



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BRINGING THE BLUES TO SARASOTA
BACK FOR OUR FOURTH YEAR**

September 5, 2017 - The 4th Annual Suncoast Blues Festival will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the Sarasota Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34237. We are proud to announce our six headliners (in order of appearance): **JAMES ARMSTRONG, ANDREW JR BOY JONES, DOUG MACLEOD, THORNETTA DAVIS, LURRIE BELL AND MONSTER MIKE WELCH/MIKE LEDBETTER BAND!**

The Suncoast Blues Festival is produced by Paul Benjamin, Blues Booking Agent, Founder of the highly successful North Atlantic Blues Festival, and Chairman of the Board of the Blues Foundation; and Greg Herndon, President and Owner of Mojoe Productions, Inc., an interstate all event production company which supplies sound, stage and lighting for countless events all over the eastern USA. Between the two partners, there is over 75 years of combined experience in the entertainment industry and festival production and are paid consultants at various festivals throughout the year.

JAMES ARMSTRONG-Soul, blues and electric blues guitarist, singer and songwriter who born to play the blues. His mother was a blues singer; his father played jazz guitar. His songs have been used in the soundtracks of three films; Speechless, Hear No Evil, and The Florentine. "... With a skintight band and a well-balanced combination of fire, technical proficiency, and taste, Armstrong continues on his way to the upper echelon of contemporary blues artists." - Living Blues; **ANDREW JR BOY JONES**-Texas blues guitarist, singer and songwriter, whose recorded work has been released on five albums. In 1995, he was



also part of the ensemble that garnered a Blues Music Award as the 'Band of the Year'. Andrew "Jr. Boy" Jones is a veteran blues bandleader who's put in time with some of the best, including Jimmy McCracklin, Freddie King, Johnnie Taylor, and Katie Webster; **DOUG MACLEOD**- MacLeod is known for his superb songwriting, guitar wizardry, warm soulful vocals, wit and unforgettable live performances. At the heart of a Doug MacLeod performance is his knack for storytelling, bringing characters-from the faceless to the legendary-to strikingly real life. Doug is a multiple Blues Music Award winner, most recently the 2017 Blues Music Award for Acoustic Artist Of The Year and the Blues Blast Music Award for Male Artist Of The Year. Nominated for a 2017 BMA for Historical Album-Live in Europe, Under the Radar and Doug MacLeod; 2017 Blues Blast Music Award Nominee for Acoustic Blues Album- Live In Europe. "One of the very best acoustic blues exponents in the world."- Lionel Ross, Blues In The Northwest UK. "Like all great blues men, MacLeod lives his music, and the songs are not just on the tips of his fingers and tongue, they are one with his being. - Blues Music Magazine; **THORNETTA DAVIS**- Crowned "Detroit's Queen of the Blues" in 2015, Thornetta Davis a multi-talented International Singer and Songwriter from Detroit MI, USA is the Winner of over 30 Detroit Music Awards. Her voice is strong, commanding, melodic and smooth. She tells her stories with incredible delivery and leaves her audiences wanting more. Winner of the 2017 Blues Blast Music Award Winner for Soul Blues Album - Honest Woman, 2017 BMA – nominated for Best Emerging Artist Album for Honest Woman, 2017 BMA – nominated for Best Song-"I Gotta Sang The Blues" written and performed by Thornetta Davis on Honest Woman, 2017 Blues Blast Music Award Nominee for Female Blues Artist; **LURRIE BELL**- One of the greatest living Chicago blues guitarists, Lurrie Bell was named the 2014 Male Blues Guitarist and "Blues in my Soul" was named Best Contemporary Blues CD in the 2014 Living Blues Magazine Awards. Bell received the same honor in 2008 and 2012 and has been named Best Blues Guitarist in seven of the last eight years. Bell was named the 2015 "Best Traditional Male Blues Artist" by the Blues Foundation



in Memphis. In 2014 Bell was nominated for 5 Blues Music Awards and “Blues in My Soul” won for “Blues Song of the Year”. Bell’s new Delmark CD “Can’t Shake This Feeling” was nominated for a Grammy and won the 2017 BMA for Best Traditional Blues Album of the Year and also nominated for a 2017 BMA Traditional Blues Male Artist of the Year; and **MONSTER MIKE WELCH/MIKE LEDBETTER BAND**-. Welch — the beloved former child prodigy guitarist from Boston who’s been part of Sugar Ray Norcia’s Bluetones for about 25 years — and Ledbetter — the melismatic former opera singer who’s received his training in the blues as a vital part of the Nick Moss Band for the past seven years — together, a 2017 Blues Blast Awards nominee for Contemporary Album, Right Place, Right Time that doesn’t miss a beat as it establishes the Welch-Ledbetter partnership at the pinnacle of the blues world today. Monster Mike Welch was nominated for a 2017 BMA for Instrumentalist-Guitar. Mike Ledbetter has earned a reputation for being one of today’s best blues vocalists. As a trained opera singer and one who has sung in every conceivable genre, Ledbetter channels his range, intonation and phrasing into what he feels is the most emotional music, the blues. Don’t miss them in performance when they tour together as a new supergroup, you won’t be disappointed. The blues will be in good hands as long as these two are on the scene.

Gates will open at 10am on Saturday; tickets are \$30 ADV/\$45 GATE. Show times: 11am-7:00pm
EARLY BIRD TICKETS UNTIL 9/30/2017 - \$25.00 for general admission only.

Reserved seating is \$50.

RV sites available \$40 per night and includes water, 30amp power and dump station on site.

Tent camping is available \$25 per night. No showers. Restroom facility on site.



For tickets, information, sponsorship and vendor inquiries: Contact Roseanne Herndon at

941-758-7585 or info@suncoastblues.com

Please visit our website: <http://www.suncoastbluesfestival.com/>

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: *subject to change

SATURDAY:	Gates at 10am	
	11am	James Armstrong
	12:15pm	Andrew Jr Boy Jones
	1:30pm	Doug MacLeod
	2:45pm	Thornetta Davis
	4:00pm	Lurrie Bell
	5:15pm	Monster Mike Welch/Mike Ledbetter Band