

MBF 2018 Band Bios (Complete)

Mark Persky – Grand Master of Ceremonies	Radio and television personality Mark Persky remains possibly the most recognizable voice in Maine broadcast media and is a passionate devotee of the blues. He has been with the Festival since its inception in 2006, and also serves as the MBF Official Spokesperson. After many years entertaining on radio and television, he continues on-air at a quaint, strange Yarmouth station, WYAR 88.3 FM, inflicting “Mark and The Big Show” upon the Earth.
Annmarie Smith	Annmarie Smith has been carving out her niche in the Northern New England music scene since 1997. Her pleasingly eclectic style is built on her unique vocals, subtle finger picking, and uncanny slide guitar licks. In addition to her original material, she mines the rich history of the blues making each song unmistakably her own.
AO and the KO’s (new band)	Andy Oliver began six-stringing the blues and R&B in Maine with Pepper Joyce’s <i>The Sensations</i> . Ed Coyne has been performing throughout New England since the early ‘80’s and has performed with Peter Gleason’s <i>Legends</i> for many years. Drummer Bob Barton, originally from NYC, settled in Southern Maine and played with his brother, John Barton in the <i>Friendly River Band</i> . Special guest Mark Gunter on keyboard heard <i>The Doors</i> when he was in middle school and said, “I want to do that!”
Bad Daddy	Front man, Paul Waring, the Bad Daddy, remains a Mainebased musician and guardian of the blues. Founding member of The Bad Daddys in 2006, the electric blues-rock Waring makes continues on in his special unapologetic style to this day. It’s original blues with distinctive ties to the roots and his love of the genre since a child. There’s a distinctive sharp and gritty production that sizzles and burns!
Ball Brothers Band	The Ball Brothers Band are the real thing and they have the mileage (and blues) to prove it! The band is comprised of Kenny Howard (guitar), Scott Kennagh (guitar), Clay Abbott (bass), Ronny Mills (drums) and area solo-artist Brad Hooper (vocals.) What sets this band apart from the pack is the way they make you feel. It is very plain to see they love hanging out, jamming for their friends and laughing at the world.
Bellamy Jazz Band	The Bellamy Jazz Band plays a loose, jammin' Chicago-style jazz ranging from Preservation Hall to prehistoric swing, jazz ballads, dance hall tunes, and just a suggestion that they have heard the rock and roll. Together for over 28 years, they play New Orleans and Chicago Jazz and swing with a wild vitality and loving irreverence. A Maine favorite, this eight piece band has won popularity awards eight years in a row.

Big G and the Rhino	Glen “ Big G.” Rogers, Gary “Rhino” Searles & Matt “theBass” Cornell combine our passion for music to bring Traditional and Contemporary Blues to the ears of our friends and fans from Maine and elsewhere. While keeping tradition alive, we add our own spices to make it something a little different.
Black Cat Road	Funky, soulful, emotional, rootsy blues and more: The powerful voice of Jessica Moore Hines (“Jesse Mae”) whips the band into a frenzy and slaughters the audience. Comprised of Maine blues veterans Steve “the Ice Man” Bailey on guitar, Kate Seavey on bass, Don Reed on keys and Kenny Chapman on drums, Black Cat Road makes hips shake and jaws drop!
Blue Steel Express	This year the ‘Express will again include several special guests in a wide-ranging “blues revue” showcase! Formed in 1993, the 'Express is comprised of MBF Co-Founder Kevin Kimball, Deb Danuski, Bub Lynch, Jim Palmer, Mike Vaughan, Ralph Thompson, Kate Campbell Straus and Mike Wingfield. The band features tight arrangements of blues standards, Brit-blues, and original material built around Deb's vocals, Kevin's slide playing, and classy presentation.
Blue Velvet Moon	Old songs with a new touch. Amy Jenson on lead vocals and guitar, and its Jeff Wright on harmonica, trumpet and vocals. Some changes were made to our rhythm section and this year we have Kit Demos on upright bass and vocals.
Blues In The Works	What do you get when you team up three BIW workers with three other seasoned musicians? Blues In the Works! With a triple-threat guitar section, this group has an “in your face” style. The line-up features vocalist Sue Beauchesne, Pat Hynes, guitar & lead vocals, Mark Pendleton, sax, Ed Eldredge, guitar & vocals, Jim Palmer, bass & vocals and Larry Beauchesne, drums.

