegrass Music Association "Entertainer of the Year" trophies.

DUSTY HEART

Rich vocal harmonies merge with intimate layers of guitar, fiddle, and banjo to define the lush sound of **Dusty Heart**. Barbara Jean and Molly Dean are two songwriters recognized in their own right for their poetic lyrics and distinct vocal styles that when combined create a powerful and haunting sound taking on a life of its own. Through their shared wanderlust and love of adventure, a passion for the open road, vast landscapes, and poetry, as well a mutual love for musical harmony, **Dusty Heart** has crafted a sound that bridges the diverse musical worlds of roots, indie, pop, and folk. The highly acclaimed, self-titled debut album has been described as, "Chilling, resplendent Americana" – The Current, Minnesota Public Radio.

FEEDING LEROY

Feeding LeRoy is the collaboration between Lee Martin and Sonja Bjordal writing original songs and harmonious vocals, blending into this unique project. With brother Luke stepping in on the harmonica and longtime friend Adam Staupe on the upright bass, both adding their vocal harmonies, they all created somewhat of a gospel undertone, acting as its own instrument in the band. You can find this foursome around the twin ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin, but they have also recently taken to the open road, bringing this up-north sound to new cities across the nation. Think Gram Parsons and Emmylou Harris meets the Jayhawks. *Monument Valley*, their latest album, was released in 2018 with high praise.

FRUITION

Fruition transforms pain and heartache into something truly glorious with their fifth album, *Watching It All Fall Apart*. Their songwriting is sharp and nuanced, their sonic palette more daringly expansive. The Portland, Oregon-based band's full-hearted intensity ultimately gives the album a transcendent power. Featuring Jay Cobb Anderson (vocals, lead guitar, harmonica), Kellen Asebroek (vocals, rhythm guitar, piano), Mimi Naja (vocals, mandolin, electric and acoustic guitar),

Jeff Leonard (bass), Tyler Thompson (drums, banjo), **Fruition** displays the dynamic musicality they've shown since making their debut in 2008, embracing their rock-and-roll sensibilities to bring a gritty vitality to each piece.

GRASSFED

A quick-picking power group bringing a high-energy sound all of their own, **Grassfed** combines bluegrass with an eclectic array of influences. The band has a fresh approach to an old sound. Based out of Kansas City, Missouri, **Grassfed** tours extensively throughout the United States, and has performed in Scotland and France delivering high-octane performances adored across the map. They are quickly establishing themselves as contenders in the roots circuit, performing at a wide range of festivals and venues. Combining genuine lyrics and intricate instrumental conversation, **Grassfed** is a must-see live performance experience.

HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES

While at college, the friends that are **Horseshoes & Hand Grenades** found themselves in a Stevens Point, Wisconsin living room, holding acoustic instruments and enjoying a hodge-podge of fermented beverages. After seven years, three albums,

innumerable sold out shows, they consider themselves family, a bond that fuels creativity and chemistry. Strongly rooted in bluegrass, old-time, and folk music, the band creates a sound drawing on the vaults of music collectively. The quintet includes David C. Lynch (harmonica, accordion, spoons, vocals), Collin Mettelka (fiddle, mandolin, vocals), Russell Pedersen (banjo, fiddle, vocals), Adam Greuel (guitar, dobro, vocals), and Samuel Odin (bass). Horseshoes & Hand Grenades newest and fourth album, entitled *The Ode*, was produced in 2018 by Dave Simonett of Trampled By Turtles and recorded at the infamous, secluded Pachyderm Studios.

INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS

Commitment to progression made five unassuming Nashville friends become an award-winning musical force. Formed in 2005, the Infamous Stringdusters, – Travis Book (bass, vocals), Andy Falco (guitar, vocals), Jeremy Garrett (fiddle, vocals), Andy Hall (dobro, vocals), and Chris Pandolfi (banjo, vocals) explore the musical possibilities of a bluegrass ensemble. Balancing fluency in old-timey bluegrass with indie jamgrass sensibilities, they are breaking boundaries in today's musical arena. 2018 represented a high watermark for the quintet, winning a Grammy Award for "Best Bluegrass Album" from

their 2017 release *Laws of Gravity*. They teamed up with Ryan Adams for performances of "Sweet Carolina" on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and at Telluride Bluegrass Festival, and Newport Folk Festival. Grateful for the recognition, the band continues to progress at full speed. The repertoire is deep and each live show is unforgettable.

