



## MEDIA RELEASE

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Photos, media, and detailed bios of artists are available at:  
[nationalfolkfestival.com/performers](http://nationalfolkfestival.com/performers)

## Next Four Performers Announced for 78<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival

Salisbury, MD – The National Folk Festival has released the fourth group of performers who will be among those featured at the 2018 Festival, which will take place over the weekend of September 7 – 9 in downtown Salisbury. The 78<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival in 2018 marks the first year of the event's three-year residency in Salisbury. Over 350 artists—musicians, dancers, storytellers, and craftspeople—will take part in the National Folk Festival, with more than 35 different groups performing on the Festival's seven outdoor performance venues.

"The word 'folk' can mean different things to different people, so some may be surprised to learn that National Folk Festival performances feature everything from bluegrass to beatboxing, from *mariachi* to Middle Eastern, from Appalachian to Asian, and much more," said Julia Olin, executive director of the National Council for the Traditional Arts. "The Festival embraces all of America's cultural communities, presenting the best of the best. Prepare to be 'wowed.'"

The latest group of artists announced include:

- **Nicolae Feraru** (Chicago, Illinois) – Romanian *cimbalom*  
Stunning virtuosity and deep musical passion have made this master of the *cimbalom* a revered figure in Chicago's Eastern European communities.
- **Rahzel** (New York, New York) – beatboxing  
Redefining the possibilities of the human voice, this one-time member of The Roots sparked a beatbox renaissance.
- **Tremé Brass Band** (New Orleans, Louisiana) – New Orleans brass band  
From the storied Tremé neighborhood, and firmly rooted in community parade traditions, one of the Crescent City's most beloved brass bands.
- **Yves Lambert Trio** (Montreal, Québec) – *Québécois*  
Led by a towering figure in traditional *Québécois* music, this brilliant trio mines the rich musical heritage of "La belle province" to create a one-of-a-kind musical experience.

Over a dozen people of different backgrounds—and with a deep knowledge of music and art forms—came together from across Delmarva to serve as the local Musical Programming Advisory Committee. This committee's role is to consider—and help the [National Council for the Traditional Arts](http://National Council for the Traditional Arts) (NCTA) select—the artists who will perform at the National Folk Festival each

year. To learn more about these artists and their stories, please visit [nationalfolkfestival.com/performers](http://nationalfolkfestival.com/performers). More performers will be announced as they are confirmed.

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#### **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)