

Press kit



Roots & Roses Festival *1st may 2014*

Roots & Roses Festival 1 May 2014

The Roots & Roses Festival is dedicated to all forms of contemporary folk, rock 'n roll, garage, blues, bluegrass and roots music in general. This festival gives a platform to leading artists within these genres, with bands from Belgium as from the rest of the world.

On the 1st of May, the Roots & Roses will take place for the 5th time. We conquered a large public, from which many attended all five editions and we've built a solid reputation. The key to this success? A clever line-up, combined with the quality of our reception and the respect for our public.



THE PROGRAMME

The programme of Roots & Roses is modern and open to all aspects of Anglo-Saxon roots music. Its line-up is representative for the highlights in these music genres. As usual, the festival has two stages: the Roots Stage for the more “traditional” groups, and the Roses Stage for the more heavy work.

This year, we programmed:

Roots Stage : Little X Monkeys, The Henhouse Prowlers, Dom Flemons, The Excitements, Fred & The Healers, Pokey LaFarge

Roses Stage : Driving Dead Girl, White Cowbell Oklahoma, Big Sugar, The Dream Syndicate, King Khan & The Shrines, The Sonics

The Sonics, the godfathers of Garage Rock will close the festival with their music of the sixties. Furthermore, we have a balanced programme with a large variety of roots music. The Spanish band “The Excitements” brings vintage soul, the crazy “King Khan” garage soul, Pokey LaFarge will amaze us with his very authentic country blues. We will surprise you with Dom Flemons , the singer of Caroline Chocolate Drops will play solo, and the Canadian White Cowbell Oklahoma will bring southern rock.

Other groups make their come-back, like Big Sugar, the front man of the Canadian rock, the Dream Syndicate, a mythical group from the eighties, and of course Fred & the Healers, who just released a very strong CD.

THE SONICS (USA)

The Sonics are the founders of punk, garage and grunge. Their two albums “Here are the Sonics” (1965) and “The Sonics Boom” (1966) had a revolutionary approach: wild music, aggressive drums, voice and guitars, and almost inhuman screams. Most of their songs are classics and covered by for example The Fleshtones, Iggy Pop, The Cramps, the Fuzztones, Bruce Springsteen and the Nomads. They inspired Iggy Pop & the Stooges, Jello Biafra (Dead Kennedys) as well as the complete rock ‘n roll and garage scene.



KING KHAN & THE SHRINES (CA)

King Khan is a psychedelic explosion of soul garage and hilarious rhythm ‘n blues. King Khan has an Indian background and accompanied by his band the Shrines from Germany. He started his career in his homeland and moved then to the cultural melting pot Berlin. In less than 10 years he conquered the rock soul and psychedelic garage scene. He will play at a number of summer festivals, but first at the Roots & Roses in Lessines.

THE DREAM SYNDICATE (USA)

Steven Wynn is back with his Dream Syndicate after a successful solo career of 25 years in different projects: Danny & Dusty (with Dan Stuart from Green on Red), The Baseball Project of Steve Wynn & the Miracle 3. After their legendary concerts of the eighties, The Dream Syndicate are back in Europe and will amaze us with their alternative and powerful rock.





BIG SUGAR (CA)

Big Sugar was founded in the nineties by singer and guitar player Gordie Johnson in Toronto, Canada, where they won several gold and metal plates. Their sound is characterised by unique mix of music genres and fantastic onstage performances, with a hard rock guitar player, a Jamaican bass player and a punk drummer. They are back in Europe after 10 years.



WHITE COWBELL OKLAHOMA (CA)

White Cowbell Oklahoma, another great band from Canada playing Rock 'n Roll with lots of humour, wild guitars and explosive drums! Life on stage an unforgettable experience. They will present their new album "Buenas Nachas" at Roots & Roses.



DRIVING DEAD GIRL (B)

The Belgian Driving Dead Girl absolutely deserve their place in the Roots & Roses programme. Their Rock 'n Roll is more corrosive than ever. They played as support acts of prestigious bands as Jon Spencer, Therapy and the Black Keys. Mothers, lock up your daughters!



POKEY LAFARGE (USA)

Pokey LaFarge is the modern ambassador of the new country blues scene. His music consists of ragtime, hillbilly and blues from the thirties. His music spreads a surprising atmosphere: completely vintage, but at the same time very contemporary. Although the band was founded only a few years ago, they are playing in the world's most prestigious clubs. With their authentic instruments, from contrabass to the kazoo and the National guitar, they are considered a one of the most talented artists within this genre.





**NEW
Album**

FRED & THE HEALERS (B)

Ten years after their legendary sold out concert in the Ancienne Belgique, Fred Lani reshapes his Healers and is back with a brand new and powerful blues rock CD “Hammerbeartmatic”. A new line-up, strong alternative blues, impulsive guitars and heavy beats. After a few albums, side-projects (X-Three, Superslinger) and film music, Fred has been bitten again by the Blues Devil himself. The album “Hammerbeatmatic” that will be released on 29th of March, shows maturity and gives us already a taste of the life potential of Fred & the Healers. Fred is a guitar genius and will surprise us with new compositions. Due to his show at Roots & Roses he even created a special song titled...”Roots & Roses”.

**NEW
Album**



THE EXCITEMENTS (SP)

The Excitements take their inspiration from vintage soul and rhythm ‘n blues from last century. The Spanish musicians seem to have escaped out of movie from Almodovar or Alex de la Iglesia. The Excitements are pure dynamite and the bandleader Koko-Jean Davis as a furious and mad beast, singing, shouting and jumping.



