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# MESSAGE from the PRODUCER

Let's see... where were we before we were so rudely interrupted? Oh yes, getting ready to put on Edmonton Blues Festival #22 in August of 2020. We all know how that went.

It's my sincere hope that you all have managed to weather the storms of pandemic and all the related issues, and that you are ready to party in the park, at least one more time!

I say "at least" because as you probably know by now the City of Edmonton will be closing Hawrelak Park, and our home since 1999 the Heritage Amphitheatre, for a minimum of 3 years.

Where will we be in 2023 and beyond? Well, that's evolving as we speak but I can say this, just because we must move doesn't mean we are quitting. There will be an Edmonton Blues Festival in 2023!

In the meantime, let's have a Wang Dang Doodle of a party in the park this summer!

Enjoy yourselves, let the sweet sound of the blues in all its shades cleanse your soul and bring you solace. Dance, visit with friends old and new, and enjoy!

See you 'round the park.

Cam Hayden Producer, Edmonton Blues Festival

#### **VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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Ken Bedford 🚜 Carolyn Burn Barry Farguharson Ted Myroniuk Laurie Ritcey Vikki Scott Lorraine Petryk Bart Elenbaas Monica Denk Karen Hall

We call our fabulous volunteers "Blues Ambassadors" because their main job is to make your festival experience the best it possibly can be. Some have been with us since day one and others are new this year but they all work hard for you so thank a volunteer today. Over the winter one of our 20+ year volunteers left us for that big blues jam in the sky, see you on the other side Bill Sinclair.

#### **ARTIST SCHEDULE**

#### FRIDAY AUG 19

Gates - 4:30pm / Show - 5:30pm

Arsen Shomakhov Trio
Sue Foley with The Texas Horns
The Legendary Downchild Blues Band

#### **SATURDAY AUG 20**

Gates - 1:00pm / Show - 1:50pm

**Guy Forsyth** 

Steve Kozak Band

Crystal Shawanda

Brandon Santini & His Band

CJ Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band

Texas Salutes the Blues with The Texas Horns, Diunna Greenleaf, Anson Funderburgh & Guy Forsyth

#### **SUNDAY AUG 21**

Gates - 1:00pm / Show - 1:50pm

Fiona Boyes

Kat Danser & The Tall Tales

Mitch Woods & His Rocket 88's

Fiona Boyes & Watermelon Slim Trio

Toronzo Cannon

**Ruthie Foster** 

Please Note: Shows will be over by 10pm everynight



## The Texas Horns Our House Horn Section

One of the great things about festivals is the opportunity to bring incredible players together who create special musical moments.

This year, world class horn section, The Texas Horns, have stepped up to not only be our "House Horn Section" but form the backbone of an incredible Revue we're calling "Texas Salutes the Blues".

The Texas Horns will be celebrating their new recording "Everybody Let's Roll" on Blue Heart Records, officially being released the same weekend they will be at the Edmonton Blues

Festival. You'll find the trio working with Sue Foley (Friday) and Mitch Woods (Sunday) as well as hosting an incredible revue Saturday night.

The Texas Horns, in addition to their own three releases, "Blues Gotta Hold On Me", "Get Here Quick" and their new album "Everybody Let's Roll", have recorded with dozens of artists including Jimmie Vaughan, Delbert McClinton, Anson Funderburgh, and Sue Foley to name just a few. They've been described as a "treacherous trifecta of hornsters" and are the premier horn section in the blues today!



#### Arsen Shomakhov Trio Friday - 5:30pm

A Maple Blues Awards nominee, guitarist, songwriter and singer, Arsen Shomakhov is an electric blues performer truly dedicated to the style's roots yet never hesitating to borrow means of expression from other genres.

He established himself as a blues-devoted virtuoso musician in his native Russia, making it to the International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis in 2005 and winning the new talent contest at the King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena, AR in 2007.

The Arsen Shomakhov Trio was formed in 2008 after Arsen moved to Vancouver. The trio features Bruce O'Neill on bass and Chip Hart on drums. The band has performed at a variety of festivals across the US and Canada including The King Biscuit Blues Festival, Waterfront Blues Festival, Edmonton Blues Festival (this is his 3rd trip to the Edmonton Blues Fest), and the Calgary International Blues Festival.

The Arsen Shomakhov Band went to Memphis to represent

the White Rock Blues Society at the IBC twice (2014, 2016) and both times advanced to the semi-finals. Arsen's third North American album titled "Dynamic" was released in August 2014.