JEFF AUSTIN BAND

Jeff Austin considers his voice to be his first instrument. Drawn to singing from a young age, Austin pursued musical theater in high school and college. He readily admits to still loving musicals, being fascinated by Madrigal singers, and tuning in to a wide range of vocal powerhouses. He began playing the mandolin a few years before co-founding his former group, a progressive bluegrass outfit, Yonder Mountain String Band. The Colorado-based artist broke through the jam and bluegrass scenes, playing stages from The Fillmore Auditorium to Red Rocks Amphitheater, and collaborating with luminaries such as Del McCoury, Earl Scruggs, and Phil Lesh. With the launch of his solo career in 2014, he channels all of these influences into his music, and honing his sound to create a powerful exchange between the stage and the crowd. His solo debut album, *Simple Truth*, was released in 2015 by Yep Roc Records.

LARRY KEEL EXPERIENCE

Keel credits his solid musical grounding to his Bluegrass family upbringing, deeply steeped in the rich mountain music culture and heritage of Southwest Virginia. He's also got a knack for choosing interesting and appealing material from all realms. He has earned the highest respect and billing among the top acoustic and jam rock musicians including Tony Rice, Steve Martin, Vassar Clements, Sam Bush, Del McCoury, John Hartford, and Bill Monroe. His fierce, high-spirited energy along with his blazing guitar power, deep rumbling voice, earthy songwriting, and down-home-gritty-good-time charm draws fans young and old. **The Larry Keel Experience** features award-winning Jared Pool (mandolin, vocals) and wife Jenny Keel (bass, tenor vocal harmonies). Keel performed at New York's Carnegie Hall in 2017 celebrating Django Reinhardt's influence on the world of guitar music. Throughout his career, Keel has released 15 albums, including his latest, *Experienced*, in 2016.

THE LIL SMOKIES

With their roots submerged in the thick buttery mud of traditional bluegrass, **The Lil Smokies** generate electric energy and exceptional songwriting. Forming in 2009 in Missoula, Montana, **The Lil Smokies** quintet is formed by Scott Parker

(bass), Jake Simpson (fiddle), Matt Rieger (guitar), Matt Cornette (banjo), and Andy Dunnigan (dobro) creating a new and wholly unique, melody-driven sound of their own. They blend traditional bluegrass, newgrass, innumerable unique original pieces, sheer raw energy, and exquisite musicianship, leaving behind melodies you'll be singing to yourself for days. Their new album, *Changing Shades*, delivers their bluegrass roots with the punch of a rock band. They won the 2015 Telluride Bluegrass Band competition and took home the 2016 IBMA "Momentum Band of the Year" award.

OLD SALT UNION

The string quintet **Old Salt Union** is a collision of styles, and musical vocabularies with a fresh style of bluegrass. In 2015, they won the FreshGrass Band contest. Jesse Farrar (primary vocalist, bassist) brings an alternative rock spirit and his unique formative experiences as a hip hop producer and bass player. Released in 2017, the band's self-titled album combines signature instrumental pop melodies and harmonies that carve out a road-less-traveled for the band in the now crowded roots music genre. Justin Wallace (mandolin, vocals) is featured throughout, along with Ryan Murphey (banjo), Gram Curry (guitar), John Brighton (fiddle).

PERT NEAR SANDSTONE

Founded in 2003 by four childhood friends from Minneapolis / St. Paul, Minnesota, **Pert Near Sandstone's** chemistry harkens back to the family bands of the past, playing American string band music that melds old-time sensibilities with modern song craft. Gathered around a single microphone, they deliver their unique brand of string band music to fans across generations and genres all over the world, playing with infectious energy and an undeniable joy, cutting straight to the heart. Tireless stewards of the Midwest roots music community, they also write new songs that sound like they've always been with us. The band is also a proud co-founder and host of the Blue Ox Music Festival. The Road To Blue Ox Podcast, was launched in 2019. The band is putting the final touches on their next full length record that is expected to arrive later this year.

PETER ROWAN

Grammy Award-winner Peter Rowan was born in Wayland, Massachusetts to a musical family. He learned to play guitar from his uncle and spent his teenage years absorbing the sights and sounds of the Hillbilly Ranch, a legendary Country music nightclub in Boston. His professional career began in 1963 as the singer, rhythm guitarist, and songwriter for the

Bluegrass Boys, led by the founding father of bluegrass, Bill Monroe. Since his breakout as a solo musician and band leader, Rowan built a devoted, international fan base through a solid stream of recordings, collaborative projects, and constant touring. **Peter Rowan's** quintet features Keith Little, Chris Henry, Blaine Sprouse, and Paul Knight.