Bluzology 101 NEW BAND!	Bluzology plays Chicago to West Coast to Delta Blues, from upbeat dance-able Jump Blues to soulful rhythm and blues to ripping funk jams. The band features Bruce Emery on harp and vocals, internationally-known guitarist Peter Michelini , guitarist Andre “Sleepy Fingers” Couture and holding down the backbeat is local bass master Marty Lynch and Russ Oakes on drums. A great addition is local favorite Chris Velletri on sax.
Breakfast NEW BAND!	A young blues quartet from all over Southern Maine, featurin Roberts, the guitar guru from Gorham, who spends his time g grasslands and making pizza for the whole town; Darien McM static man of electricity, and a connoisseur of thunder with th Justin Wordel, the man with the plan on bass knows how to c riff and jam with it; and finally, Noah Watts, the Innovative, c Stratocaster kinda guy who sings a little.

British Yankees	THE BRITISH YANKEES put on a dynamic show which chronicles the history of British blues throughout the 60's....how it arrived in England and how it developed and was ultimately brought back to the states by people such as Clapton, Beck, Mayall, Fleetwood Mac, Cream, Yardbirds etc. Frontman Vernon Northover, guitar and vocals, played in blues bands in the UK during this period and experienced the metamorphosis first hand !!
Bruce Marshall	Bruce Marshall's music career spans 6 decades and over 8 thousands shows. Known equally well for his riveting band shows with the Bruce Marshall Group and his soulful, heartfelt solo performances, he's also half of the acoustic duo with bluesman James Montgomery. A tireless performer armed with great originals, an expressive, soulful voice and a commanding guitar style, he's earned a reputation as one of New England's best.
Buck Street Blues (new band)	Buck Street Blues will amaze and entertain you with songs of: love lost and how to find it again; rent issues; letting go issues; ground hogs; Wild Turkey; roads less traveled; redemption (finding your groove again); a '49 Mercury; girls gone wild; the Commodore Hotel; train impersonations; and, of course, fishing. BSB is: Jeff Christiansen (JC) - slide, fingerstyle and blues guitar; Ronda Dale (RD) - bass, vocals and effervescence; Jere "LuncPail" DeWaters (JD) - harp, washboard, vocals, and Maine Central, Bangor and Aroostook, and Lionel train whistles.
Continental Shakedown (new band)	Blues Power Trio from central Maine featuring Ken Goodman - guitars & vocals (Bluesbarn, Brookside Blues Band), bassist and vocalist Charlie Bradburry, and blues veteran Steve Kaulback - drums & vocals (Arlo West and the LA Bluesmen)
Curbside Blues	A Maine Blues Busking Duo Matt Foster and Randy Visser will find their favorite curbs along the bustling streets of Naples again this year. Both men love the intimate story telling opportunities of street busking. Call out a favorite tune or join in for some group harmonizing. Tell us your favorite blues tales and we'll break in to the perfect soundtrack. If it's blues...we'll play it, or let you experience your own inner-busker.
Dave Mello	Dave Mello has been performing professionally for over forty years including tours in the 1970s with Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, and the Staples Singers. His unique style of blues is marked by meticulous guitar work matched with spot-on passionate vocals.

