

# 33rd Norwich Rehab Chenango Blues Festival Announces Award-Winning Lineup

Norwich, N. Y. – (July 15, 2026) – Returning for a thirty-third year, the Chenango Blues Festival will feature a diverse collection of musicians who have won Grammy Awards, been inducted in Halls of Fame, and have won too many Blues Music Awards to come close to listing.

If you like soul-blues, how about Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Booker T. Jones? Deep Mississippi blues by way of Chicago? – there is the legendary harp player Charlie Musselwhite. For blues rock there are West Coast stalwarts The Record Company and Friday night headliner Larry McCray.

The musical stew is rich with other headline-worthy acts as well. John Primer went from a sharecropper's farm in Mississippi to playing the south side of Chicago with legends like Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon and Junior Wells. Carolyn Wonderland represents the Texas tradition she grew up in around Austin in the 80's and 90's. Vanessa Collier and her stellar sax work bring a new energy to modern blues and Roomful of Blues is swinging harder than ever with a new and invigorated lineup. From north of the border come Canadians the Blackburn Brothers, a true family band who also bring a unique twist to the blues tradition.

Opening up the festival on Friday will be Dustin Arbuckle and the Damnations and Saturday's show will kick off early with the Syracuse All-Star band that is Blue Avenue.

As long-time attendees know the unofficial kick-off of the Festival occurs on Thursday at the NBT Concert Series. This year's double header kicks off at an early start time for the series and is a co-bill of John "Papa" Gros and Desoto Tigers Testimony. John Gros will bring his unmistakable New Orleans keyboard work and Desoto Tigers Testimony is an all-star group that tore up the stage at last year's festival. It makes for a full weekend of the best the blues world has to offer, all put on by an all-volunteer group of dedicated fans – many of whom have been at it from year one. Fortunately for the old timers they have been joined by a new generation of music fans who share a passion for making great music available to all.

The 2026 version of the Chenango Blues Fest has its official start on Thursday, August 20th with the downbeat at 6:00 P.M. in East Park in downtown Norwich. Food trucks and a beer garden are onsite and local restaurants and taverns are steps away.

On Friday, August 21st the action moves to the Chenango County Fairgrounds down the street with the parking lot opening at 4:00 P.M. and the first act kicking off at 5:30 P.M.

Saturday's show has parking opening at 9:30 A.M. and gates open at 10:30 A.M. with first notes at a prompt 11:00 A.M.

Both Thursday and Friday shows are free admission with Saturday tickets starting at \$40 in advance, available on the Blues Association's website at <https://chenangobluesfest.org/>. The website has all the information on the Chenango Blues Festival as well as information on the Thursday Concert Series.

What's the best way to enjoy the fest? Camping on site! A limited number of RV sites are still available and there are plenty of good tent and car camping spots available. The campground gates open early this year so you can set up on the fairgrounds on Thursday and relax for a long weekend.

As a bonus this year Commerce Chenango is presenting a special show by Doug MacLeod on Friday afternoon at the newly minted 1856 Vault venue in downtown Norwich to the first two hundred people who can show they are staying at a hotel, Airbnb, or at our campground for all three days of the festival. We will pass on the details as we receive them.

In addition to all these activities local clubs will be offering music after the fest. Norwich's Museum District is always worth a visit with the Northeast Classic Car Museum a highlight and there are some nice local parks and hiking trails to explore. Come experience everything Chenango County has to offer.

Festival organizers are very grateful for the support they receive from local businesses, foundations and individuals. In addition to naming sponsor Norwich Rehabilitation & Nursing stage sponsors include Laral Management; Cristi Larsen; Rentals To Go; Walking Ridge Development; Alvogen; BrightPet Sherburne; New York Central Mutual; Norwich Wealth Management, LLC; Raymond Foundation; BuildBlock CNY, LLC; Pennysaver/Evening Sun and Showtime Signature Vacations. Without their help it would not be possible to present the kind of artists who are performing this year. ➡