DOM FLEMONS (USA)

Dom Flemons is known as the leader of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, an old-time String band inspired by black blues and country from the early thirties in South Carolina. He is also very successful as a solo artist playing the same style as in his band: traditional blues from the thirties and ragtime.





HENHOUSE PROWLERS (USA)

No roots festival without a strong bluegrass band! The Henhouse Prowlers play speedy bluegrass in a style that reminds of the Pine Box Boys. A classical line-up: banjo, acoustic guitar, contrabass and violin. You can expect classics, own compositions and contemporary bluegrass



LITTLE X MONKEYS (B)

Little X Monkeys is very young band from Namur, led by Marjorie Piret and François-Xavier Marciat. Their music is a melting pot of roots, bluegrass and blues with a modern and universal sound. Little X Monkeys are refreshing newcomers of the Belgian Roots Scene. At the same they are a blue grass band, a music style which is still underrepresented in our country.



ATMOSPHERE, RECEPTION AND COMFORT!

Roots & Roses makes the difference!

Despite the large number of spring festivals in Belgium, the Roots & Roses could conquer the hearts of many festival visitors. This can be explained by a cosy and green festival site, two spacious festival tents with an optimal sound quality, two clearly visible stages and no dead moments in the programme. The high quality food and beverages are local products, served in reusable or sustainable plates and cups. Gastronomy has become one of the most important attractions of the festival. Delicious original menus from southeast Asia, traditional French fries baked in ox fat, with homemade sauces, chilli con carne, with homemade habanero and new this year: authentic Mexican food. The recipes of all these culinary highlights are available on the festival's website. The beers of the Dupont brewery: the famous lager Redor, the blonde Moinette and the special festival beer "Roses" – a white bio beer with a touch of red fruits. No mainstream commercial soft drinks, but only health and fresh apple and red fruit drinks from Vergers de la Gaumette, a producer from Lessines. New this year is their homemade cider, and of course, the Pommeau. In the restaurant hall you can expect trappist beers and a selection of local beers, like the Saison Stout Dupont and the dark Moinette. At the festival, you will only get the very best prepared by our motivated teams onsite.

On the menu

- ▶ **Local:** real French fries, but also southern Italian dishes and traditional meat products, porchetta...
- ▶ **Tex / Mex :** *giant hamburgers with pure beef. Served in traditional bread with sesame, or on a dish. Homemade ketchup and salad. Chilli con carne, Fajitas...*
- ▶ **From Maurice island:** *Beef curry with tomato and fennel, perfumed with fresh thyme and served with basmati rice, curry with green lentils and coriander and fresh thyme, served with green onions and basmati rice (vegetarian). Vegetable Achard (crunchy vegetables marinated in oil and vinegar, perfumed with coriander and mustard seeds), served with rice or bread (vegetarian)*
- ▶ **Cambodia :** *Chicken wings stuffed with meet, vegetables, and fresh spices, vermicelli salad with shrimps, pancakes with coco milk stuffed with roasted pork and soya, baked noodles with vegetables (vegetarian), baked noodles with caramelised pork, spring rolls with chicken and shrimps, nems.*



The site

The gigs take place in two huge tents of 1600 sqm. A third tent hosts the bodega bar with the special local beers.

The leisure areas, with relax reclining chairs, a carpool service, an announcement and advertisement wall, where concert organisers can promote their own event.

TICKET PRICE

Presales

The democratic entry ticket is a part of the success of the previous editions: 25 € in presale and 30€ on site... and 50% reduction for those younger than 26.

Presales outlets

- ▶ **Mediamarkt :** *Antwerpen, Braine-l'Alleud, Basilix/Woluwe Saint-Lambert, Gent-Oostakker, Gosselies, Hasselt, Herstal, Liège, Jemappes, Malines, Mons, Oostende, Roeselare, Schoten, Sint-Pieters Leeuw.*
- ▶ **Saturn :** *Brugge, Kortrijk, Liège*
- ▶ **Ath :** *Initiales CD*
- ▶ **Geraardsbergen :** *TC Joint / Sanseveria (Zarlarding)*
- ▶ **Bruxelles** *PointCulture ULB*
- ▶ **Eupen :** *Introtreff*
- ▶ **Gilly :** *Video Parc*
- ▶ **Herve :** *Maison du tourisme*
- ▶ **Lessines :** *Centre culturel René Magritte / Graffiti*
- ▶ **Liège :** *Belle-Ile-Information*
- ▶ **Marche-en-Famenne :** *Maison de la Culture*
- ▶ **Musson :** *Libre et Rie au Chat Pitre*
- ▶ **Namur :** *Lido/Zone Bleue*
- ▶ **Nivelles :** *Shopping Nivelles*
- ▶ **Spa :** *Office du tourisme*
- ▶ **Tournai :** *Les Bastions (guichet infos)*
- ▶ **Verviers :** *Infor Jeunes*
- ▶ **Zottegem :** *Kultuur Café De Foyer*

Practical info

Lessines - Ancien chemin d'Ollignies

Two stages in two tents

Doors open 10:30. First group at 11:00. Doors close 23:00

Presale (without reservation costs): 25 € / Less than 26 years: 12,5 €

Schedule

Doors open : 10h30

First group at : 11h

Doors close : 23h

STAGE "ROOTS"		STAGE "ROSES"	
Little X Monkeys	11:00-11:40		
		Driving Dead Girl	11:45-12:25
The Henhouse Prowlers	12:30-13:15		
		White Cowbell Oklahoma	13:20-14:05
Dom Flemons	14:10-14:55		
		Big Sugar	15:00-15:45
The Excitements	15:50-16:50		
		The Dream Syndicate	16:55-17:55
Fred & The Healers	18:00-19:00		
		King Khan & The Shrines	19:05-20:20
Pokey LaFarge	20:25-21:40		
		The Sonics	21:45-23:00

Location

Lessines is located in the province of Hainaut at the border with Easter Flanders, along the highway E429, exit 29. Only 30 minutes from Brussels, a few minutes from Geraardsbergen and 40 minutes from Ghent.