Delta Knights	The Delta Knights were one of the first bands to represent the State of Maine in the International Blues Challenge in 1996. Led by founder Rob Babson the 'Knights are one of the most sought-after bands in the state. The band also includes Darren Whitney on sax, Brian Hodgman on drums, and Justin Maxwell on bass
Denny Breau	Legendary guitar master Denny Breau is the gold-standard by which other guitarists measure themselves. His recording credits include numerous albums by national blues acts, and he is one of the most in-demand guitar teachers in the state. Once again Denny offers a liveperformance must-see for musicians and blues fans alike.
Don Brewer Blues Project (new band)	An all-original blues band from the northeast USA, founded by Southport, Maine native Don Brewer. The band incorporates both west coast blues and Chicago styles into its original sound. The end result is gritty, swinging, jukejoint high energy blues. The band features Don Brewer – lead guitar, vocals, Jeff Ramsdell – bass, and Jake Sawyer – drums.
Double Entendre	Double Entendre is Jeff Levesque and Cheryl Mercer. Cheryl is the featured vocalist and has over 25 years experience in musical theatre and studio recording in Memphis and Nashville in various genres of music. Jeff is the multi-instrumentalist and is from Greene, Maine and his background includes years of studio and stage work in Los Angeles.
Downeast Soul Coalition	Downeast Soul Coalition is a high energy, groove-driven blend of Blues, R&B, Soul and Funk. Formed in 2012, DSC is anchored by bassist/frontman Scott Morrison and features guitarists Nelson Nadeau, saxophonist Kate Campbell Strauss, Michelle Kingston on horn, keyboardist Mike Vaughan and drummer Nancy Durham. This band will grab you by the ears, break you a sweat and groove ya crazy!
Dr Dann and the Brothers Blues Band	Dr. Dann and The Brothers Blues Band have played together for two decades at local venues in both Maine and New Hampshire. They are well known for their blend of classic blues and rock that includes BB King, Eric Clapton, Muddy Waters, Howlin Wolf and Buddy Guy among others. The band uses its hard driving, heartfelt expression to ignite instruments and listeners alike into a blues frenzy.
Ed Murphy and Tom Hanes (new band)	Long time veteran of the Maine Blues Festival, Ed will be playing acoustic Country Blues on 12 string and slide guitars. In the latter part of the program, he will be joined by harmonica player extraordinaire, Thom Hanes.

Electric Pork Chop (new band)	The Electric Porkchop has a deep appreciation for the blues pioneers of the 60's, and classic blues rock of the early 70's. Featuring a dual lead guitar attack, The Porkchop can lay down old school blues rock with the best of them!
Frank Fotusky (new band)	Frank Fotusky plays acoustic blues in the style reminiscent of the great East Coast "Piedmont" players such as Rev. Gary Davis, Blind Boy Fuller, John Jackson, and Blind Willie McTell. The majority of his material is culled from the 20's, 30's and 40's and acoustic blues and guitar rags are the foundation of his music.
High Test Rolling Cage Revue (new band)	Hi Test is a group of Maine based blues veterans that assembles every Wednesday evening at La Cage in Lewiston, Maine from 7-11 PM. Consisting of Steve Bailey on guitar and vocals, Krister Rollins on bass, Brian Hodgman on drums and new kid on the block Chris Velletri on sax and vocals, Hi Test opens with 40 minutes of classic blues, then opens the floor to jammers. The Hi Test jam is geared to individual participation as opposed to showcasing bands. The goal is to help individuals develop the necessary tools to successfully integrate with other like-minded enthusiasts with little or no preparation. We believe the language of the blues is truly universal.
jc and the Steady Rollers (new band)	With jc, it's all about hot tunes with strong vocals-no filler added.The Steady Rollers cover a lot of roots music territory: urban and country blues, smooth blues, rough blues, blues that tells a story. Along with jc (Jeff Christiansen) on vocal and guitar are: "Rockin" Ronda Dale, vocals and percussion, Bruce "Wailin'" Couillard on sax, "Low-Down Al" Obler on bass and the Fabulous Dave Ellis on drums. The Steady Rollers
JLD Project	The JLD PROJECT plays a collaboration of originals that range from old school blues to 70s blues rock, and features a great range of vocals and cool groove make this a band to see! Band members include: Tom Dube - Electric Guitar/Vocals, Pete Ladd - Acoustic Guitar/Vocals, David Hodgkins – Bass, Mike Hall - Acoustic Guitar, and Dennis Buzzell - Drums
Johnny Costa Rica (new band)	Singer and Harmonica player John Rousseau has brought together some of Maine's most talented musicians this to bring you some amazing music. Guitarist Stefan Iris, of the Juke Joint Devils is known for serving up energy, taste and tone. Mark Napoleon of the Tone Kings, a highly sought after player, will be playing keyboard. Gerry Byrne, a former finalist in the Road to Memphis, will be holding down the bottom with his upright. Per Hansen (formerly w/ Ronnie Earle), will be sitting in on drums. Finally, John Rousseau will get you dancing and smiling with his story telling style of singing, and his high energy harp riffs

