



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**DATE:** June 29, 2021

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## **Another Six Artists Announced for 80<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival**

SALISBURY, MD – Today festival organizers announced another six performers who will be featured at the 80<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival. The festival returns to Salisbury September 10-12, 2021, with performances, special family and Maryland folklife programming, diverse food and beverage offerings, and more—all presented free to the public on outdoor stages located in the heart of the city's recently revitalized downtown. This year's event will mark the celebration of the 80th National Folk Festival as well as the third year of the National's residency in Salisbury.

"In announcing these artists, we have added rich layers to the story we will tell at this year's festival about the wellsprings of tradition and creativity found in the country's many cultural communities," said Lora Bottinelli, executive director of the National Council for the Traditional Arts. "Whether a historic, pioneering gospel ensemble, an exquisite ambassador for Argentina's national dance, or an ensemble that offers a snapshot of the remarkable talent and friendship that thrives in Irish American music, there will be plenty to celebrate when we are 'together again' in September."

The National Folk Festival strives to present the nation's very finest traditional artists. Music and dance traditions from every part of the country are represented—blues, rockabilly, gospel, jazz, polka, tamburitza, cowboy, bluegrass, klezmer, R&B, old-time, Cajun, rhythm and blues, mariachi, beatbox, breakin', western swing, honky-tonk, and zydeco, as well as traditional music and dance from Native American, Celtic, Acadian, Middle Eastern, Caribbean, Asian, Appalachian, Latino, Eastern European, African, and Pacific Island cultures, among others. The six artists announced today include:

**Héctor Del Curto's Tango Quartet** (New York, New York) – Argentine tango

The elegant, subtle, and intensely passionate Argentine music and dance called tango could find no higher expression than the superb artistry of this bandoneónist and his ensemble.

**Panfilo's Güera** (San Antonio, Texas) – Tejano conjunto fiddle

Single handedly keeping alive the conjunto fiddle tradition is the foremost practitioner of this art form that expresses the deep roots of Tejano culture on the Texas-Mexico border.

**Spencer Taylor & the Highway QC's** (Washington, D.C.) – gospel

Audiences will feel their spirits lifted by this gospel mainstay with over 70 years of ministering in song, known for their tight vocal harmonies and hard-driving rhythm section.

**Springfield Exit** (Winchester, Virginia) – bluegrass and traditional country

This exceptional ensemble of award-winning musicians, led by a powerhouse vocalist, combines bluegrass and country with sounds stemming from their Appalachian roots.

**The Irish American All-Stars** (Chicago; Detroit; Boston; Bristol, Vermont; and Asheville, North Carolina) – Irish

Though accurate to call this collection of artists a supergroup of Irish American music, it would be just as truthful to describe them as five longtime friends thrilled to perform together again.

**Zuni Olla Maidens** (Zuni, New Mexico) – Zuni dance and song

These dancers transform their foremothers’ essential, life-giving work of carrying water—in vessels called *olla* balanced on their heads—into a reverent dance tradition.

The National Folk Festival debuted in Salisbury in 2018, and the city’s tenure as host city was scheduled to conclude in 2020, until the 80th National was postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus.

To learn more about these artists and their stories, please visit [nationalfolkfestival.com/performers](http://nationalfolkfestival.com/performers).

The National Folk Festival will feature individual artists on Facebook ([facebook.com/NFFMaryland](https://facebook.com/NFFMaryland)), Twitter ([twitter.com/NFFMaryland](https://twitter.com/NFFMaryland)), and Instagram ([instagram.com/nffmaryland](https://instagram.com/nffmaryland)) throughout the summer.

More performers will be announced as they are confirmed.

**Performer photos may be downloaded here:**

<https://bit.ly/35XCCf0>

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

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

Since it was first presented in St. Louis in 1934, the National Folk Festival, the National Council for the Traditional Arts’ (NCTA) 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, a polka band, 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. <https://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. <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. <http://www.salisbury.md>