



Reel Times

Newsletter of

The Austin Friends of Traditional Music

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AUSTIN STRING BAND FESTIVAL

DAIQUIRI QUEENS

THE JOYMAKERS • NOKOSEE FIELDS TRIO
BELEN ESCOBEDO • LOST PATTERNS
AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS • LUKE BULLA
LAST SHOT GOT HIM • THE LOST PINES
LLOYD AND APRIL • ALLEY GRASS

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CAMP BEN MCCULLOCH - DRIFTWOOD, TX - WWW.AFTM.US

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AUSTIN STRING BAND FESTIVAL

Austin, TX. (Sept. 21, 2023) — The hamlet of Driftwood, Texas (population: 106) will be alive with the sounds of fiddles, banjos and mandolins on the weekend of October 20th and 21st, when hundreds of traditional musicians and fans gather for a weekend of pickin' and partyin' at Camp Ben McCulloch, 24 miles southwest of Austin (across the road from the Salt Lick).

“It’s like our own little ACL Fest, except it’s for old-time, bluegrass, and other traditional musicians. . . and at a fraction of the cost!” jokes Tim Wooten, president of host organization Austin Friends of Traditional Music. Tickets on Friday: \$30; Saturday: \$45; Weekend pass: \$55. (By comparison, an ACL Festival day pass is \$170.)

So, the price may be right, but does the festival have the stars?

The award-winning Daiquiri Queens from Lafayette, Louisiana will be rocking the main stage with their Cajun grooves on Friday night. Headlining on Saturday, comedy bluegrass act the Austin Lounge Lizards, known for such goofball hits as “Jesus Loves Me (But He Can’t Stand You),” and “Shallow End of the Gene Pool.”

Other dynamic performers include expert fiddlers Luke Bulla (formerly of Lyle Lovett's Large Band) and gifted Cherokee musician Nokosee Fields. The Joymakers will undoubtedly live up to their name as they delve into the early history of jazz, and Belen Escobedo will present a rare example of Tejano conjunto music played on the fiddle.

So, yes. . . this family-friendly festival has the stars. But it also has workshops, food trucks, jugglers, face painting, yoga, and a host of other activities. Campsites are available - \$20 a night. Festival-goers can bring food and drink with them. No glass containers, and all dogs and animals of any kind must be left at home (except for service animals).

There is a burn-ban in effect in Hays County - so campfires are not allowed.

The Austin Friends of Traditional Music (AFTM) is an all-volunteer non-profit that has been hard at work promoting and nurturing music and talent in the central Texas area for almost 50 years. Wimberley's Sarah Jarosz - now a major Americana artist on Rounder Records - is among the many musicians who have benefited from AFTM's support.

Camp Ben McCulloch is located at 18301 FM 1826 in Driftwood, 24 miles southwest of Austin.

<https://aftm.us/events/festivals/2023-austin-string-band-festival>

2023 Austin String Band Festival Schedule

Main stage performers in bold type

Mini-set performers in italics

Friday, October 20

- 6:45 PM *Silver Alert Ramblers (Mini-Set)*
7:00 PM **Last Shot Got Him - Square Dance, caller Sharon Isaac**
7:45 PM *Two Fosters; One Price (Mini-Set)*
8:00 PM **Nokosee Fields Trio**
8:45 PM *The Slaughter Creek Drought Busters (Mini-Set)*
9:00 PM **Daiquiri Queens**
10:00 PM **Two Goat String Band - Square Dance, caller Sharon Isaac**

Saturday, October 21

- 2:00 PM **Lloyd & April**
2:45 PM *Stubble in Mind (Mini-Set)*
3:00 PM **Luke Bulla**
3:45 PM *Creekbed Carter Hogan (Mini-Set)*
4:00 PM **Belen Escobedo**
4:45 PM *Gordon & Hagins (Mini-Set)*
5:00 PM **Alley Grass**
5:45 PM *Rusty Nut and the Wheel Ruts (Mini-Set)*
6:00 PM **Lost Patterns**
6:45 PM *Dog Days String Band (Mini-Set)*
7:00 PM **Lost Pines**
7:45 PM *George Rios & Friends (Mini-Set)*
8:00 PM **Austin Lounge Lizards**
8:45 PM *Everett Wren and Bird Calls (Mini-Set)*
9:00 PM **Nokosee Fields Trio**
10:00 PM **The Joymakers**
11:00 PM **Daiquiri Queens**

Austin String Band Festival Workshop Schedule

All workshops take place on Saturday, October 21, at 11:00am, 12:00pm, and 1:00pm

For various reasons, workshop times may change so check the website for up to date info

11:00am

Rich MacMath - square-dance workshop - Square dance rule number one is to have fun! Reel, allemande, do-si-do, swing and promenade - learn five figures and you're ready to dance. We'll have a caller and live music. All ages invited and no partner needed.

Lloyd Wright - beginning clawhammer banjo - learn the basics of everyone's favorite instrument from a master picker

Lindsay Haisley - Autoharp - Lindsay Haisley has been playing autoharp for audiences for about 40 years and was inducted into the Autoharp Hall of Fame in 2004. The subjects covered in this workshop will largely depend on what the workshop attendees would like to learn, so questions and feedback will be welcome. Please bring your autoharp, tuned as well as you can get it tuned. A handout will be provided.

Daiquiri Queens - Louisiana twin fiddling/seconding - learn the techniques and principles behind the great twin fiddle sound of the Daiquiri Queens

12:00pm

Jacqui Woolley - Cajun dance - waltz, two-step, and jitterbug taught with live Cajun backup music

Nokosee Fields Trio - the art of playing and singing together in a string band

Belen Escobedo - Tejano fiddle traditions, taught by a master fiddler

Daiquiri Queens - Cajun French singing - you don't need to be a native French speaker to sing in French!

1:00pm

Luke Bulla - bluegrass fiddle - Luke will talk about and demonstrate melody and harmony fiddle parts to the classic Bluegrass tunes, such as Wheelhoss and Roanoke, as taught to him by the great Bobby Hicks during Luke's time playing in Ricky Skaggs' band, Kentucky Thunder.

Sharon Sandomirsky - with Aaron Zischkale and Adam Brodtkin

Oldtime backup guitar, with stories about Sharon's history, including her work with the Fuzzy Mountain String Band

Daiquiri Queens - How to play proper Cajun rhythm, with triangles, guitar

Blake Miller of the Daiquiri Queens - Cajun accordion techniques

10:00 am Sunday

Sunday morning gospel jam - led by Sharon Sandomirsky and Georgia Canfield, in the pavilion

The Daiquiri Queens



Expect a crowded dance floor the minute this lively Cajun quintet takes the stage on Friday night. Over pumping accordion, bass and drums float the Cajun French harmonies of Jamie Lynn Fontenot and Miriam McCracken lamenting the heartbreak and the joy of everyday life. The 'Queens won Offbeat Magazine's 2022 Best Cajun Artist Award, and are regulars on the festival circuit.

<https://thedaiquiriqueens.com/bio>

<https://www.facebook.com/OldtoneMusicFestival/videos/925480084466329/>

The Nokosee Fields Trio



After a childhood of classical violin in Stillwater, Oklahoma, Nokosee Fields shifted his focus towards the old-time musical sounds of his great uncle, the celebrated Cherokee fiddler Sam O'Field. Nokosee is now himself a celebrated young, old-time fiddler, known for his precision, tone and extensive repertoire. All of this impressed the 2019 Clifftop Fiddle Contest judges. . . who awarded him first place.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PznS-9p7XQ>

The Joymakers



Texas jazz, blues, ragtime and old time roots will be on full display when this powerhouse of traditional musicians arrives on the String Band stage. The aptly-named Joymakers came together earlier this year when two groups - Hancock's Jazz Serenaders, and The Revelators - joined forces. With an album already underway for New York label Turtle Bay Records, and talk of a post-release midwestern tour, the Joymakers are off to a roaring start to their career. "Texas style jazz, or jazz from the territories (i.e. not NYC, Chicago, or New Orleans)," is bandleader Colin Hancock's favorite description of their sound. And not to be missed!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak0su500TnA>

Belen Escobedo



Belen Escobedo plays traditional Tejano conjunto music on a fiddle (rather than an accordion), and might be the only living person doing that. Early on, during her childhood in San Antonio's south side, Belen was given a fiddle by her school, and it quickly became the center of her life. For 30 years she lit the spark of music in the children of her city, running school band and orchestra programs. Belen's musical achievements were officially recognized in 2017 when she received the Texas Master Fiddler award.

<https://youtu.be/nl2b10ckiDg>

Luke Bulla



Luke grew up performing in his family's band, and by the time he reached 16 he had become something of a hotshot fiddling prodigy, and proved it by winning the "Grand Champion" title at the National Fiddle Championship! Since then, Luke has shared stages and studios with Earl Scruggs, Alison Krauss, Lyle Lovett and Bela Fleck and a host of other luminaries - as well as having a career as a solo artist - which is how he will perform at the festival.

<https://lukebulla.bandcamp.com/track/temperance-reel>

<https://lukebulla.com/music/>

The Austin Lounge Lizards



For 43 years "the most laughable band in show business" has been serving up its wondrous blend of hot bluegrass and stinging parody, in songs such as "Jesus Loves Me (But He Can't Stand You.)" and "Shallow End of the Gene Pool." Commented critic Ned Raggett, "As a band, they're able to take in everything from Bob Wills style western swing to straight country. . . from start to finish, a perfect delight."