Juke Joint Devils	The 'Devils are an "Old School" jump and swing blues band whose musical style draws heavily from Chicago, Memphis and New Orleans blues music of the 1950's and modern "West Coast" style of today. Founding member Tommy O'Connell, vocals and blues harp, was a finalist in the 2011 International Blues Challenge. He is backed up by the smoking dual guitarists Jimmy Junkins and George Stamboulis, Duane Edwards on upright bass and blues veteran Mike Murphy on drums
Justin Lindsay and Bunk	Justin Lindsay and Bunk plays a high energy rootsy mix with a focus on the best of Chicago blues. Justin is a 16 year old guitar wiz who started appearing at the MBF and NABF, playing with seasoned pros, when he was 11! The band features new vocalist Rose Curly along with Thom Hanes, harp and vocals and the hard-hitting rhythm section of Eric Sawyer and Steve Pisani.
Larry Peterson Blues Project	With 54 years behind the kit, Larry Peterson has seen and done it all! Originally from Norfolk, Virginia; he has since toured or played with some of the finest acts in the country including, Wilson Williams and The Platters, Bo Diddley, and Tab Benoit. The band includes Jerry Smith, guitar, Todd Corey, bass, and John Donahoe, sax.
LRHS Jazz Band (new band)	The Lake Region High School Jazz Band is a wonderful group of dedicated, enthusiastic students who perform a variety of classic jazz standards. Under the direction of Sarah Foster, this new ensemble covers some of the staple Latin, blues, funk, rock, and swing charts of the big band era, as well as some more modern arrangements of recent classics. The Sweet Creams Jazz Combo are students who work outside of jazz band to practice additional jazz repertoire in a smaller instrumental setting with a focus on improvisation.
Luther James <i>and the River Kings</i>	Luther James is the traditional “starting pitcher” for the Maine Blues Festival. He’s a master luthier (that’s a “guitarmaker”), custom blues harp microphone designer, and longtime blues jam host. When he performs at the Festival he steps out with his own distinctive brand of “slow burn” electric blues.
Mary Murphy	Maine native singer/songwriter/indie artist Mary Murphy sings from her soul to yours, accompanying herself on piano, blues harp and at times guitar and other instruments from Maine to South Carolina. She performs originals, covers select blues artists, and stylizes songs of other genres by weaving a web of jazzy blues around them.

Matt and the Barnburners	Matt & the Barnburners are three-time winners of the statewide "Road to Memphis Competition. Known for their engaging and sometimes off-the-hook live performances, the Barnburners' repertoire includes classic & modern Chicago, Texas, Memphis, and original blues. Founding member Matt Bilodeau (vocals and blues harp), and longtime member Daddy-O (guitar and vocals), are joined by Maine blues stalwart, Bub Lynch on drums, Andy Buckland on bass, and newest addition, 21 year old jazz/blues prodigy, Lindsay Mower on alto sax and vocals.
Maxwell Street	Maxwell Street members met each other at a blues jam. After spending many Saturday afternoons playing for fun in a heated garage, BOOM! Out came a solid group with a Chicago West Side blues feel. Genuine, authentic and gritty!
Memphis Lightning	Soaring high above the status quo, Memphis Lightning brings an electrifying and exciting take on America roots music. The band features Grammy- nominated drummer Darren "Big Red" Thiboutot, Maine Blues Society "Road to Memphis" winner bassist Rick "Slow Driver" McLennan, and Darren "LD" Thiboutot Jr. on guitar. So get on board with Memphis Lightning – they're a force to be reckoned with!
Mike James Blue Lions	Hard hittin' Texas electric blues delivered with a brass knuckle guitar tone at full throttle with powerful tenor sax in the mix, original songs plus blues by Freddie King, T-bone Walker, Bobby Bland, Johnny Guitar Watson, and Guitar Slim
Mike Schools and the Fish	Mike Schools And The Fish, winner of Maine Road to Memphis competition is a high energy rockin blues band that delivers a bang. Hoping to make a splash third year running at outside under the tent at Captain Jacks
Montgomery Road NEW BAND!	Montgomery Road is a six-piece rockin' outfit playing "Boomer Blues." This Lake Region favorite includes seasoned pros Dave deBree on sax, Charlotte Emery on vocals, flute, guitar and harmonica, Tim Emery on guitar, Kevin Cooper on vocals and bass, Jim O'Neil on vocals and drums, and Jack Barret on vocals, guitar and mandolin.
New Blues Revue	New Blues Revue is the traditional host of the MBF All-Star Jam. Led by Jerry Smith on guitar and vocals, the New Blues Revue also features seasoned pros Todd Corey, Krister Rollins, John Donahoe, and Larry Peterson. Together this crew will set the stage for the best part of the night: The Eleventh Annual All-Star Blues Jam at Bray's Brew Pub.

