



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Six More Performers Announced for 78<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival

Salisbury, MD – The National Folk Festival has just announced six more performers who will be among those featured at the 78<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival taking place over the weekend of September 7- 9, 2018, in downtown Salisbury. Presented FREE to the public, the Festival is a national showcase for America's finest traditional artists, and will feature over 350 artists—musicians, dancers, craftspeople, storytellers, and other tradition bearers—with more than 35 different groups performing on the Festival's seven stages.

"The festival offers so many experiences packed into one weekend—there's no other event quite like it. It's a whirlwind 'grand tour' of American musical and cultural traditions." said Julia Olin, executive director of the National Council for the Traditional Arts. "Walking from stage to stage, you can enter new and completely different musical worlds, plus there's the food, the crafts marketplace, Chesapeake folklife, and family activities. There really is 'something for everyone' at this festival."

New stage performers announced include:

- **Albert Lee** (Malibu, California) – rockabilly  
Nicknamed "Mr. Telecaster," this rockabilly guitar icon is noted for his unique picking technique, melodic sensibilities, and lightning speed.
- **The Bing Brothers Band feat. Jake Krack** (Marlinton and Huntington, West Virginia) – old-time string band  
One of the Mountain State's finest old-time bands ably carries on their Appalachian musical legacy with a rousing, hard-driving style.

In addition to the continuous performances on festival stages, festivalgoers will discover an eclectic and exciting mix of interactive performances and activities **in the Family Area and throughout the festival grounds** that provide engaging, fun, and educational experiences for children and families. Featured artists include:

- **Dancing On Air Crew** (Charleston, South Carolina) – b-boying  
Gravity-defying head spins, twirling windmills, and rapid-fire footwork are hallmarks of this urban dance style that lies at the core of hip hop culture.
- **Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars** (Greenbelt, Maryland) – precision jump rope team  
A young champion precision jump rope team with dazzling acrobatic moves, agility, speed, style, and a positive message.
- **Jeghetto** (Chapel Hill, North Carolina) – puppetry

Recycled materials take on life as astonishing 21<sup>st</sup>-century puppets—breakdancing androids, dinosaurs, dreadlocked cellists, and more—that connect with kids of all backgrounds.

- **The Red Trouser Show** (Wilton, New Hampshire) – circus arts  
This dynamic street circus duo combines acrobatics with daring feats and nonstop laughs, and a breathtaking finale that ends high in the air.

**Photos, media, and detailed bios of artists are available at:**

[nationalfolkfestival.com/performers](http://nationalfolkfestival.com/performers)

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### **About the 78th National Folk Festival in Salisbury, 2018**

Produced by the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) and the City of Salisbury, with a host of local, state and national partners and supporters, the National Folk Festival begins its three-year residency in downtown Salisbury this year, its 78th year, from September 7 – 9, 2018. The FREE, three-day event is America's longest-running festival of traditional arts; celebrating the best of nation and best of Maryland, it will set the stage for a continuing festival in 2021, after the "National" moves on.

### **About the National Folk Festival**

Since it was first presented in St. Louis in 1934, the National Folk Festival, the NCTA's flagship event, has celebrated the roots, richness, and variety of American culture. Championed in its early years by Eleanor Roosevelt, it was the first event of national stature to present the arts of many nations, races, and languages on equal footing. It was also the first to present to the public musical forms such as the blues, Cajun music, polka, Tex-Mex *conjunto*, Peking Opera, and many others. Today, the National is an exuberant traveling festival, produced by the NCTA in partnership with communities around the country, that embraces the diverse cultural expressions that define us as a people in the 21st century.

[www.nationalfolkfestival.com](http://www.nationalfolkfestival.com)

### **About the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA)**

A leading non-profit in the field, the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) is dedicated to the presentation and documentation of folk and traditional arts in the U.S. Stressing excellence and authenticity, the NCTA presents the nation's finest traditional artists in major festivals, tours, concerts, workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions, media productions, school programs, cross-cultural exchanges, and other activities. It works in partnership with American communities to establish new, sustainable traditional arts events that deliver lasting social, cultural, and economic benefits. Over 7,000 hours of the NCTA's archival audio recordings dating from the 1930s are permanently housed at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The NCTA champions the interests of folk and traditional artists and organizations in the arena of public policy. [www.ncta-usa.org](http://www.ncta-usa.org)

### **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. 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. Led by a dynamic mayor, 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 National Folk Festival is the perfect catalyst to further a cultural renaissance and urban renewal. [www.salisbury.md](http://www.salisbury.md)