The festival site is located only a few minutes from Lessines railway station.

Accommodation

A camping site is available. There will be a special parking place for motorbikes. An extensive list with hotels and B&B will be made available on the website.

Contact for the press

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Full bias



LITTLE X MONKEYS

Formé en 2012 dans la province de Namur (Belgique) par Marjorie Piret et Francois Xavier Marciat, Little X Monkeys est un groupe influencé par les racines du folk, du blues et du bluegrass (roots!). En mars 2013, Little X Monkeys sort un premier EP autoproduit intitulé Black Bird et décroche aussitôt plusieurs dates de concerts : le 21 juin 2013 à la Maison des Musiques de Bruxelles pour la Fête de la Musique (concert rediffusé sur les ondes de Classic 21) le 19 septembre au Botanique dans le cadre de la Nuit du Soir 2013, ... Trois nouveaux musiciens rejoignent alors le groupe (Justin Veronesi, Antoine Dupagne et Jerome Drese) pour accompagner le duo d'origine sur scène.

En mai 2013, Little X Monkeys est contacté par Véronique Delachaux et leur premier single Black Bird devient alors la bande originale du nouveau spot publicitaire de la marque de prêt à porter parisienne. En septembre 2013, Little X Monkeys joue en première partie d'un des célèbres groupes de Woodstock 69, Ten Years After.

Les nouvelles dates de concert du groupe sont disponibles sur www.LITTLEXMONKEYS.com.

Un album est actuellement en cours de composition.



DRIVING DEAD GIRL

Du rock à l'état brut ! Ce groupe belge composé de quatre musiciens originaires de la capitale, est présent sur la scène musicale Européenne depuis quelques années maintenant, et leur musique, déménage ! Après quelques changements de line-up et un début propulsant au Festival de Dour en 2004, le groupe s'est clairement fait une place auprès des grands, grâce notamment à leur performance en première partie de The Black Keys ou encore Black Rebel Motorcycle Club. Un troisième album voit le jour en mai 2013, avec Le producteur Jim Diamond (Dirtbombs, White Stripes, The Sonics...). Une dynamique garage bien huilée sur une nouvelle plaque donc, paru sous le label At(H)ome : dernière incantation. Organique et Fuzz.



THE HENHOUSE PROWLERS

Nine years in the making, Chicago's Henhouse Prowlers have built a reputation for hard work and non-stop touring, playing music inspired by the roots of bluegrass while branching out into a sound uniquely their own. From lightning fast picking, to sentimental ballads—playing storied original material, traditional songs, and contemporary covers—The Prowlers' live show leaves no one wanting.

Their most recent album "Breaking Ground" grew out of collaboration and time well spent, having completed it within months of multiple cross-country US tours and the band's third trip to Europe. Produced by Greg Cahill (Grammy nominated band-leader of Special Consensus), with special guests Josh Williams (of Rhonda Vincent and the Rage) and Anders Beck (of Greensky Bluegrass), this recording packs punch after punch.

The band was recently selected by the US State Dept. to spend a month in West Africa and will be headed back to Europe in 2014 for their largest tour abroad to date. The Prowlers continue to push the envelope with their highly original songwriting, tight arrangements, and electrifying stage presence. With the bluegrass mantle on their back and the best fans in the world by their side, The Henhouse Prowlers are here to stay for a long, long time.

Ben Wright

Ben is a founding member and banjo player of the Prowlers. At 23 he bought a banjo on a whim in 1999 at the legendary Old Town School of Folk Music. Within weeks he fell under its spell and spent several years making up for not discovering it sooner. Ben played in several bands before forming the Prowlers including the popular Chicago Americana outfit, Outlaw Family Band. Ben plays a 2013 Deering Terry Baucom model banjo, uses GHS PF155 Custom Light banjo strings, and has a Hoffee Carbon Fiber Case.



Dan Andree

Hailing from Sycamore, IL (just west of Chicago), Dan's musical education began with nine years of Suzuki method classical violin lessons with the head of the Northern Illinois University string program, Ann Montzka-Smelser. After enrolling at the University of Illinois (where he earned a degree in Ethnomusicology), he joined with the Corn Desert Ramblers bluegrass group in Urbana, IL (in 2006). This was the start of a wonderful adventure of performance music including live shows with them and other groups in town for over five years. Dan was excited beyond expression to join the Henhouse Prowlers in 2012 and has embraced with open arms the start of another great bluegrass adventure!

Jon Goldfine

As a founding member of the Henhouse Prowlers, Jon has been supplying the bottom end and sharing vocal duties in the band since its formation in 2004. Born in Chicago to a trombone playing father and an opera singing mother, Jon first learned the stand up bass in his Jr. High School orchestra. Since reviving his bass chops in 2000, he has performed in jazz, rock, and funk ensembles including MWC, and folk and bluegrass ensembles such as The Back Porch Ramblers. Jon is also adept on the electric bass, tuba and harmonica. He has guested on several recordings including Brian Walker's Lookin' For Light.