Poke Chop and the Other White Meats	He's ba-a-ack! Ron Gill (a.k.a. "Poke Chop") has returned to Maine and the Maine Blues Festival. His band features a rock-solid rhythm section comprised of blues veterans harpcat Thom "The Hurricane" Hanes, Marty Lynch on bass, Marc Perez on drums. This outfit lays down a groove that hasn't been heard since the last time the Bush Doctor was conjuring up a potent gris-gris down on the bayou. By the way, once upon a time the Blues boarded a riverboat down in New Orleans...
Poor Howard and Bullfrog	"Poor Howard" Stith has been performing for over thirty years across the U.S., Europe and Japan, entertaining audiences with his dazzling guitar, heartfelt voice, and an endless supply of anecdotes. He has shared the stage with such notable blues performers as John Jackson, Archie Edwards and Peg Leg Sam. Mike "Bullfrog" Rogers is a forty year veteran whose styles range from folk to blues, and he has opened for such performers as John Hammond, Luther "Guitar" Johnson and Emmie Lou Harris, and has appeared on over thirty CDs.
Ragged Jack	High energy roots rockabilly trio Ragged Jack has been burning up Maine stages for over three years with their tight old-school sound and on-stage acrobatics. The worldclass guitar wizardry of Corrie Bonnevie, upright bass and yodeling of Holly Marie, and the solid grooves of Maine blues scene veteran drummer Tom "the H-Bomb" Hines are sure to drive the excitement to the stratosphere!
Rebound (new band)	Rebound is a Portland, Maine-based band with a broad range of talent and musicianship. The band brings fun and great dance music to every gig. With solid vocalists the band offers great harmonies and a vast collection of covers from your favorite classic rock artists. Tunes you know and love!
Shake Dancers (new band)	Shake Dancers is a stripped-down blues duo featuring Maine blues veterans and multi-instrumentalists Tom O'Connell and Zack Pomerleau, each trading off guitar, harp and vocal duties. This is the raw stuff with the bark still on!
Soul Sensations	When Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations hit the stage, it's an instant Soul Train dance party and a History of Soul Music all wrapped up in a single package of FUN! It's a powerful mix of Old School R&B Revue complete with female backup singers, a full horn section, and a show that that will knock your socks off!

<p>Tumbledown Saints (new band)</p>	<p>The Tumbledown Saints are a 5-piece band from Maine playing blues for the people. Their influences include 1970's blues from the Three Kings (Freddie, Albert, and BB) mashed together with newer sounds from the likes of G Love & Special Sauce, Keb Mo, and Gary Clark Jr. The band features Todd Regoulinsky (vocals & harmonica) / Dave Maclean (guitar & vocals) / Jeff Foss (guitar) / John Berce (bass & vocals) / Marc Perez (drums)</p>
<p>Voodoo Clowns (new band)</p>	<p>A dynamic band spanning styles from roots to contemporary blues this driving 4 piece band is sure to scratch your blues itch. The band is primarily fronted by the combo of musical veterans Jere "Lunch Pail" DeWaters on vocals and harmonica and guitarist and vocalist Dave 'Fish' Bottom. This powerful duo is backed by one of the tightest rhythm sections around consisting of Steve Kaulback on drums and vocals and bassist Scott Morin.</p>
<p>Whoa Nelly (new band)</p>	<p>This three piece powerhouse band features a high energy song selection drawing from rock blues influences including Stevie Ray Vaughan, Buddy Guy, Jimi Hendrix and the T-Birds. Featuring the fiery, intense guitar playing of Nelson Nadeau, and tight, driving grooves anchored by Nancy Durham on drums and Scott Morrison on bass, this band will kick it into high gear from the very first note.</p>