Arsen's latest, "Rain City Blues" was produced and recorded by Kid Andersen at the Greaseland Studios, in San Jose, CA was released September of 2019. The album boasts 10 original tracks and a stylistic range from rocking blues and funky boogaloo to R&B and 50's rock and roll with jump blues in between.

Arsen will kick off the 2022 Edmonton Blues Festival in fine style, Friday night!



## Sue Foley with the Texas Horns Friday - 6:50pm

PINKY'S BLUES is Sue Foley's latest award-winning disc... This year she took home 2 Blues Music Awards -Traditional Blues Recording of the Year and the Traditional Blues Female performer. Sue continued her winning ways earning 2 Maple Blues Awards in June- Guitarist of the Year and Entertainer of the Year.

The disc is named after Sue Foley's pink paisley Fender Telecaster electric guitar that has been a major part of her life over the years. Pinky has been with her for decades. Foley feels it's almost a living extension of who she is and helps guide her through the rambunctiously deep renditions of everything she performs.

"We wanted to make something representative of the Texas blues that we had been schooled on in Austin. So, we picked great songs and I wrote a few of my own to round things out. Everything on it is a labor of love."

"I've been on the road for over 30 years. You could call that paying my dues. I've made over a dozen albums of my own.

I've raised a child. I've bought and sold homes. I've had great successes and great failures. And all of this just makes my life richer and more colorful. It's a great trip and I never get tired of playing a slow blues. That's the ultimate."

For this part of her blues trip, Sue will be joined by one of the premier Horn sections in the blues out of Austin, The Texas Horns!



# The Legendary Downchild Blues Band Friday - 8:30pm

Downchild is one of the planet's foremost, most fêted, longest-running blues outfits with quite possibly the best back story ever told.

Since 1969, the band founded and continuously steered by harmonica and guitar ace Donnie "Mr. Downchild" Walsh, remains as vibrant today as when Dan Aykroyd and the late John Belushi went sniffing around for inspiration for the Blues Brothers back in the 1970s. The pair elevated Downchild's "Shotgun Blues" and Walsh's "(I Got

Everything I Need) Almost" to smash status on 1978's Briefcase Full of Blues record.

Indeed, if Downchild didn't exist, the blues world would have to invent them. Who else could so clearly serve as contemporary torchbearers for riveting original music firmly rooted in tradition while acting as a thriving spiritual link to past greats like Sonny Boy Williamson II, James Cotton, and B.B. King?

Downchild's epic reputation has been reaffirmed time and again. Witness their 2014 Blues Album of the Year Juno Award for their studio effort, Can You Hear The Music. Their boatload of Maple Blues Awards. Their marquee billing on the globe's most prestigious stages. And, of course, their inimitable 1973 reading of Big Joe Turner's classic "Flip, Flop and Fly" which placed Walsh and band co-founder, late brother Richard "Hock" Walsh on the charts and in the souls of music fans worldwide.

"I was pretty lucky to get a hit record just a few years after starting the band," Walsh confirms. "After that, the rest is geography. You just get in the van and go, and that's what we did. For the longest time, we played 250 to 300 dates a year."

Downchild is on the longest 50th anniversary tour of all time, one that has been ongoing since 2019... they are doing what they do best: performing, taking blues on the road to fans old and new from Nanaimo, B.C. to Norway and back again. "We are all still very hungry to make this music, no doubt about it," says vocalist Chuck Jackson, "We love what we do."

And so will you, as The Legendary Downchild Blues Band closes an incredible Friday night at the Edmonton Blues Festival.



## Guy Forsyth Saturday - 1:50pm

Born in Denver in 1968, Guy spent a short time discovering that he and college didn't agree and joined the circus – or at least the closest thing he could find, The Renaissance Festival. He got a job as a stuntman playing Robin Hood, getting beaten up by Little John in an act that ended with Forsyth getting his butt kicked and thrown into filthy water. He has tried to work his way up in showbiz ever since.

Forsyth relocated to Austin in 1990. Soon, he found himself playing at Joe's Generic Bar down on Sixth Street in Austin, busking on the West Mall of the University of Texas Campus and anywhere that would listen.

Today he has played around the world, made 20 or so records, won many awards and helped define Austin music. Forsyth is simply a one-of-a-kind original. He not only writes and sings his own songs, but he enjoys telling the stories behind their inspiration.

