

Media Information 18th Blues Festival Basel, April 04 - 09 April, 2017, Volkshaus Basel, www.bluesbasel.ch

From the 4th to the 9th of April 2017, the 18th Blues Festival Basel promises six days of high voltage and concentrated energy with yet another diversified program at the Volkshaus Basel.

As in previous years, in 2017 the Blues Festival Basel again presents a wide range of blues and related music styles.

The Bluegrass, located in the South West of the USA, is sometimes referred to as the Blues of the White Man. Country Music has its roots in the Bluegrass. It is therefore only logical to invite country musician Sarah Jory to the Blues Festival. The British singer and guitarist has made a name for herself especially by her virtuoso performance on the expressive pedal steel guitar (Wednesday, April 5, 2017).

That same evening, the Boogie Woogie will get a chance to make an impact. British pianist Ben Waters as well as German key artist Axel Zwingenberger are considered masters of the Boogie Woogie with its fast bass riffs and shifted melodies of the right hand.

Many consider Soul as the groomed counterpart to the rather down-to-earth Blues. American singer Tasha Taylor feels at home in both worlds. She is the daughter of the great soul singer Johnny Taylor, from whom Tasha has inherited the radiant voice and the emotional fire (Thursday, April 6, 2017).

American singer Dana Fuchs also celebrates the soul, which she mixes with rock elements. She expresses her talent especially when she interprets ballads, charging them with sultry passion with her dark, smoky voice (Friday, April 7, 2017).

Again this year, the Blues Rock is strongly represented: British artists Aynsley Lister, Ben Poole, Laurence Jones and Scotsman Stevie Nimmo are gifted solo guitarists. These four musical personalities together on stage promise a concert of superlatives (Thursday, April 6, 2017).

Welsh guitarist, singer and songwriter Philip Sayce, who grew up in Toronto, Canada, is also an uncompromising blues rocker. At the age of 16 he was already performing on stage. He then embarked upon a fast career, during which he acquired great musical skills (Friday, April 7, 2017).

The last evening of the Festival (Saturday, April 8, 2017) is traditionally dedicated to the Chicago Blues. After last year's Promo Blues Night winner, guitarist and singer Dominic Schoemaker has opened the evening with his new band, Basel born saxophonist Sam Burckhardt, who has been living in Chicago for over thirty years, presents singer and guitarist Oscar Wilson and The Joel Paterson Band. Oscar Wilson's passion is the classic Chicago blues of the 1940s and 1950s. Singer Othella Dallas was born in Memphis 91 years ago and now lives in Binningen near Basel. When the Grand Old Lady of Jazz and Blues enters the stage, she thrives as she did 60 years ago, when she performed with jazz legends like Nat King Cole. In turn, Joel Paterson is one of the busiest guitarists in the Chicago music scene.

Five Swiss bands have made it to the Promo Blues Night on Tuesday April 4, 2017: Bluescream, The Blues Mystery, Coffee n' Blues, