



BLUE RIDGE BBQ & MUSIC FESTIVAL Entertainer Bios and Schedule

(Schedule subject to change)

Main Stage 2016

Friday June 10 - Main Stage

11:30

Opening Ceremonies

Polk County Memorial Honor Guard

National Anthem sung by Diane Lee, WSPA-TV 5 PM News Anchor

12:45

176

<http://176band.com/>

176 is an original rock band from Tryon, NC. They have just completed their first record "Enjoy The Ride...". Featuring Ian Harrod on bass and vocals, Rich Nelson on guitar, keyboards and vocals, and Marco Noto on drums and vocals, the band is ready to play! Check 'em out!

2:15

The Get Right Band

<http://thegetrightband.com/>

One of Relix Magazine's "On the Verge" picks, THE GET RIGHT BAND is "hip-shaking, earthquaking pure funk fun" (The Alternate Root). Combining catchy, clever songwriting with musical expertise and fearless improvisation, the live show promises to make you shake everything you've got. From funk to rock n' roll to reggae, this is a dance party.

4:00

Dead 27s

<http://www.dead27s.com/>

On their first ever attempt at writing together, Dead 27s came up with a batch of songs that perfectly embody the Charleston-based band's powerfully charged blend of rock-and-soul. Sprung from an all-night songwriting session on the coast of South Carolina, several of those songs made their way onto Dead 27s' acclaimed debut EP--Chase Your Devils Down. With the rest of the tracks set to appear on the band's first full length album (due out this year), Dead 27s have brought a sharp sense of songcraft to the loose but potent musicality that's propelled the band since the first time they shared a stage.

5:45

The Note Ropers

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Note-Ropers-286800585589/>

The Note Ropers are a Honky Tonk/Rockabilly band from Greenville, SC., playing authentic Honky Tonk Country combined with traditional Rockabilly to produce what they call "Honkabilly" music. The band presents with a Hank William's style Crooner strummin' backed by Upright Dawghouse bassist, Hollowbody guitar picker, Standup Non Pedal Steel guitarist, and Stand up drummer.

7:30

Blair Crimmins and The Hookers

<http://www.blaircrimminsandthehookers.com/>

Blair Crimmins began his current music career in Atlanta, Georgia, with a determination to bring Ragtime and 1920's style Dixieland Jazz to new audiences. What he created was a sound that is at once modern while being deeply rooted in the past.

Now four years, and five hundred shows later, he has toured the Eastern United States playing large venues and has opened for national acts such as Mumford & Sons and Preservation Hall Jazz Band. A multi-instrumentalist and music academic, Crimmins writes songs and arrangements for a classic New Orleans style horn section consisting of Trumpet, Clarinet, Trombone. His debut release "The Musical Stylings Of" became a college radio sensation on WRAS Atlanta making him the most requested band on the air. His last release and video "State Hotel" landed them a full feature in Creative Loafing Atlanta.

9:30

The Steepwater Band

<http://www.steepwater.com/>

Diamond Day Records has announced the release of The Steepwater Band's 6th full-length studio album SHAKE YOUR FAITH. The LP, featuring 11 brand new TSB tracks was recorded last winter at Crushtone Studios, in the shadows of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, in Cleveland, Ohio. Shake Your Faith was produced by the band along with seasoned rock studio veteran Jim Wirt, who has also worked with the likes of Fiona Apple, Incubus and the Buffalo Killers. As with most TSB albums, the sound and songwriting on Shake Your Faith has grown and expanded, yet retained the true nature of the band. It's the first TSB studio record in over 4 years and the first to include "new" guitarist Eric Saylor.

With the additional band member, the songwriting approach for this record was different than it was on past TSB albums, when they were a 3-piece. Singer/Guitarist Jeff Massey comments on the TSB songwriting process... "Each song was different. I had a few totally finished songs, or Tod would bring a complete piece of music that would need melody & lyrics. And there were also a bunch of other musical ideas coming from both Eric & Joe, which we would all hash out together." Drummer Joe Winters states "Everyone really brought ideas to the table, collaboratively, more so with Shake Your Faith, than with any other of our records. That really created a special vibe around the songs."