Blues made him want to play. Forsyth's first works were electric, raw blues that held nothing back. When he showed up in Austin, he had with him a bandolier of Harmonicas and a carnival barkers voice that could cut through the noise of the busiest night on Sixth street.

He found himself working his way up from the lowest working man blues clubs to Austin's Blues Throne, Antone's. Clifford Antone signed Guy to his prestigious Antone's Blues Label after Guy's band landed a Sunday residency that lasted ten years and won The Austin Chronicle Readers Poll for Best Blues Band several years running.

He is a firm believer of working together to bring about solid goals and happier times. To sustain his community on the most fundamental of levels he has taught Tai-Chi in Austin for 10 years to disabled vets, children & anyone else who wanted to learn.

Guy Forsyth kicks off Saturday at the Edmonton Blues Festival and then returns to be part of the "Texas Salutes The Blues" Revue closing the day.



#### Steve Kozak Band Saturday - 2:30pm

If you've been to the after-fest jam at the Chateau Louis Hotel you've seen Steve Kozak hosting and directing traffic, but he's also played the big stage at the festival a few times, on one of those occasions backing his friend, the late James Harman.

One of Canada's finest blues artists, Steve Kozak has been turning heads of blues fans in Canada for over thirty years since he first broke onto the Vancouver scene in the mid-eighties.

Gaining national recognition in 2012, Steve Kozak was nominated by industry professionals from

across Canada and won a prestigious Maple Blues Award for New Artist or Group of the Year. Steve was also awarded The Ambassador of the Blues Award for 2012 by the Blues Underground Network.

The Steve Kozak Band was nominated for a 2017 and a 2018 Western Canadian Music Award for Blues Artists of the year and for a 2017 Fraser Valley Music Award for Blues Artists of the Year.

Steve Kozak's latest and fourth album 'It's Time', was released in 2017. His original song 'Goin' Fishin' from that recording was the featured theme song on the popular syndicated television show Gary Cooper's Nice Fish.

Throughout his career Steve has performed on stage with many blues greats including; James Harman, Duke Robillard, Kenny 'Blues Boss' Wayne, Pee Wee Crayton, Big Joe Duskin, Sonny Rhodes, Eddie 'The Chief' Clearwater, Rod Piazza, Rick Estrin, Mark Hummel, Lee Oskar, Big Joe Louis, Tom Holland 'The Shuffle King'; David Vest, Robin Banks and Mitch Woods.

Welcome Steve back to the big stage at The Edmonton Blues Festival!



#### Crystal Shawanda Saturday - 3:45pm

Despite the tendency to pigeon-hole artists in one category or another, Crystal Shawanda opted to defy those demands and chart her own path forward. Initially signed to RCA in 2007, she hit her stride as a country singer and songwriter when she scored a top 20 hit with her song "You Can Let Go". Nevertheless, she began to realize that the blues had captured her muse, and with that, she left the label, shifted her stance and began recording albums that reflected her love of blues and her natural affinity for that sound.

As she once told an interviewer, "The whole time I was singing Patsy Cline on stage, I was singing Etta James at home."

Her latest, the Blues Juno Award winning album Church House Blues reflects that dedication and devotion and found her cowriting seven of the ten songs on the album.

Most importantly, Crystal says that the recording allowed her to express herself without feeling like anyone was looking over her shoulder.

Although influenced by such iconic individuals as Etta James, Koko Taylor and the Staple Singers, she claims a style all her own. The critics all agree. "Shawanda is a real deal blues artist who isn't dabbling in blues so much as channeling it," Steven Ovadia wrote in Elmore Magazine.

"I veered towards the blues because that's the music I love to sing," Crystal says. "It feels so natural, the kind of music I was meant to sing. It's a beautiful release. It's like letting a bird out of a cage. This is what I'm supposed to do. This is how I fly."

See and hear Crystal fly in her Edmonton Blues Festival debut Saturday afternoon.



## Brandon Santini & His Band Saturday - 5:20pm

There are many different opinions as to what the future of the blues harmonica will be. International touring vocalist and harmonica player Brandon Santini is undeniably a worthy player to keep an eye on as the latest surge of young blues artists leave their footprint in blues history. His name is worthy of conversations that include James Cotton, Kim Wilson, Charlie Musselwhite and other frontline harmonica players by combining his love and respect for traditional blues with a present, colorful style of playing that is often compared to James Cotton or Paul Butterfield. Raised in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, Santini purchased his first harmonica in 1997 at the age of fifteen when his mother took him to the local music store. He founded the Blues Music Award nominated band Delta Highway in 2003 and relocated to Memphis where he absorbed the sounds and culture of the Delta and North Mississippi Hill Country, honing his craft night after night, sweating it out in local Beale Street clubs just like Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and B.B. King did decades

before him. Now playing over 100 shows per year throughout the world, Santini has garnered five Blues Music Award nominations, festival headlining slots and even performing on stage with the likes of Buddy Guy and Gary Clark, Jr.