Starr Moss

Starr is 26 years old and grew up in Milwaukee, WI. He originally played mostly electric guitar but switched to acoustic after discovering celtic and bluegrass music in high school. Before joining the Henhouse Prowlers, Starr played in several local bands in Milwaukee including O'Shytte's (Celtic rock) and String 'Em Up (bluegrass). Starr is influenced primarily by the bluegrass genre, but also celtic and old-time styles. He has had the opportunity to learn from great musicians from music festivals across the country and he recently relocated back to Chicago after spending time abroad and on the West Coast working in Latino Advocacy. Starr plays a Collings acoustic guitar and is excited to be playing with the Prowlers.

The Henhouse Prowlers in School

While not on stage performing or on the road touring, the Henhouse Prowlers have long been avid instructors on their respective instruments in the Chicago area. Recently, the Prowlers have found a way to simultaneously merge these two key components of their careers as musicians. In April 2011, the quartet debuted its comprehensive bluegrass curriculum to elementary and intermediate schools throughout Evanston, Illinois. Through four weeks of hour-length assemblies and performances in the schools, they perfected their group instruction of the basics of bluegrass and the importance of this music in American cultural history.



WHITE COWBELL OKLAHOMA

Legendary Canadian rock armada White Cowbell Oklahoma return with their most ambitious album to date. Bolstered by a tight new lineup, Buenas Nachas incorporates a breakneck mix of pulverizing riff-rockers and progressive Tex-Mex rollers. Kosmische motorik musik à la Ennio Morricone (via Jacksonville and San Antonio)? Some might say. Critically-acclaimed earlier WCO releases Cencerro Blanco (2003) and Casa Diablo (2006) drew heavy inspiration from southern/Texas/classic rock traditions, while Bombardero (2009) saw the band entering Space-Prog territory. On Buenas Nachas the band travels further south than ever before, crossing the Nuevo Laredo border without looking back. Countless rock n roll thrills and lurid side-trips ensue. Spirit guide recommended. White Cowbell Oklahoma, featuring new blood from several well-known Toronto bands, rage across Europe and North America through 2012 and 2013. The band is already known for its unprecedented live show -- which often features extended jams, near-riots, plus unorthodox power tool usage . WCO allegedly have many new aces up their sleeves. Bring protection. Also look for the non-album single “Take Me Down To Mexico” b/w “(Just) Some Things A Man Can’t Keep Inside” in coming months!



DOM FLEMONS

Dom Flemons is the “American Songster,” pulling from traditions of old-time folk music to create new sounds. Having performed music professionally since 2005, he has played live for over one million people just within the past three years. As part of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, which he co-founded with Rhiannon Giddens and Justin Robinson, he has played at a variety of festivals spanning from the Newport Folk Festival to Bonnaroo, in addition to renowned venues such as the Grand Ole Opry.

Raised in Phoenix, Arizona, Dom’s involvement with music began by playing percussion in his high school band. After picking up the guitar and harmonica as a teenager, he began to play in local coffee houses and became a regular performer on the Arizona folk music scene. Dom wrote his own songs and produced 25 albums of singer-songwriters and slam poets in the Phoenix area, including six albums of his own, during this time. He took a brief break from playing music in order to pursue slam poetry (he majored in English at Northern Arizona University) and performed in two national poetry slams in 2002 and 2003. Aside from exploring slam poetry, he spent his early adulthood listening to records and discovering a love of folk music, blues, jazz, jug band music, country music and ‘50s rock ‘n’ roll. Dom became interested in folk musicians such as Phil Ochs, Dave Van Ronk and Mike Seeger, as well as musicians such as Mississippi John Hurt, Howlin’ Wolf, Hank Williams, Chuck Berry and Carl Perkins. After stepping away from the slam poetry scene, he rekindled his interest in music, this time focusing on the old-time blues music of the pre-WWII era.

A multi-instrumentalist, Dom plays banjo, guitar, harmonica, fife, bones, bass drum, snare drum and quills, in addition to singing. He says that he incorporates his background in percussion to his banjo playing. Dom’s banjo repertoire includes not only clawhammer but also tenor and three-finger styles of playing. He first picked up the instrument when he borrowed a five-string banjo from a friend who had removed the instrument’s fifth string. As a founding member of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, an African-American string band, Dom was able to explore his interest in bringing traditional music to new audiences. The band won a GRAMMY for its 2011 album *Genuine Negro Jig* and was nominated for its most recent album, *Leaving Eden*, in 2012. After recording two solo records with Music Maker Relief Foundation, Dom is set to work on his third solo effort, which is untitled as of yet. He says he would like to use the traditional forms of music he has heard and immersed himself in over the years to create new soundscapes that generate interest in old-time folk music. Focusing very much on creating music that is rooted in history but taking a contemporary approach, Dom hopes to reexamine what traditional music can become.



BIG SUGAR

Big Sugar churn out their unique blend of roots-rock-reggae, soul and dub with double neck guitars and dreadlocks flying through the air. Gordie Johnson and his Rasta brethren are well known for their thundering live performances spiced with epic dub excursions that keep crowds grooving. Big Sugar's style has even inspired many other notable artists, including THE BLACK CROWES and GOV'T MULE. A platinum recording career that spans over 20 years includes their latest releases Revolution Per Minute, concert dvd Eliminate Ya! Live and a recent collaboration with Reggae legend Willi Williams on Bust No Guns. The Edison Award winners are looking forward to returning to Europe Spring 2014 for a live concert tour.

Big Sugar is:

- Gordie Johnson – guitar/vocals
- Garry Lowe – bass
- Kelly Mr Chill Hoppe – harmonica/sax/melodica
- Friendliness – keyboards/toasting
- Stephane Bodean Beaudin – drums

With its successful release of “Revolution Per Minute”, BIG SUGAR announced that they were not merely content to rest on their considerable laurels of past hits. Known for their innovative style that refuses to be easily labelled, as well as for their extraordinary live performances, which saw them close out last year with a full 40 city national tour, BIG SUGAR is back.