Saturday June 11 - Main Stage

11:30

Opening Ceremonies

Polk County Memorial Honor Guard

National Anthem sung by Diane Tina Green Porter

12:00

Silver Travis

<http://silvertravis.com/>

Like the mythical phoenix, Silver Travis rose from the ashes of the past a few years ago, and they have been burning brightly ever since. These southern boys have a firm grip on the reality of the music business, but they refuse to give up on that old rock and roll dream. For Silver Travis, it's all about the music. The music they all love.

Originally formed in Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1981, the group spent several years playing throughout the South, honing their skills in venues like Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium and the world famous Bowery in Myrtle Beach (home of the legendary Alabama.)

During the eighties, the band shared the stage with bands likes of George Hatcher Band and 38 Special, often jamming with friends like Artimus Pyle (Lynyrd Skynyrd), members of The Marshall Tucker Band and other friends.

Silver Travis broke up in the mid 80's, but in 2005 reunited to record their first album "One Monkey Don't Spoil the Show." With the success of the album, the band received international exposure and CD sales. The debut CD received favorable reviews in Bands Of Dixie magazine published in France, as well as in GRITZ music magazine. Songs from the CD have received airplay from internet based radio stations, local broadcast stations as well as appearances on the SIRIUS satellite radio network.

1:30

Aaron Burdett Band

www.aaronburdett.com

Based in Saluda, storyteller and musician Aaron Burdett shares an appreciation for the simple pleasures of life through his music. Burdett released his 4th album, Breathing Underwater, on September 11th, 2012. Building on the traditions of the finest performing songwriters such as John Hiatt, James Taylor, Cat Stevens, and John Prine, Aaron's music blends folk-rock, bluegrass, and blues with pop sensibilities. His honest songwriting pours in between hammer-on chord changes and rolling crosspicking rhythms, all the while keeping at the forefront his own unique sound and authentic voice.

After successfully raising \$9000 through Kickstarter, Burdett and his band (Will Jernigan on bass and Billy Seawell on drums), took to Hollow Reed Studios to record with producer Chris Rosser. This is the first album where vocalist Burdett performs on his electric guitar as well as acoustic. Guest musicians include Casey Driessen on fiddle, Andy Pond on banjo and cajon, Brian Swenk on banjo and Chris Rosser on keys. Breathing Underwater has been well received by the Americana community, and was voted #10 in the regional releases category and #51 overall on WNCW's Top 100 list of 2012 releases.

3:15

Forlorn Strangers

<http://www.forlornstrangers.com/>

Forlorn Strangers is a Nashville based Americana quintet, with members hailing from the great states of Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania & Minnesota. The band includes five songwriters, each having their own distinct sounds and styles that blend into one cohesive voice. Their music is rooted in family harmonies and flavored with guitars, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, dobro, and foot stomping percussion.

Members of the band are sisters Abigail Dempsey (fiddle, percussion, vocals) and Hannah Dempsey Lusk (mandolin, percussion, vocals); along with Chris Banke (guitar, mandolin, vocals), Benjamin Lusk (banjo, guitar, vocals), and Jesse Thompson (upright bass, dobro, guitar, vocals). Since 2013, Forlorn Strangers has released two EPs (While the Grass Grows and American Magic Tricks) and has toured continuously across the United States, playing for an ever increasing group of appreciative fans.

Forlorn Strangers recently wrapped up production on their first full length release, which was recorded at John Prine's Nashville studio, The Butcher Shoppe and produced by Grammy winner Phil Madeira. In 2015, Forlorn Strangers played over 180 shows, including dates with Anti Records' Sean Rowe. They're planning for a July release and have already booked some notable festival slots for summer 2016 including (in addition to the Blue Ridge BBQ & Music Festival) Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion, Homegrown Music Festival and the Albino Skunk Festival, with more dates being added every week.

5:00

The Trongone Band

<http://www.trongoneband.com/>

Rapidly gaining momentum with a sound that falls perfectly between southern Rock 'n' Soul and Americana Jam, The Trongone Band is turning heads and making an impact on the east coast music scene. Formed as a family and by brothers Andrew and Johnny with father John Sr. on bass, The Trongone Band enlisted much sought-after keyboardist Ben "Wolfe" White and quickly began packing various venues around Richmond, VA. With the addition of Wolfe, they entrenched their footprint on the city with a Thursday night residency at Cary Street Cafe, pushing the popular music room to maximum capacity for two straight years.