POKEY LAFARGE (SOLO)

Pokey LaFarge is most purely a rambler. Traveling the world, his songs reflect his adventures. Raised in St. Louis, Missouri, he had a healthy diet of influences from blues and bluegrass to ragtime and old-time country. With a focus on lyrics and groove, his music is a combo of traditional jazz and something that sounds like Bob Dylan, mixed with the chanson singers of France, a waltz mixed with Cumbia, or soul mixed with Swing. LaFarge's wide-ranging rhythms, steeped in the very essence of jazz, buoy his starkly poetic songs. From his first record in 2006 to his 2017 critically acclaimed, *Manic Revelations*, LaFarge's deft way with words and music won him raves from critics. LaFarge has evolved and reinvented himself as an artist and poet, continually refining his sound. His signature style is reflected in his affinity for pre-1950s menswear – timeless and refined good taste.

RAILROAD EARTH

Singing about our nation's changing landscape and social ills with a commitment reminiscent of Woody Guthrie, **Railroad Earth** performs with a fire-in-the-belly passion. Their newest album simply titled *Railroad Earth* is the most cohesive embodiment of their myriad of gifts to date, showcasing new selections drawing strength and inspiration from an acknowledgment of our shared past, while embracing new ideas and celebrating diversity – just like America when she is at her best. The New Jersey sextet features Todd Sheaffer (lead singer, songwriter, guitarist), Tim Carbone (violinist), John Skehan (mandolin), Carey Harmon (drummer), and Andrew Altman (bassist). Their emphasis on the vocals underscores their emergence as one of the most compelling groups, offering succinct, yet distinctive, imagery and sense of history.

SAM BUSH

We wish Sam Bush a speedy recovery! Sam Bush's love of music came immediately, encouraged by his parents' record collection and, particularly, by his father Charlie, a fiddler, who organized local jams. He plowed tobacco fields in the southern summer heat, and started playing mandolin at 11. A lifetime of channeling his energy into music led to stylistic innovations changing the

course of bluegrass and roots music. The sheer ferocity of **Sam Bush's** playing, brilliant suppleness, and warmth of his vocals is joy on stage. The Father of Newgrass and King of Telluride is roots music royalty, revered for both his solo and sideman work. His honors include an Americana Music Association Lifetime Achievement Award, a suite of Grammy Awards, and International Bluegrass Music Association trophies. Bush often melds elements of jazz, folk, blues, reggae, country, swing, and bluegrass to create a new, jubilant tone, only classifiable as the **Sam Bush** sound.

SARAH SHOOK & THE DISARMERS

When **Sarah Shook & The Disarmers'** debut album, *Sidelong*, was released in 2017, it quickly earned kudos for its burst of fresh, fierce honesty, and sly wit. They are a welcome new voice in a genre too often mired in the staid and conventional. **Sarah Shook & The Disarmers** have moved from getting people's attention to commanding it. The album offers sharpened songwriting, unique perspective, deepened sound, roll-up-your-sleeves attitude, and will grab you by the collar and put a defiant finger to your chest. It is resolute, blunt, and unflinching. Sarah sings with confidence, control, and at times with a hint of menace.

THE DEAD SOUTH

They wear white shirts, black suspenders, black pants, and traveler's hats. They sing about murderous, estranged spouses and runaway lover cousins in a boot-stomping acoustic configuration of banjo, mandolin, cello, and guitar. Expect some whistles, hoots, hollerin', and finger-snappin'. Sometimes their fans dress up like them, dancing and singing the night away – but that's not mandatory. This four-piece acoustic ensemble based in Regina, Saskatchewan includes Nate Hilts (gritty vocals, guitar), Scott Pringle (soaring harmonies, mandolin), Colton Crawford (blazing banjo, kick drum), and Danny Kenyon (cello). Their melodies blend elements of folk, bluegrass, classical, and rock resulting in a modern and authentic blend of boot-stompin' acoustic music. Pushing the energy, skill, and viewpoints of each band member during their live performances make **The Dead South** an impossible band to duplicate.

THE EARLS OF LEICESTER FEATURING JERRY DOUGLAS

This Nashville-based six-piece band had one musical mission in 2013: preserve, promote, and revive the legacy of bluegrass legends Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs for longtime-admirers and introduce a new generation to their genre-defining sound. Mission accomplished. Winning a Grammy Award

for "Best Bluegrass Album" and earning six awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association, The Earls of Leicester featuring Barry Bales (bass, vocals), Shawn Camp (guitar, lead vocals), Charlie Cushman (banjo, guitars), Jerry Douglas (dobro, vocals), Johnny Warren (fiddle, bass vocals), and Jeff White (mandolin, vocals) offer a selection of songs that fully capture the pure joy and supreme musicianship that propel their every performance. Their new musical mission: allow fans to escape the stress of the world and hold onto the beautiful feeling their music brings them, even for just a while.