“Revolution Per Minute” was the first new studio release for BIG SUGAR in almost a decade, and the first two singles – “Roads Ahead” and “Little Bit A All Right” received extensive radio play, with “Roads Ahead” staying in the top 10 on the charts for the entire summer. Fans were quick to embrace the sounds of not only the singles but of all the songs on the critically acclaimed new album.

Led by Gordie Johnson on guitar and vocals, BIG SUGAR consists of Kelly “Mr. Chill” Hoppe on harmonica and saxophone, Garry Lowe on bass, Stephane “Bodean” Beaudin on drums and Friendliness, who besides keyboards handles toasting duties for the band.

It is hard to find a fan of the band who has not found ways to attend multiple live performances, for as classic and well known as their music is, it is the impact the band makes while performing in front of an audience that resonates with music lovers – both old and new.

Respect for the past will always see BIG SUGAR lovingly perform their classics which can be heard hundreds of times every week across Canada, but concertgoers have learned to expect the unexpected. BIG SUGAR's new tunes take the band into exciting original directions and are a harbinger of things to come as they travel the roads ahead.



THE EXCITEMENTS

It is significant that our views on music have been turning towards the past in the last years: too much modern-oriented de-humanizing sounds within the musical panorama have made people realize that, maybe, what pop charts are selling as R&B no longer stands for neither Rhythm nor, certainly, Blues; at least in the sense those words were put together musically back in the day.

Therefore, only a handful of musicians have stayed true to the roots of R&B and Soul in its original conception: music to make you dance, sweat, dream, love and forget about today's worries. And one group who certainly stands for that motto, more than anyone else, is The Excitements.

Bursting into the scene in early 2010, their story may not vary that much from others, in the sense that they do not arrive as new-comers: they emerge from a crossing of paths. The core of the band is formed by members of several spanish R&B and Blues bands, such as The Fabulous Ottomans, which joined musicians from other soul/jazz combos and big bands from Barcelona, all of them having toured extensively around Europe and US (for example, lead guitar Pere Puertas spent more than a year in Texas backing up Miss Lavelle White, Hubert Sumlin and Bob Margolin (former member of Muddy Water's band) among other blues legends), and having shared stage and/or recorded with such artists as Nathaniel Mayer, Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings, Betty Harris, Speedo and the Cadillacs and Melvin Davis, to name just a few.

And talking about their Rhythm and Soul fixation, The Excitements turn on audiences getting down to the real nitty gritty, bringing sights and sounds pretty much forgotten on today's stages: they pay their respects to such legends as early Ike and Tina Turner, Etta James, Sugar Pie de Santo and the hardest working man in show business, James Brown, plus several unique artists that formed the late 50's and early 60's black music explosion in the US and abroad. The band stays true to a sound and a brand you might label "old school", but looking towards the NOW.



Regarding band members' origins, the most unique one may well be Koko Jean's. Born in Mozambique, lead singer Koko Jean Davis soon moved with part of his family to mid-west USA, where at a young age showed interest and a flourishing talent towards singing, either as part of gospel-choirs, small highschool bands and any job that could take her up to a bandstand or stage. During her college years, she was usually in demand for shows at small clubs ranging from blues and rock acts, to hip-hop, jazz and bossa-nova, the latest being an interest she carried on and expanded soon after, when she moved to Brazil and stayed there for a few years. Finally, she established in Barcelona, hoping the musical atmosphere of the city would at last help her find a full-time musical project, a thing she certainly found in what Adria Gual (rhythm guitar), Daniel Segura (bass guitar, both former members of The Fabulous Ottomans) and Xavi Ayala (drummer on several soul-jazz combos) had to offer.

As of today, The Excitements have brought up quite a big media and public attention releasing a string of 45s previous to an upcoming LP on Penniman Records (one of the today's most important R&B labels in the world), and touring around Spain, being required in small venues and festivals alike, either backing up R&B legend Barbara Lynn, opening for Sharon Jones in several occasions, or simply delivering the goods in any city starving for some ass-shaking SOUL.

Live, the band provides a raunchy backbone which is propelled to unknown heights by Koko Jean's voice, a Soul Sister able to deliver anything from a raspy tone to a soft blues-driven powerful howl, leaving audiences in awe either way.

So don't miss The Excitements whenever they may be passing through your town, as they run through their R&B revue which stands on its own: a real "exciting" show, we may say!



THE DREAM SYNDICATE

A classic guitar band of the eighties. Born at the end of the Punk era, with a feel for Velvet Undergroundon The Dream Syndicate instantly became the saviours of alternative rock before tha term was commonly used.

With The Days Of Wine and Roses they climbed to a highpoint in the critics eyes, and is still today considered a classic outside of die hard Steve Wynn fans circles.

The Medicine Show took a different direction that the raw punkish debut, and some critiques turned their fingers down. It was/is however on of the most lived albums among fans.

After The Medicine Show there was change in line up. Out went Kendra Smith and Karl Precoda and in came Mark Walton and Paul B. Cutler.