Brandon had the audience on it's feet for most of his stunning show at the Edmonton Blues Festival in 2017 and we are thrilled to have him back this year.



#### C J Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band Saturday - 6:45pm

Clayton Joseph (C.J) Chenier was born in 1957 - the son of the King of Zydeco, Clifton Chenier.

C.J.'s father was the first Creole musician to win a Grammy Award. C.J. spent his childhood in the tough tenement housing projects of Port Arthur, Texas. His earliest musical influences were an eclectic mix of funk, soul, jazz and Motown, and his first musical instruments were piano, tenor saxophone and flute. It wasn't until his 21st birthday, after winning a scholarship and studying music at Texas Southern University, that C.J. first performed with his famous father and the legendary Red Hot Louisiana band.

On the road his father showed him how to front a world class touring band - teaching C.J. how to run the family business and how to develop his lifelong passion for music. When Clifton

died in 1987, C J said it only felt natural to carry on the legacy - and he stepped up to lead the Red Hot Louisiana Band. He recorded his debut album for Arhoolie Records and has released albums on Slash and Alligator.

He doesn't try to imitate his father's playing: "I play it the way I play it. All my father really told me was to do the best I could do with my own style."

When C.J. Chenier talks about his style of Zydeco music, he explains that it is traditional Zydeco. "It's the kind of music that has grandmas dancing with grandkids, and mamas and daddy's and kids of all ages coming out and having fun."

C. J. went on to explain that his traditional zydeco is like his father, the great Clifton Chenier, played, could probably be described as Zydeco Blues. It's old school and it's classic. And it's the kind of music that true music fans of all ages can enjoy.

Welcome C J back the Edmonton Blues Festival. He is our "Poster Boy", looking to fill the dance floor with happy, smiling people!

#### CHHA 50/50 RAFFLE

While you're enjoying the festival, please note that the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association will be running a 50/50 raffle to support their worthy cause of providing assistance for purchasing hearing aids to people who can't afford them. And, for the very first time, the festival has partnered with CHHA to install a "loop" in the amphitheatre that those with hearing aids can access to enjoy the blues with crystal clear sound.

For more information, drop by their tent this weekend.



### Texas Salutes The Blues Saturday - 8:30pm

For "Texas Salutes the Blues", our house horn section, The Texas Horns will be joined by some of the best out of Texas, including festival favourite, vocalist, recording artist and force of nature **Diunna Greenleaf** (Houston). Diunna has her own new recording out, titled "I Ain't Playin'." And she doesn't... having shot out the lights at The Edmonton Blues Fest a few times, getting a marriage proposal from a fan on one memorable occasion and on another working the crowd into a fever pitch, sans microphone.

World renowned guitarist **Anson Funderburgh** (El Plano TX) was last seen at the festival as part of the Lone Star Golden State Revue a half dozen years ago. He first played the festival in 2001, with Mississippi's great singer and harp player, **Sam Myers**. Anson adds tasty guitar, passionate playing and superb feel to what will be a memorable melding of musicians.

Guy Forsyth (Austin), gets back on stage after opening the day with his solo set to lend his talents to this Revue.

This All Star Revue also includes some of the best out of the Austin area, including keyboard player **Oscar Ornelas**, and the rock solid rhythm section of **James Suter** (bass) and **Tommy Taylor** (drums).

It'll be an evening to remember as this group of talented musicians gather to "Salute The Blues" ...don't miss it!





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#### Fiona Boyes Sunday - 1:50pm

Fiona Boyes plays deep Blues, influenced by a myriad of traditional regional styles. She has carved an international reputation as a blues guitarist, bandleader, vocalist and songwriter. International reviewers have described her as a 'musical anomaly' and 'Bonnie Raitt's evil twin'!

Winner of the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, she has toured widely, performing at acoustic, guitar, jazz, and blues festivals, clubs and cultural centers in more than 20 countries.