Spreading their musical wings, it wasn't long before The Trongone Band procured a devout fan base and began making their name in neighboring cities, including sell-out shows in Blacksburg and Harrisonburg. Recently the band brought on award-winning bassist Todd Herrington to solidify their touring lineup. Herrington adds a crucial dimension of deep pocket groove and funk to the already seasoned unit.

7:00

Sister Sparrow and The Dirty Birds

<http://www.sistersparrow.com/>

For nearly two decades, the Catskill Mountains hid rock 'n' roll's best kept secret. Then one day, singer and songwriter Arleigh Kincheloe said goodbye to her hometown hideaway and moved to New York City to start the hard soul collective, Sister Sparrow & The Dirty Birds. "Our music is loud, fun, and it's supposed to make you feel good," she declares. "That's the goal."

They've released three full-length studio albums, including their most recent studio pass, the acclaimed *The Weather Below*. Now, Sister Sparrow & The Dirty Birds will finally appease its flock of devotees by releasing its first live album – *Fowl Play*. The album was recorded on New Year's Eve before a raucous, sold-out crowd in Fairfield, Connecticut and was the beautiful, accidental result of an original New Year's Eve plan gone awry. After losing their New Year's Eve gig just weeks before the big night, the band made proverbial lemonade, securing an alternate venue at the last moment, packing the house, putting on their biggest party to date and recording it for the world to hear.

9:00

FIREWORKS!

9:15

The Marcus King Band

<http://www.marcuskingband.com/>

Young songwriter Marcus King's debut album, *Soul Insight*, out now via Warren Haynes' Evil Teen records, displays his stunning command of rock, blues, psychedelia, funk, soul and improvisation—all with a distinctly southern musical accent.

Thanks to his father, blues-gospel musician Marvin, and his grandfather, Bill, a performer and mentor to other musicians, King grew up with blues and country music.

"From a really young age, I was always banging around on something," King said. "I really knew what I wanted to do, almost immediately. I had a real strong passion towards it."

King's talents and trajectory have already led his band across the country, and he's opening shows for the Foo Fighters, Johnny Winter and, of course, Gov't Mule and its leader, Warren Haynes. King emerged from his native Greenville, South Carolina, and its sister city, Asheville, North Carolina, where Haynes was born. He hit Haynes' radar thanks to the reputation the young artist has earned with his incendiary live performances.

Friday June 10 – Riverside Stage

12:00

Jack Roper Magic Show

<http://wspa.com/2013/03/27/jack-roper/>

The one-and-only Jack Roper is well known to any NC/SC inhabitant who keeps up with the news and weather. For more than 20 years he has served our area as a reporter, weatherman and children's performer. We are excited to welcome Jack back to start our Festival entertainment off right for the kiddos with his one-of-a-kind magic show!

2:00

Larry Hoskinson

<https://www.reverbnation.com/katieandlarry>

A duo whose natural chemistry creates music as diverse as The Beatles, as thoughtful as Carol King, and perfectly matched as Johnny Cash and June Carter, Katie and Larry met each other in September of 2010 during a musical gig at Brown Street Club in downtown Greenville, SC. The two were introduced to each other on stage and performed together before they even had their first conversation. From there they began a strong musical connection. They spent many hours on Katie's couch sharing music and writing together. Their friendship flourished along with the music they shared, and that December they performed their first gig at Brown Street Club as a duo. Their music continued to evolve and expand in all the genres over 2011.

3:30

Riyen Roots & Kenny Dore

<http://www.rootsanddore.com/>

Riyen Roots and Kenny Dore are one of the busiest performing acoustic blues duos in the US. Having played 120+ shows in 2015. Currently recording new cd with special guest appearances by good friends "Steady Rolling" Bob Margolin, and Grammy winner David Holt, both have done shows with Roots and Dore shows here in the Carolinas

5:00

Jim Peterman Quartet

Since moving to Tryon in 1994, Jim Peterman has become a "guiding light for many musicians in this area," according to the *Tryon Daily Bulletin* in a feature story in February 2014. He has his own group, The Jim Peterman Quartet which plays rhythm and blues and "a funky, fine jazz." He began playing with the Shane Pruitt Band in 2005, and though the two bands have very different styles, according to the *Bulletin* "Peterman knows how to blend." The local paper goes on to recount Peterman's time as the original keyboardist for the Steve Miller Band, a group that played at the Monterey Pop Festival. The article reports that Peterman visited England with the group in 1968 to record their debut album "Children of the Future."