FRED & THE HEALERS

Fred and the Healers is a blues & blues-rock band from Belgium. After a break of about 8 years and the last gig at the Ancienne Belgique of Brussels on november 12 2004, the band is back with a brand new line-up in 2013 with Fred Lani on guitar, Cedric Cornez on bass and Nico Sand on drums. Fred Lani creates the band in 1994 at the age of 17 together with bassplayer Papy X and drummer Marc Lhommel. As most teenagers stepping into the blues, Fred is mainly influenced by guitar legends such as Jimi Hendrix, Rory Gallagher, Johnny Winter and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Other major influences of that time include Freddie King, Albert King or Peter Green. The style of Fred and the Healers could then be named as 'Texas Blues'. The band benefits from the baby blues hype of the mid-nineties with musicians such as Monster Mike Welch, Kenny Wayne Shepperd, Jonny Lang, Ainsley Lister, Julian Sas. The band wins the Belgian Blues Prize in 1996 and takes an active part in the Belgium Blues Boom of the nineties with other bands such as El Fish, The Electric Kings, Last Call,... The band self-releases a first EP the same year, of which the 500 copies are sold in about 4 weeks thanks to a strong support of Radio 21. Launched one morning of june 1996 by Marc Ysaye and Yves Damoiseau, the first single 'Stormy Morning' brings an unexpected large audience to the band. At the same time, the band starts collaborating with Boogie Town Agency. Marc Lhommel soon leaves the band for personal reasons and is replaced by Axel Muller, a drummer with more jazz influences. In 1997, the band releases his first album 'First'. The CD is licensed by Kroko Records and published by Universal Music. Both the slow blues 'Love is a Lie' 'à la SRV' and the super-energetic version of 'Messin' with the Kid' get heavy rotation on most national radio channels, including Radio 21, and on the local radio stations that massively support the band. The sales are exceptional for the blues genre, reaching about 6000 copies in total, with about 4000 copies sold in the first three months. The CD is included by the FNAC in the 'Parcours Blues' initiative. This brings national as well as international visibility to the band with even a highlight in the Billboard of May 16 1998. The band plays a first sold out gig at the Orangerie of the Botanique in Brussels. Fred and the Healers also open the Boogie Town festival that year. The tour includes about 40 dates all over Belgium (Wallonia and Flanders), the Netherlands and the North of France, in clubs,



large venues and festivals (e.g. Gaume Jazz, Jazz à Liège, Gouvy Jazz & Blues, Boogie Town, ...). A 52 minutes documentary produced by the RTBF and presented by Marc Ysaye closes the tour. In 1998, a second guitar player, Jérôme Boquet, joins the band. The band prepares and releases a –more bluesy- second album ‘I Gotta Leave’, licensed by Crossover and published by Universal Music. With 4000 copies sold in one year and while not being as successful as ‘First’, the CD gets good reviews in the media and helps the band building its live reputation. The band plays about 60 gigs in one year, with emphasis on Flanders and the Netherlands. In 1998 and 1999, Fred and the Healers can be seen in several blues festivals in Flanders and the Netherlands (Kwadendamme, Middelburg, Sittard, Handzame, Harelbeke, Wuustwezel, Peer PRBF, Kid’s R&B Antwerpen, Wespelaar Swing, ...). In 1999 the band gets the chance to play as support acts for artists such as Canned Heat, Popa Chubby, Joe cocker, Robert Cray, ... In 2000, the band keeps touring with about 40 gigs in Benelux. In 2000, Fred plays in a super Belgian blues band called ‘The Amazing All Stars Boogie Band’ with Willy ‘Wuff’ Maze (The Electric Kings, Tee), RC Stock (Last Call, The Electric Kings), Roland Van Campenhout, Steven De Bruyne (El Fish), Philip Casteels (El Fish). In 2001, the band releases its third album ‘Electerrified’, produced by Mercury Universal. The album approaches the power of some recordings of the great Johnny Winter and Rory Gallagher, making it more a blues-rock album than a pure blues album. The release is celebrated by two sold-out shows at the Botanique in Brussels. The CD hits the charts – a real surprise for the blues genre – with more than 7000 copies sold. The band starts touring again over the Benelux, France and Italy. Hitting the charts (including several weeks in the FNAC top 10 of the Cd sales) helps the band reaching a larger audience with live appearances at the Dour Festival, Nandrin (before Robert Plant), Couleur Café, Peer PRBF (as headliner of the Friday), More blues Zottegem, Jazz Marathon, Eupen Muzik Marathon, ... On June 3, Fred and the Healers with Big Dave as special guest open for Bon Jovi in front of 35000 people on the Werchter festival plein, bringing homemade Belgian blues-rock to a level which had never been reached before... At the end of the ‘Electerrified’ tour, Jérôme Boquet leaves the band to focus on his studies. In 2003, during the preparation of the new CD, Fred takes the hard decision to change the line-up in order to drastically modify the colour of Fred and the Healers’ music. Axel Muller leaves the band (Axel Muller is now the member of a very good blues band called Lightning Bug) and is replaced by a legendary musician, Bruno Castellucci. The new CD ‘Red’ is officially presented in 2004 with two gigs at the Botanique with a promising opening band... Triggerfinger ! The new CD includes more folk and rock songs with a bluesy touch than pure blues song. The CD receives good critics in the media and gets air play on the brand new Classic 21. In 2004, the CD sale market is strongly suffering from the competition of authorized and unauthorized downloading platforms, nevertheless, with about 3000 copies sold, ‘Red’ remains the best chart performance of the band despite a decrease in the band’s CD sales... After 10 years of existence, the band plays the last official gig at the Ancienne Belgique in front of 1200 fans.



KING KHAN & THE SHRINES

Imagine Roky Erickson backed by the Sun Ra Arkestra or Wilson Pickett and The Velvet Underground, or picture the love child of Anubis and Kali. King Khan & The Shrines is more than a psychedelicsoul band with a spectacle of a stage show. They are a cult musical phenomenon with more than 12+ years of international touring, multiple studio records and a fan base of fervent punk, soul, free jazz and garage rock heads.