Fiona's most recent studio offering 'Voodoo in the Shadows' features swampy electric guitar along with a collection of unique cigar-box guitars. Her other award-winning albums include the audiophile acoustic album 'Professin' the Blues' and 'Box & Dice' which was written around her growing collections of cigar-box guitars.

Fiona's nomination as Best Traditional Female Artist at the 2019 Blues Music Awards in Memphis was her 8th BMA nomination

over various categories since 2007. Fiona is the only Australian ever to be nominated for these awards.

Equally at home on acoustic or electric guitars, her mostly original repertoire is like a Blues travelogue. Listen to her play and you'll hear Delta slide guitar, single chord Mississippi Hills grooves, intricate country blues finger picking, along with material drawn from the classic blues sounds of New Orleans, Chicago and Memphis. As her friend and mentor, the late, great Hubert Sumlin (Howlin' Wolf's guitarist) said. 'She's got it! I've played with all of themand she's got it!

And Fiona will "bring it" to open our Sunday; she'll return later to join Watermelon Slim.



## Kat Danser and the Tall Tales Sunday - 2:30pm

There's a trail that runs from the dead heat of the Mississippi Delta, through the winding alleyways of Havana to the smoky confines of a cigar club in Edmonton. Kat Danser has spent most of her life trawling the backstreets of the blues and her sixth album 'One Eye Open' reflects the fruits of her explorations. The past rides shotgun with the present on everything Kat Danser sings and plays.

When asked about the ongoing appeal of blues music, Kat Danser offers, 'the blues gives us a place to bring all of our hope and sorrow."

An award-winning performer, Danser has graced the stages of some of Canada's most prestigious events and venues including the Winnipeg, Calgary, Regina and Edmonton Folk Festivals as well as The Canadian Women in Blues at Massey Hall.

Kat has four Western Canadian Music Award nominations, a Maple Blues Award and won The Ambassador of the Blues

Award and Best Independent Blues Album from the International Blues competition. As if that wasn't enough, Danser is also a nationally award-winning scholar who has presented at conferences throughout North America. She has also been the Artist in Residence at the EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts in Calgary and facilitated music and healing courses for marginalized children and adults.

A standout hit at last summer's "Blues Fest Slim" (which she named) Kat will be joined by some of the best blues musicians in Alberta, including Edmonton based guitarist Jimmy Guiboche.



# Mitch Woods and His Rocket 88's with the Texas Horns Sunday - 3:50pm

"Mitch Woods...gives heart and soul to jump blues... Woods sings with smooth ebullience and hammers the piano keys with the unchecked gaiety of mentors Professor Longhair and Amos Milburn." — Frank-John Hadley, Downbeat

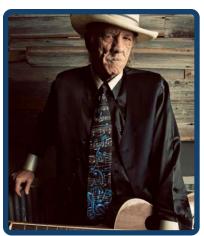
Mitch Woods and His Rocket 88s have been the torchbearers of a great American blues musical heritage, not for three years but close to three decades. Taking their inspiration from the great jump n' boogie outfits of the late 40s and early 50s, they breathe fresh life into the music that gave birth to rock n' roll.

Woods styled his group after the jumpin' n' jivin', shoutin' n' honkin', pumpin' n' poundin' bands of Louis Jordan, Wynonie Harris, Joe and Jimmy Liggins, Amos Milburn, and Roy Milton. Adding a healthy dose of New Orleans rhythm and blues, piledrivin' piano, and some of his own contemporary playful

lyrics, Woods and His Rocket 88s forge their own brand of music they call "rock-a-boogie.

As Phillip Elwood of the SF Examiner said, "Few pianists around have better captured the definitive boogie-blues, eight-to-the bar styles of Albert Ammons, Pete Johnson, Otis Spann, Meade Lux Lewis...and all the rest – Woods is one of them"

Mitch and his Rocket 88's have been to the Edmonton Blues Festival on a few occasions, playing to thunderous applause. This time round, they team up with The Texas Horns for a no holds barred boogie assault for the ages!



## Watermelon Slim-Fiona Boyes Trio Sunday - 5:30pm

Fiona Boyes opens our Sunday with a solo set and then joins her friends Mark Grunden, her long time Aussie drummer, and the incomparable Watermelon Slim.

Bill "Watermelon Slim" Homans has built a remarkable reputation with his raw, impassioned intensity. HARP Magazine wrote "From sizzling slide guitar...to nitty-gritty harp blowing... to a gruff, resonating Okie twang, Slim delivers acutely personal workingman blues with both hands on the wheel of life, a bottle of hooch in his pocket, and the Bible on the passenger seat."

