

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maryland Folk Festival announces first five performers

SALISBURY, Md. – The Maryland Folk Festival is gearing up for three jam-packed days of music, arts and culture in Downtown Salisbury, and today announced the first five artists who will be taking the stages.

The second annual Maryland Folk Festival is set for Friday-Sunday, Sept. 20-22. The Maryland Folk Festival is dedicated to creating unique experiences of discovery and learning; cultivating cultural and ethnic diversity; and pursuing all opportunities to inspire and enlighten through music, dance, food and more.

The first five artists to be announced span a variety of genres and are just the start of more than 25 performers. They include DuPont Brass, Melody Angel, the Pine Leaf Boys, Ken & Brad Kolodner, and the Seán Heely Celtic Band.

"We are so excited to bring these artists to Downtown Salisbury for the Maryland Folk Festival," said Caroline O'Hare, events and culture manager for the City of Salisbury. "Our team has been putting together an impressive lineup, and we can already tell that the 2024 festival is going to be a great one."

Approximately 250 artists—musicians, dancers, storytellers, and craftspeople—will take part in the Maryland Folk Festival. The festival will feature performances on four outdoor stages.

The five artists announced today include:

DuPont Brass (Washington, D.C., metro area) – eclectic soul

DuPont Brass is a one-of-a-kind, brass-driven supergroup from the D.C. metropolitan area that mixes varied genres of music, including jazz, hip-hop, and R&B they've coined "Eclectic Soul."

Melody Angel (Chicago) – blues

Hailing from Chicago, Melody Angel's electrifying performances fuse the deep roots of the blues with the mind-expanding ethos of Jimi Hendrix's electric church music.

Pine Leaf Boys (Lafayette, Louisiana) – Cajun

Louisiana's finest and world-renowned Pine Leaf Boys have made a name for presenting their own inimitable brand of Louisiana music with youthful exuberance, blending the sounds of Cajun, zydeco, swamp-pop, country, and soul.

Ken & Brad Kolodner (Baltimore) – old-time / hammered dulcimer

The dynamic father-son team Ken & Brad Kolodner weave together a captivating soundscape on hammered dulcimer and clawhammer banjo, blurring the lines of old-time, bluegrass and American roots music. Plus, Ken & Brad will provide music for a special festival square dance on Saturday evening.

Seán Heely Celtic Band (Washington, D.C.) – Celtic

Powerful vocal harmonies exist in the Seán Heely Celtic Band's ever-growing song repertoire, which features Scots Gaelic (*Gàidhlig*) songs, ballads, sea shanties, pub songs and more from the rich Celtic folk tradition.

Over a dozen people of different backgrounds, and with a deep passion of music and art forms, came together from across Delmarva to serve on the Performers Committee. This committee's role is to advise, review, and select the artists who will perform at the Maryland Folk Festival. To learn more about these artists and their stories, please visit <https://mdfolkfest.com/performers/>

The Maryland Folk Festival will feature individual artists on Facebook (facebook.com/MDFolkFestival) and Instagram (instagram.com/mdfolkfestival/). More performers will be announced as they are confirmed.

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Performer photos, bios, and audio clips may be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/MDFF-2024-Artist-Media-Assets>

Photo credits should be listed and can be found in image file names.

About the Maryland Folk Festival

After more than five years as the host of the National Folk Festival, produced in collaboration with the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA), the City of Salisbury's Arts, Business, and Culture Department launched its own legacy festival in 2023. The 2024 festival is set for Sept. 20-22 in Downtown Salisbury.

This large-scale, multi-day outdoor event celebrates the roots, richness and variety of American culture. It features hundreds of the nation's finest musicians, dancers, craftspeople and other keepers of culture in performances, workshops, and demonstrations, plus children's activities, non-stop participatory dancing, storytelling, and more. <https://mdfolkfest.com/>

About the City of Salisbury, Maryland

Founded in 1732, Salisbury is the county seat of Wicomico County, a place where John Smith touched land in 1608 during his exploration of the Chesapeake Bay, bringing him in contact with the Wighcocomoco or Wicomico, the Nause, the Kusk'arawack, and the Nantaquack or Nanticoke tribes who had lived in the region for several millennia. Situated on Maryland's historic Eastern Shore at the crossroads of the Delmarva Peninsula, Salisbury is now one of the region's largest cities, and serves as the capital of the Eastern Shore, a rural area defined by its agricultural and maritime traditions, landscapes, and industries.

The Chesapeake Bay is central to this distinctive identity. Though a relatively small city, Salisbury is the geographic and economic hub of one of the nation's fastest-growing Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The City of Salisbury is working to build its reputation as an arts and culture destination and is aligning its downtown development and revitalization efforts with the arts. Salisbury believes hosting the Maryland Folk Festival is the perfect catalyst to further a cultural renaissance and urban renewal. <https://salisbury.md/>

ABCD Events

The Arts, Business and Culture Department is responsible for fostering Salisbury's thriving economic climate through supporting business, expanding economic opportunity, promoting artistic expression, hosting unique experiences, and maintaining regional attractions such as the Salisbury Zoo and Poplar Hill Mansion. By producing signature events, facilitating business incentives, and collaborating with stakeholders, this department strives to make Salisbury a place where arts, business, and culture intersect and flourish. <https://salisbury.md/departments/arts-business-culture>