King Khan, the spiritual guru and front man, cobbled together a fierce line-up of musicians while in Berlin in between reading Tarot cards and raising a family. What he ended up with in 1999 is one of the most entertaining groups the world has seen and heard since the days of Ike & Tina. The line-up includes Chicago-born, Ron Streeter (veteran percussionist for Curtis Mayfield, Stevie Wonder), a horn section consisting of trumpeter Simon Wojan (member of Kranky Records recording artists Cloudland Canyon), tenor sax man Torben Wesche (Germany's John Coltrane), and famous French rockabilly baritone saxophonist Frederic Brissaud. The rhythm section of the Sensational Shrines has been called a German/French version of the Freak Brothers – Till Timm on guitar, organist Frederic Bourdil, Jens Redemann on bass and drummer Mirko Wenzl.,



POKEY LAFARGE

Pokey LaFarge is a musician, songwriter, bandleader, entertainer, innovator and preservationist, whose arsenal of talents has placed him at the forefront of American music. Over the last decade, Pokey has won the hearts of music lovers across the globe with his creative mix of early jazz, string ragtime, country blues and western swing. After signing with Jack White's Third Man Records to release his fifth full-length album (Pokey LaFarge) in 2013, he performed as a musical guest on The Late Show with David Letterman and The Late Late Show on Ireland's RTÉ One network. Pokey's rendition of "Lovesick Blues" with Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks, featured on an episode of Boardwalk Empire, was selected for inclusion on the series' official soundtrack (Vol. 2). Additionally, Pokey appeared in Disney's The Lone Ranger (both on screen and on the original score), was featured on A Prairie Home Companion and NPR's World Cafe, and recorded a song for ATO Records' Divided & United: Songs of the Civil War, produced by Randall Poster.

2014 looks to be Pokey's most momentous year yet; by spring, Pokey will have brought his music to five continents, with international tours in India, Australia and New Zealand. In the past year, Pokey's tour trail (consisting of over 250 shows) included appearances at clubs and festivals across the USA and Canada as well as two extensive tours in Europe. Pokey has played with the likes of Jack White, The Raconteurs, Wanda Jackson, Old Crow Medicine Show, and most recently, Carolina Chocolate Drops. As an opening act on Jack White's Blunderbuss tour, he delighted sold out crowds at Red Rocks Amphitheater and Radio City Music Hall, among other notable venues in North America. Pokey is currently touring with a five-piece backing band, including his original bandmates (Ryan Koenig on harmonica, washboard and snare, Adam Hoskins on guitar and Joey Glynn on upright bass), in addition to Chloe Feoranzo on clarinet and TJ Muller on cornet.

At only 30 years old, Pokey's career has not slowed in momentum since it began with his first release Marmalade (2007). Shortly followed by Beat, Move and Shake (2008) and Riverboat Soul (2010), Pokey quickly graduated from breakthrough artist to leading musical figure, receiving two consecutive Independent Music Awards for Best Americana Album (Riverboat Soul and Middle of Everywhere).

Pokey's music transcends the confines of genre, continually challenging the notion that tradition-bearers fail to push musical boundaries. Rather than merely conjuring up half-forgotten imagery of days past, Pokey is a lyrical storyteller, the plot delivered smoothly through his dynamic vocals. Both on stage and off, his effortless wit never fails to charm audiences, giving way to a live music experience that manages to be grandiose and unassuming all at once. Born in the heartland of America and based in St. Louis, Missouri, Pokey's Midwestern charisma welcomes his audiences with open arms.

Pokey LaFarge is on a mission, encouraging fans worldwide to think differently about what it means to celebrate musical traditions. Simply put, Pokey explains, "It's not retro music. It's American music that never died."



THE SONICS

Since the beginning of garage rock, the northwest sound, grunge, or whatever anyone calls it, the Sonics set the precedence and the pace, and the sound that gave to every musician and band that followed the inalienable right to take rock to the edge of the universe, to explore the possibilities, to get out of the rut, experiment, and to scream your guts out, that you have arrived, and to continue that thought.

The Sonics have remained the most recognized sounds ever listened to by aspiring musicians and multitudes of fans around the world.

The band in its early stages, began in Larry and Andy Parypas living room with a couple of Sears bought guitars and an early unidentifiable bass. Their mom played some guitar and would encourage the boys to get it together. She loved rock, and was an early inspiration.

But it was in early 1963 where the band came together, with skin basher Bob Bennett on drums making them sound like cannons with each beat, and later on, the addition of gut wrenching screamer songwriter piano player singer Jerry Roslie and fellow musician friend, sax player Rob Lind, forming the original Sonics.

Originally from Tacoma, Washington USA, the SONICS are claimed worldwide to be the first punk band, or garage, or hard rock, or alternative, setting the stage for all that would follow. The Sonics are still based in the Northwest USA.

The Sonics songs and precedent music creations began in 1964, with a visit from Etiquette Records co-owner Buck Ormsby, following a friend of the band plea that he check out the group. The meeting took place at a rehearsal in Bob Bennetts garage. Not too impressed with the performance of cover songs, asked if they had any originals. A killer riff was played, but the lyrics didnt work. Two visits later and a change in lyrics, the song The Witch was born. The Sonics first 45 single was released on Etiquette Records in 1964.

Because of the power unleashed by the Sonics recording and unprecedented sound for the times, many stations were hesitant to play the record. Etiquette had an in with several A stations and also what were called B stations. The B stations were a bit easier and open to new sounds and especially local and regional groups recordings. They began the assault on the public's brain with the first plays of The Witch which took off like a bullet sending it screaming up their charts. This became the launch that helped force the A stations to give it a shot. Overnight, after six months of promoting the Sonics first single, they became the band to see, the new sensations, the bad boys of rock.