Watermelon Slim & The Workers garnered 17 Blues Music Award nominations in four years including a record-tying six in both 2007 & 2008. He was also our "Poster Boy" at the 2007 Edmonton Blues Festival.

Jerry Wexler called him a "one-of-a-kind pickin' n singing Okie dynamo." Slim was born in Boston, his father was a

progressive attorney and freedom rider. He was raised in North Carolina listening to the housekeeper sing John Lee Hooker songs. After enlisting to fight in Vietnam Slim was laid up in a hospital bed where he taught himself upsidedown left-handed slide guitar on a \$5 balsawood model using a triangle pick cut from a rusty coffee can top and his Army issued Zippo. lighter as the slide.

In the following 30 plus years Slim has been a truck driver, forklift operator, sawmiller, firewood salesman, collection agent, funeral officiator and at times a small time criminal. Watch him perform and you know every word is true.



#### Toronzo Cannon Sunday - 6:50pm

Chicago bluesman Toronzo Cannon defies all expectations. The blistering guitarist, soulful vocalist, singular songwriter and city bus driver fuses his muscular, rock-inspired blues guitar playing with his original, keenly detailed slice-of-life songs, blazing his own blues trail. With the 2016 release of "The Chicago Way", Cannon burst onto the international stage as one the most electrifying bluesmen to emerge from Chicago in decades. His live performances unfailingly earn him heaps of critical praise and hordes of wildly enthusiastic fans. Cannon has played major cities all over the U.S., Canada, and Europe and builds upon the foundation he's laid, creating and defining his vision of contemporary blues.

It's not about the solos," Cannon says, "It's about the songs. People get used to everyday life, so it's easy to miss the things around them. I write about those things. I know the problems of Chicago, the hardship, 'cause we're always a scapegoat. But I choose to love and respect the city because of the Chicago

blues giants that came here from down south. I'm proud to be standing on the shoulders of every great Chicago blues musician who came before me." In 2001, while continuing to work as a hired-gun guitarist, he formed his own band. By 2003, he was working exclusively as a band leader.

PBS Television's Chicago Tonight sums it up like this: "Cannon is just your typical CTA bus driver who moonlights as a sought-after Chicago blues musician. As a guitarist, singer and songwriter, he drives the sound of Chicago blues from the city to blues clubs and festivals around the world."



## Ruthie Foster Quintet Sunday - 8:30pm

In the tightknit musical community of Austin, Texas, it's tough to get away with posturing. You either bring it, or you don't.

If you do, word gets around. And one day, you find yourself duetting with Bonnie Raitt, or standing onstage with the Allman Brothers at New York's Beacon Theater and trading verses with Susan Tedeschi. You might even wind up getting nominated for a Best Blues Album Grammy — three times in a row. And those nominations would be in addition to your seven Blues Music Awards, three Austin Music Awards, the Grand Prix du Disque award from the

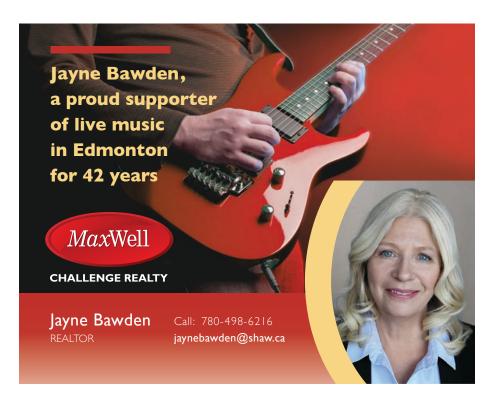
Académie Charles-Cros in France, a Living Blues Critics' Award for Female Blues Artist of the Year, and the title of an "inspiring American Artist" as a United States Artists 2018 Fellow.

There's only one Austinite with that résumé: Ruthie Foster. The small rural town of Gause, TX had no chance of keeping the vocal powerhouse known as Ruthie Foster to itself. Described by Rolling Stone as "pure magic to watch and hear," her vocal talent was elevated in worship services at her community church.

Foster has released 5 studio albums for the Blue Corn label and her latest, also on Blue Corn Music, "Live at the Paramount", released in 2020, swings back to the days (and nights) when Lady Ella sang Ellington and Sinatra blasted off with Count Basie and Quincy Jones.

For her festival closing performance Ruthie will be joined by her road-tested Quintet. An experience not to miss!









Long & McQuade
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS