



# KBA Honors Festivals

Looking for a tried-and-true blues festival that guarantees a roster of blues greats as well as up-and-comers, good food, new and old friends of your blues family, and an all-around authentic experience? Seek no further than the two festivals that received the Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) award this year. Both the Briggs Farm Blues Festival (Nescopeck, PA) and the Porretta Soul Festival (Porretta Terme, Italy) have been presenting the music and culture of the blues for decades.

## BRIGGS FARM BLUES FESTIVAL

July 2017 marks the 20th anniversary for the Briggs Farm Blues Festival! Once again, the rolling hills of Briggs Farm in Nescopeck, PA, will transform into one of the most awarded blues festivals in the country, hosting thousands of dedicated blues fans and exceptionally talented artists.

Much like the blues, Briggs Farm had a humble beginning. Two days of blues has turned into a staggering four days of Delta, Chicago and Kansas City inspired music on three stages. Young and old come together to honor and revel in the blues, but that's only part of the Briggs Farm experience. Guests love to fill the woods with tents and fire rings, visit the vendor village full of handcrafted items and stroll from stage to stage. The multi-generational crowd feasts on slow-smoked pulled pork, Southern-fried catfish and locally grown roasted sweet corn. Antique red Farmall tractors pull hay wagons through the fields of the farm, giving festival-goers a chance to relax with friends.

Since its first show in 1998, Briggs Farm Blues Festival has annually attracted larger and larger audiences by ensuring consistent talent and maintaining a family friendly

atmosphere. From the smallest tot to the road-hardened blues warrior, there's something for everyone on the farm. The four-day festival opens Thursday night with musicians who perform a vintage mystery album on the Stage of the Woods. Intimate and gritty, the Back Porch Stage gives the audience a chance to get up close and personal with artists. It's a special connection that draws a huge crowd to each show.

The Main Stage has hosted past greats such as "Honeyboy" Edwards, Big Jack Johnson, Louisiana Red and others, to present-day rockers like Devon Allman, Samantha Fish, Moreland and Arbuckle, Eric Gales, Victor Wainwright and Marcus King. The talent speaks for itself and never disappoints.

Briggs Farm Blues Festival wouldn't be the same without the thousands of dedicated campers who, rain or shine, settle in with family and friends to hear great music. They're the backbone of the festival – music-minded people who traditionally seek each other out year after year. For those who like feather beds and coffee makers, nearby partner hotels provide comfort and convenience for one-day, two-day and three-day festival-goers.

Briggs Farm Blues Festival is a permanent home to America's most cherished and enduring musical genre – the blues. The blues is an important part of America's past, and Briggs Farm is honored to be part of its future.

For more information, visit [www.briggsfarm.com](http://www.briggsfarm.com)

## PORRETTA SOUL FESTIVAL

Every year, Porretta Terme, a quiet resort town in Italy known for its healthy air and thermal waters, is transformed into a mecca of soul music. The Porretta Soul Festival, a Tribute to Otis Redding, has become the most prestigious European event entirely devoted to rhythm & blues and soul music – particularly to the Memphis sound of the great Otis Redding, to whom the festival is dedicated. This year's festival July 20-23 marks its 30th anniversary, as well as the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rufus Thomas, an honorary citizen of Porretta Terme, to whom the festival's park and amphitheater are dedicated. The annual event is



John Primer wows on the Briggs Farm Blues Festival stage  
Photo by Mike Gendimenico

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## Artist Roster

**Ghost Town Blues Band** (Memphis, TN)

**Amanda Fish** (Kansas City, MO)

**Brody Buster** (Kansas City, MO)

**Joey Gilmore** (Ft Lauderdale, FL)

**Hector Anchondo** (Omaha, NE)

**Lionel Young** (Boulder, Colorado)

**Paula Harris** (San Francisco, CA)

**Tas Cru** (New York)

**Rev. Raven & the Chain Smokin' Altar Boys** (Milwaukee, WI)

**Kara Grainger** (Australia/Los Angeles, CA)

**Andy T. Band feat. Alabama Mike and Anson Funderburgh**  
(Nashville, TN)

**Rockin Jake** (New Orleans, LA/Boynton Beach, FL)

**Mark May** (Houston, TX)

**Terry Evans** (Los Angeles, CA)

**Brent Johnson and the Call Up** (New Orleans)

**RJ Mischo** (Ventura, CA)

**Duffy Bishop** (Portland, OR/St Augustine, FL)

**Skyla Burrell** (Chambersburg, PA)

**Levee Town** (Kansas City, MO)

**Anni Piper** (Australia/Cocoa Beach, FL)

**Bill Magee Blues Band** (San Diego, CA)

**Bex Marshall** (London, England)

**Johnny Long** (Springfield, MO)

**Joel Dasilva & the Midnight Howl** (Ft Lauderdale, FL)

**Felix y Los Gatos** (Albuquerque, NM)

**Scott Ellison** (Tulsa, OK)

**The Daddy Mack Blues Band** (Memphis, TN)

**CeCe Teneal** (Orlando, FL)

**Tony Holiday & the Velvetones** (Salt Lake City, UT)

**Donna Angelle & her Zydeco Posse** (Lafayette, LA)

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For additional information about these artists including song samples, photos and additional bio material, please visit our website:

[www.road-dawg.com](http://www.road-dawg.com)

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Each year, the Porretta Soul Festival transforms the quiet town of Porretta Terme, Italy, into a mecca of soul music. Photo by Mattia Insolera

so significant to the town that Porretta Terme has both a Rufus Thomas Park and an Otis Redding Street!

The festival was born in 1987 on the initiative of soul music fan Graziano Uliani, who, after participating in the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of Otis Redding's death in Macon, GA, decided to organize a festival in his honor. The past thirty years have featured some of the biggest names in soul, R&B and blues, including the likes of Mavis Staples, Sam Moore, Irma Thomas, Bettye LaVette, Dorothy Moore, Sugar Pie DeSanto, Bobby Rush, Vasti Jackson and many more.

The festival features artists from around the world and particularly from the U.S., as it is home to the genre. This year's lineup includes the Original James Brown Band, Ricky Fanté, Bernard "Pretty" Purdie, Rob Paparozzi, Wee Willie Walker, Willie Hightower, Scott Sharrard, Davell Crawford, Vasti Jackson, and the Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra Show & Revue with Sweet Nectar, among others. Vaneese and Carla Thomas will also perform a special tribute to Rufus Thomas.

The atmosphere of the festival is joyful, and encourages attendees and musicians to become as familiar as old friends – such as is displayed in the intentional low height of the stage, at level with much of the audience. Meander through the historic center of town to experience free concerts in the Rufus Thomas Cafe's outdoor stages, and delight in the the Soul and Streetfood Village's offerings of Italian and international street food cuisines. In conjunction with the festival, the Porretta Soul Museum features an extensive archive of materials that tells the story of the festival since 1988.

On receiving the KBA award, Founder and Artistic Director Graziano Uliani commented, "We have always tried to present artists who have been appreciated not for their commercial value, but for their value as musicians and this award recognizes our passion."

For more information, visit [www.porrettasoul.it](http://www.porrettasoul.it)

