

22nd Annual Lotus World Music and Arts Festival September 24-27 | Bloomington, Indiana

****For Immediate Release 9/14/15****

For more information and for high-res images contact Sunni Fass, sunni@lotusfest.org, 812-336-6599

**Presented by Bloomingfoods Market & Deli, Blueline Media Productions,
and Indiana University Bloomington**

Bloomington, IN – The 22nd annual Lotus World Music and Arts Festival returns to Bloomington, Indiana this September, filling the downtown streets with its eclectic blend of global sound and spectacle. Performers from all over the globe take the stage in venues across the heart of the city, and attendees can experience an entire world of music in one blissful, boisterous weekend. From pavement-quaking outdoor dance tents to contemplative church venues and historic theaters, and from family-friendly arts in the park to a swirling evening street scene, the Lotus vibe is one of exuberant energy, vivid colors, and delectably diverse soundscapes.

The 2015 Festival runs from September 24th – 27th and includes both ticketed events and a schedule of free programs. At its core, the Festival centers around its premier showcases on Friday and Saturday evenings, when a wristband becomes your passport to explore all downtown venues from 6:30pm until midnight. Festival events also include a thrilling opening concert on Thursday night, free access to the Arts Village and a special Lotus exhibit throughout the weekend, and the popular Lotus in the Park (also free) on Saturday afternoon. Festivities wrap up with Sunday's closing World Spirit Concert, where "the pin gets you in" (the 2015 Lotus collectible pin, that is, which sells for \$5 and supports Lotus's year-round outreach efforts).

This year's Festival line-up features 27 performing artists from 22 countries that span from The Americas to the Republic of Georgia. The roster includes Ethio-jazz and soul grooves, vocal harmonies from Finland and the Republic of Georgia, modern sounds from the Polish borderlands, hip French-Chinese swing, big North African brass, and a dash of Bhangra/Celtic fusion. Elusive pop ecstasy, urban Blues, Korean traditional, Irish dancing from right here in Bloomington, and much, much more – find the full list of performers on the Lotus website at <http://lotusfest.org>.

Thursday's double-header opening Kick-Off Concert (September 24) takes place at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater and features the lively Nordic instrumental music of Baltic Crossing (Finland, Denmark, UK) and the raucous Louisiana sound of Grammy-winner Buckwheat Zydeco (US). Sunday's World Spirit Concert (September 27, also at the BCT) brings the Festival to a close with transcendent music from Maarja Nuut (Estonia) and Şimdi Ensemble (Turkey).

Lotus in the Park (Saturday, September 26, noon-5:00pm) is free and open to the public and offers musical performances in Waldron, Hill, and Buskirk Park (Third Street Park), as well as nine different interactive workshops in two pavilion areas. Make-and-take art activities abound in the kid-friendly Art Camp, and there's even a place to valet-park your bike! Lotus in the Park is

also proud to feature one of the state's first Bicentennial events: the exhibit "Indiana Folk Art: 200 Years of Tradition and Innovation", curated by Traditional Arts Indiana.

The Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center hosts the free exhibit "Seeing Red: World Textiles" from August 28th to September 26th, and the free outdoor Festival Arts Village has vibrant interactive displays and activities on both Friday and Saturday nights. An Arts Village highlight is a Filipino harvest dance demonstration with Mabuhay! Philippine Cultural Community on September 25th. Other splendid delights offered in the Arts Village include the "Celebrating the Harvest" installation, star weaving, and chalk art activities.

See below or visit the Lotus website at www.lotusfest.org for a full schedule of Festival weekend events as well as information about Festival ticketing, amenities, lodging, and more.

The 2015 Lotus World Music and Arts Festival is presented by Bloomingfoods Market and Deli, Blueline Media Productions, and Indiana University Bloomington. Corporate sponsorship comes from Bloom Magazine, Ivy Tech Community College, IU Office of the Provost, and Organized Living.

Benefactor sponsors include Beth Ellis, Realtor; Cassady Electrical Contractors, Inc.; Echo Park Studios; The Foundry @ 304; Go Express Travel; IU Kelley School of Business; IU School of Global and International Studies; IU School of Public Environmental Affairs, IU School of Public Health; Lou & Sybil Mervis Chair of Jewish Culture & the Arts, Robert A. & Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program; Old National Bank; One World Enterprises; Picture Gallery; and Rendezville.

Grantors for the 22nd annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival include Arts Midwest; Art Works / National Endowment for the Arts; Brown County Community Foundation, Inc.; City of Bloomington Arts Commission; Indiana Arts Commission; IU Health; and Visit Bloomington.

The Festival is truly made possible through the generous support of our diverse sponsors and patrons, as well as through Friends of Lotus individual contributions. Please visit lotusfest.org for a complete list of sponsors and donors. We thank our community for their commitment to Lotus.

Festival Tickets On Sale – Buy Early and Save

Single- and multiple-day tickets are available, with special pricing for students, children, and seniors. The Weekend Pass is always the best value for attending all of the Evening Showcases. Complete ticket pricing and purchase information at lotusfest.org/lotus-ticket-information/

Ticket Outlets:

- Online at bctboxoffice.com
- Buskirk-Chumley Theater Box Office: 114 E. Kirkwood, (812) 323-3020
- Weekend passes also on sale at Bloomingfoods East, Bloomingfoods Elm Heights, and Bloomingfoods Near West Side

Events / Performances / Happenings

Complete schedule and artist information at lotusfest.org/2015-artists

August 28 – September 26: Festival Exhibition: “Seeing Red: World Textiles”

FREE / Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center (122 S. Walnut)

Gallery is open throughout the month, with additional special events:

September 4: Opening reception, 5 – 8pm

September 10: Gallery Talk by Joan Hart, Ph.D., 5:30-6:30pm talk, reception to follow till 7:30pm

September 26: “Seeing Red” Collectors gallery talk, 4-5pm

Thursday, September 10: Lotus Lineup Lowdown: Preview with an Ethnomusicologist

7pm / Monroe Co. Public Library Auditorium (303 E. Kirkwood)

FREE

Learn more about Lotus artists’ countries and cultures with Dr. Daniel Reed of the IU Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology.

Thursday, September 24: Lotus Thursday Kick-Off Concert

7pm / Buskirk-Chumley Theater (114 E. Kirkwood)

Tickets via BCT Box Office (bctboxoffice.com / 812-323-3020)

A double-header Opening Concert gets you into the Lotus groove, featuring Baltic Crossing (Finland/Denmark/UK) and Buckwheat Zydeco (US).

Friday and Saturday, September 25-26: Festival Evening Showcases

6:30 - Midnight / Various venues in downtown Bloomington

Tickets via Buskirk-Chumley Box Office (bctboxoffice.com / 812-323-3020)

Weekend passes at most Bloomingfoods locations

A wristband is your passport to multiple performances each showcase night, at venues ranging from the Buskirk-Chumley Theater, to standing-room-only street tents, to churches where traditional music shines! Enjoy 25+ artists from 20+ countries. Complete schedule and artist information at lotusfest.org/2015-artists

Enjoy 2015 Festival artwork by illustrator Vincent Desjardins, and don’t miss the “Caravan” art installation in the Pictura Gallery/Old National Bank Tent, created by students in the IU School of Fine Arts.

Friday and Saturday, September 25-26: Festival Arts Village

6:00 - 10:00pm / 6th St. between Walnut and Washington

Special harvest dance live demonstration on Fri. Sept. 25 at 8:30pm

FREE

Including Filipino harvest dance and workshop, star-weaving and chalk art making activities, and “Celebrating the Harvest” installation, featuring works created in Lotus summer arts outreach workshops.

Saturday, September 26: Lotus in the Park

Noon - 5:00pm / Waldron, Hill, and Buskirk Park (Third St. Park / 331 S. Washington)

FREE

Featuring live performances, interactive workshops, hands-on arts and crafts, artisan exhibits, bicycle parking corral, and more. Also showcasing the Bicentennial exhibit “Indiana Folk Art: 200 Years of Tradition and Innovation.” Full Park schedule at lotusfest.org/event/lotus-in-the-park-2/

Saturday, September 26: Festival Parade

8:30-9:00pm / Kirkwood Ave. from B-Line Trail to Buskirk-Chumley Theater

FREE

Led by festival artist Fanfaraï. Community is invited to take part in this procession. Decorate your bicycle with a Lotus-inspired theme and ride along or just come and wave a Lotus flag.

Sunday, September 27: World Spirit Concert

3pm / Buskirk-Chumley Theater (114 E. Kirkwood)

The 2015 Commemorative Pin (\$5) gets you in to the Sunday World Spirit Concert, the Festival's beautiful wrap-up event featuring Maarja Nuut (Estonia) and Şimdi Ensemble (Turkey).

2015 Lotus Pin

Buy a collectible pin for just \$5 and help support Lotus's free programming during the Festival and throughout the year. The Pin also "gets you in" to the Sunday World Spirit Concert 9/27. This year's pin design comes from Vincent Desjardins. Available for purchase at the BCT Box Office, Bloomingfoods locations, Landlocked Music, and at the Festival Store.

Volunteers Wanted

Fill out a volunteer application form online!

Led by volunteer coordinator Tamara Loewenthal, Lotus volunteers are integral to every part of Festival production. We are especially in need of set-up and tear-down volunteers. For more information, visit our website or contact tamara@lotusfest.org.

2015 Lotus volunteer t-shirt art by graphic designer Jenn Robison

Friends of Lotus and Encore Circle

Did you know that ticket sales only support 50% of the Lotus budget? Become a Friend of Lotus with a tax-deductible donation and help keep Lotus strong in our community. Make a one-time gift, or join our Encore Circle with a recurring monthly contribution that sustains Lotus year-round. Every gift makes a difference! Learn more and donate now at lotusfest.org.

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Lotus Education and Arts Foundation
P.O. Box 1667 / Bloomington IN 47402
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Lotus is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. In addition to the Festival, it annually offers concerts, arts events, community workshops, and Lotus Blossoms educational outreach. Every Lotus event supports our mission: To create opportunities to experience, celebrate, and explore the diversity of the world's cultures, through music and the arts.

Full information on the 22nd annual Lotus World Music and Arts Festival now online!
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and at lotusfest.org for current info!