6:30

The Antibodies with The Pulse

Saturday June 12 - Riverside Stage

12:30

Carolina Express

<https://www.facebook.com/Jonah-Riddle-Carolina-Express-1554841958088835/>

Carolina Express was formed by brothers Jonah and Grayson Riddle. Jonah is 16, and Grayson is 11.

Growing up in the mountains of western North Carolina, Jonah has been playing the banjo for 4-1/2 years. From the first time he picked up the instrument, he fell in love. He started out playing at church three times a week. Because he enjoys bluegrass and gospel music so much, he decided to start his own band – Jonah Riddle & Carolina Express. Jonah's brother, Grayson, plays guitar and does vocals. He has been playing guitar for almost 2 years. From the time he was only 5 years old, he would pick the guitar at church services. Jonah and Grayson credit the Lord for their playing and singing talent. Their dad, Benjie Riddle, plays the upright bass.

Jonah and Grayson have had the privilege of picking on stage with many great artists: Doyle Lawson, Darin & Brooke Aldridge, Balsam Range, Ralph Stanley II, Nu Blue, Ricky Skaggs, J.D. Crowe, and Kody Norris. They have performed at many concerts and venues across the country, including: The Ryman Auditorium Courtyard, the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh, Woodsongs, the Lyric Theatre in Kentucky, Houstonfest, the Orchard at Altapass, the North Carolina State Bluegrass Festival, Bluegrass First Class in Asheville, North Carolina, the Earl Scruggs Center, the Pickin' Porch, the Museum of Appalachia and at the Carter Fold. Jonah and Grayson are also members of Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars and have performed at IBMA Kids on Bluegrass in Raleigh, North Carolina.

They have won several awards during the time they have been performing such as Best of Show and individual awards for playing their instruments as well. Jonah is currently endorsed by Deering Banjos, GHS Strings and Peterson tuners. Jonah and Grayson give God all of the credit for the wonderful opportunities that He allows them to have.

2:00

Brooks Dixon Band

<https://www.facebook.com/brooksdixonmusic>

Brooks Dixon began his career as a solo artist as a student at Clemson University. He began writing his own music, and began to record his songs with home equipment. After his first show in 2012 at Moe Joe's Coffee Company in Clemson, SC, he began to take his music more seriously, leading to his first release "Stone Pile EP" in 2014.

Since the release Brooks has played numerous shows throughout the southeast with a list of venues, festivals, bars and coffee shops as diverse as his music itself. Dixon's sound is influenced by a wide range of musicians, deeply rooted in folk-pop icons like Bob Dylan and James Taylor, yet also including elements of bluegrass, funk music, blues, and soul. Much like his versatile voice, Dixon finds a full sound playing by himself with guitar, harmonica, and his homemade foot drum, or with a full band.

3:30

The Matt Fassas Trip

<http://www.mattfassas.com/>

WARNING. The music of Matt Fassas is intended for MUSIC LISTENERS ONLY. If you are looking for passive uninteresting background noise, then go on to the next artist. Fassas is a musician born and raised in rural Eastern Kentucky, in the heart of bluegrass country. After expanding his horizons and studying classical and jazz music through his college years, he moved his efforts to Upstate South Carolina in 2008 to find himself becoming a full time guitarist for hire. He continued to hone his songwriting craft until finally self-releasing his first solo album, For When You Don't Sleep, in 2012, an outwardly acoustic adventure seated in blues but reaching far into the realm of alternative and beyond. Since that album's release MF has continued to climb into the spotlight as one of Greenville's familiar faces of the stage, and tours venues and festivals from Charleston all the way up to the Ohio River.

5:00

Diamond Bullet

<https://www.facebook.com/diamondbulletnc/>

Columbus, NC based Funk/Soul/Fusion dynamos. Guaranteed to get weird every time.

6:30

Dog Whistle

<http://www.dogwhistleusa.com/>

These boys are done proving anything to anybody. They have already done that. Now it is plain to see that it is all about the music and nothing more. They want to present the song as it was intended with respect for the greats who wrote and performed them back in the day.

Based in western North Carolina, one can hear the landscape of Appalachia, the dust of Texas, and the streets of Nashville in everything they do. They carry little bits of them in their memories and in their stories—stories that are at least based in truth, but no doubt seasoned with southern exaggeration like a fine gumbo. They are happy to remember and tell them.