<https://youtu.be/NucVQO0t92o>

The Lost Pines



Formed in 2007 as a partnership between Talia Bryce and Christian Ward, this charming bluegrass/Texas country treasure has been delighting audiences ever since. “Great singing, great musicianship, and great songwriting,” was the assessment of one Bluegrass Unlimited critic. More simply, Lloyd Maines (producer of their album “Sweet Honey”) put it this way: “Lost Pines music is the good stuff.”

<https://www.reverbNation.com/thelostpines>

Lloyd and April



“Foot stomping, caterwauling, family fun!” is how the Wrights describe their music. April grew up singing shaped-note songs from “The Heavenly Highway” in a backwoods East Texas church. Lloyd shared April’s interest in shaped note music, along with a curiosity about stringband music from western North Carolina. Together they blend family harmony, country gospel, raucous fiddle tunes, and sweet renditions of old country ballads. They even started their own festival - the flourishing Old Mill Music Festival in their East Texas home town of Kennard - a highlight of their careers.

<https://youtu.be/o2WBnLr4OLE>

Lost Patterns



Over fiddles, banjos, mandolins, and guitars, Beth Chrisman and Silas Lowe’s voices bring earthy grit to the lonesome, lowdown backroads of acoustic Americana. 2023 has been a busy one for the duo. They took their show on the road to Norway this summer, and upon their return, released their debut album in August. “Laid-back, front porch picking perfect for a summer night,” was Austin Chronicle critic Doug Freeman’s assessment of the Patterns sound.

<https://www.lostpatternsmusic.com/bio>

<https://lostpatterns.bandcamp.com/album/lost-patterns>

Last Shot Got Him



Jerry Hagins, banjo master

This string band of locals think of themselves as “old friends playing new tunes in an old way.” Many were written by celebrated fiddler Garry Harrison (1954 - 2012). This instrumental quartet took its name from a 1920s fiddle tune, written as a humorous response to Mississippi John Hurt’s “First Shot Missed Him.” Featuring Tim Keough on fiddle; Jerry Hagins, banjo; Ethan Azarian, guitar; and Brink Melton on bass.

Alley Grass



Alley Grass

This family band describes itself as “a celebration of bluegrass and old country.” From their home in Lockhart, Texas, Ben and Jenn Hodges (of Fiddler’s Green Music Shop) and Amanda Jo Chisholm decided one day to combine their musical passions and talents, and created the band Alley Grass. Since then they have played far and wide “for audiences from west of the Frio River to downtown Austin and back home again.” Fiddler Ian Stewart will join them on-stage at the festival, along with French banjo player Theo Lawrence.

Two Goat String Band



The Two Goat String Band is Austin's newest old time ensemble - they made their debut at the Sahara Lounge in east Austin last December, as part of the KOOP-FM ongoing series, Lonesome Nights at the Sahara!

Festival Yoga at the String Band Festival!



Lucy's Yoga Class this summer at the Grey Fox Festival in New York State!

A new highlight at this year's Austin String Band Festival will be a Saturday morning yoga class with Lucy Weberling, whose Festival Yoga is a valued part of music festivals around the country. Lucy regularly leads yoga classes at the MBOTMA festival in Minnesota and the Grey Fox Festival in New York State, and in past years, she has lead yoga classes at the Old Settlers Music Festival, when it was held right here at Camp Ben.

Two great loves in Lucy's live are acoustic music and yoga, and she has found a way to express them both through Festival Yoga!

Lucy welcomes everyone to her Festival Yoga sessions, from beginners to seasoned practitioners of yoga. If you have a yoga mat, bring it. If not, a nice thick blanket will do. Wear comfortable clothing and be prepared for a wonderful experience!

Festival Yoga will take place at the ASBF on Saturday morning, October 21, at 10:00 am in the main pavilion in front of the stage. See you there!



Lucy Weberling, Yoga instructor and dedicated picker!



Lucy in Action at the MBOTMA festival in Minnesota!

Westbank String Shop at the String Band Festival!



Again this year, the Austin String Band Festival is proud to announce that Todd Sloan from the Westbank String Shop will set up his fiddle repair facility at the festival! He'll be there both Friday and Saturday to do setup and minor repair work to fiddles in need of his experienced touch. He'll have a selection of musical accessories available for sale, also.

The Westbank String Shop is a great friend of the String Band Festival, and having Todd's presence on the campground is a real plus!

Food at the Austin String Band Festival



Texas Street Crepes will return to the String Band Festival this year, with their delicious sweet and savory crepes, and more!



We're pleased to welcome Big Frank's Tacos to the String Band Festival, really delicious Mexican fare!

There Will Be Hats!



For the first time ever, the Austin String Band Festival will have an official hat, available for purchase at the Merchandise Booth in four colors! Since this is our first attempt at a festival hat, we didn't order too many so, if you want one (and of course you do) you better make your selection early in the weekend!

Of course, we'll have a new ASBF t-shirt this year, and some really dynamic t-shirts for the younger set!

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