The new enlightenment, and the bands acceptance by music fans and DJs, demanded the bands first LP. Here Are the Sonics was recorded in Seattle, Washington late 1964 and released early 1965 to raves. This established the Sonics as one of the most progressive and popular rock bands in the Northwest. Originally released as a replacement for the original B side of The Witch the Sonics original Psycho became another brutal musical attack on the establishment and had to be played on all radio, again reinforcing the fact the Sonics were not going away. The bad boys of rock were raising hell with their new found glory, while hordes of fans would pack ballrooms and dancehalls waiting to see their new heroes. Etiquette Records planned for the next album, commandeering a small grocery store front studio in Tacoma Washington to record various Etiquette artists including the Wailers Out Of Our Tree single and LP.

The classic The Sonics Boom LP recorded in late 1965 and released in 1966 was the final Sonics album recordings on the Etiquette label. Both albums feature the most daring and dynamic rock music ever put to 2 track tape. The Sonics Boom simple black and white album cover is one of the most recognizable work of LP art in the world. The original photo was taken by Northwest premier photographer Jini Dellaccio and used in the jacket designed by Zane Baker. The Sonics 60s recordings have remained the most recognized sounds ever listened to by aspiring musicians and multitudes of fans around the world.

The Sonics left Etiquette Records in 1966 to join with Seattle label Jerden Records. Soon after recording their first LP with the label, the original band decided to retire from the scene. Going their separate ways they individually kept performing in various music endeavors but the flame was dampened.

Following their early retirement from being the SONICS they left a legacy and decades of fans who continued to spread the word and the music. Still revered, in late 2007 the Sonics regrouped and reignited on the scene in Brooklyn, New York headlining two sold out shows at the Warsaw.

The Sonics return has sparked international promoters, journalists, reviewers, festival organizers and hordes of dedicated and new fans to embrace the group who's music has thrilled and inspired so many for so many years.

Following in 2008 the Sonics performed theatres and festivals: in London, Barcelona and Bilboa Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, and Vitoria, Spain. They returned to Seattle to headline their sold out concert at Seattle's Paramount Theatre where they performed their last '60's concert in 1973. The Sonics headlined the Ink & Iron Festival in Long Beach, CA June 6 '09.

The Sonics accepted an invitation to perform at South By Southwest (SXSW) 2009 in Austin, Texas in March, 2009 at Emo's. SXSW is Attended by music industry, including over 1000 music groups and artists from all over the world performing nightly during the event. Acclaimed as one of the most memorable concerts since SXSW began, they were invited to headline at NXNE in Toronto June '09, performing on the main outdoor stage in Yonge-Dundas Square. Original members of the Sonics included Bob Bennett, Drums; Larry Parypa, Guitar; Jerry Roslie, keys and lead vocals; Rob Lind, sax, harp and vocals; Andy Parypa, bass;

The Sonics today includes: Jerry Roslie keys, lead vocals, Rob Lind, sax, harp and vocals; Larry Parypa, guitar bkg vocals, Dusty Watson drums; Freddie Dennis bass and vocals .

Drummer Dusty Watson is the newest member of the Sonics. Dusty has toured and recorded with 60's surf music legends Dick Dale, The Surfari's, Davie Allan and the Arrows, as well as Agent Orange, Lita Ford and Seattle's own Supersuckers and Boss Martians. His big bass drum and machine gun snare rolls give the Sonics that bombastic sound reminiscent of Bob Bennett's attack, which helped launch the band in the very beginning. Dusty's approach to drumming is exactly what the Sonics are all about, pure rock and roll energy.



Press contacts

Little X Monkeys (BE)

Dernier album : Black Bird (Debut EP), 2013
Contact : hello@littlexmonkeys.com

Driving Dead Girl (BE)

Dernier album : I think the drums are good, 2013
Label Athome | <http://www.label-athome.com>
Management : Bertrand Lepinois | +32 (0)495576098 | blackjackmusic@live.be
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Belgique : Olivier Biron | +32 (0)477646628
France/Europe : Olivier Laïck |
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White Cowbell Oklahoma (CA)

Dernier album : Buenas Nachas, 2012
Label : Slick Monkey Records | slickmonkeystaff@yahoo.com
Management : Slick Monkey Management | slickmonkeystaff@yahoo.com
Contact : staffwhitecowbell@yahoo.com

Dom Flemons (USA)

Dom Flemons - American Songster, 2009
Management : Tim Duffy | Tim@musicmaker.org | 919.643.2456

Big Sugar (CA)

ELIMINATE YA! , 2012

Management : Bread & Butter Productions | breadandbutterproductions@msn.com
Contact : info@bigsugar.com

King Khan & The Shrines (CA)

Idle No More, 2013
Label : Merge Records
Management : Simon Wojan | simonwojan@gmail.com
Contact : kingkhanandtheshrines@gmail.com

Pokey LaFarge (USA)

Central Time, 2013

Label : Third Man Records

Management : 12x12 Management | John Smith | www.12x12management.com

Contact : Emilee Warner | emilee@warnerblaster.com | 646-674-1744

The Excitements (ES)

Sometimes Too Much Ain't Enough, 2013

The Dream Syndicate (USA)

The Official Dream Syndicate Bootleg Series, 2005

Fred & The Healers (BE)

HammerBeatMatic, 2014-03-26

The Sonics (USA)

« 8 », 2010

Label : Norton Records | Billy Miller & Miriam Linna | nortonrec@aol.com |

www.nortonrecords.com

Management :

Complete Control NYC | Bryan Swirsky | sonicsbooking@gmail.com | 917.362.8273