THE LOWEST PAIR

Kendl Winter was drawn to the evergreen forests and the lively, thriving music scene, so she moved to Olympia, Washington. Palmer T. Lee built his first banjo when he was 19, deciding songwriting would be the most effective and enjoyable medium for his musings. He and Kendl first met, on the banks of the Mississippi. Today, fans know that the chemistry between Palmer's Midwestern charm, those long winters spent listening to a steady diet of Townes Van Zandt and John Hartford, and Kendl's poetic and playful way with words, her unique approach to the banjo, and her barefoot-in-the-cool-river-water mystique combine to make a powerful sound. Their newest records,

Fern Girl and *Ice Man*, as well as *Uncertain As It Is Uneven*, could be viewed as two windows in to the growing and changing world of **The Lowest Pair** and mark the arrival of America's next great musical duo.

THE PEOPLE BROTHERS BAND

From Madison, Wisconsin, **The People Brothers Band's** core mission is to bring people together by spreading love through music. Coupled with their energetic live shows and infectious stage presence, they are guaranteed to bring the party. A unique brand of rhythm and soul dedicated to uplifting the hearts and minds of its friends and fans, they also believe in supporting the community and are proud to host the annual Charity Jamboree helping to raise nearly \$100,000 for National Multiple Sclerosis Society, UW Carbone Cancer Center, and American Diabetes Association. The People Brothers Band won awards from Madison Area Music Association and Wisconsin Area Music Industry.

THE WOOKS

Since their inception in 2014, **The Wooks** have won the 2016 RockyGrass Band Competition, placed in the finals for the 2017 Telluride Bluegrass Festival Band Competition, were a 2017 IBMA Momentum Award Nominee, and were selected as a 2018

IBMA official showcase artist. Their first record, *Little Circles*, recorded at Compass Studios and produced by Alison Brown, debuted at #6 on the *Billboard Bluegrass Chart*. **The Wooks** are equally at home on a festival stage as they are in a barn in the heart of Kentucky's horse country. Comprising of Aaron Bibelhauser (banjo), CJ Cain (lead guitar), Arthur Hancock (guitar), and Roddy Puckett (bass) With both respect for their heritage and innovative originality, **The Wooks** are the natural evolution of a sound that has always been there.

THEM COULEE BOYS

Allegedly founded at a bible camp and born in the back valleys of Western Wisconsin, **Them Coulee Boys** are a progressive band from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. They've crafted a brand of Americana, blending folk, punk, bluegrass, and rock 'n' roll – bursting with enthusiasm and sincerely thoughtful. Guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, and drums provide the pulse underneath their lyrics. They seek to start a conversation with their performances, knowing just how diverse that interaction can be. From love letters and farewell fights to fists raised in protest with hands held in harmony, the songs are reflections on the current state of the world and, in turn, of ourselves. *Dancing in the Dim Light* was named "Best Album 2016" by *Volume One Magazine*.

TRAMPLED BY TURTLES

After a group of enterprising car thieves ransacked Dave Simonett's car while he played a show, he was left with nothing more than an acoustic guitar. Dave put together a new band taking inspiration from bluegrass, folk, and other genres that didn't rely on amplification. Simonett filled his lineup by including Ryan Young (fiddle), Tim Saxhaug (bass), Erik Berry (mandolin), and Dave Carroll (banjo). **Trampled By Turtles** carves out a fast, frenetic sound that owes as much to rock 'n' roll as to bluegrass. **Trampled By Turtles** have released seven critically acclaimed and award-winning albums, including their latest release in 2018, *Life is Good on the Open Road*.

THE TRAVELIN' MCCOURYS

The McCoury brothers, Ronnie, (mandolin) and Rob, (banjo), were born into the bluegrass tradition. Years on the road with Dad in the Del McCoury Band, encouraged the duo to imagine how traditional bluegrass could cut innovative pathways into 21st century music. With fiddler Jason Carter, bassist Alan Bartram, and latest recruit Cody Kilby on guitar, they assembled a group that could take what they had in their DNA, take what traditions they learned and heard, and push the music forward. The band is the only group to have each of its members recognized with an International Bluegrass Music Award for their instrument at least once.

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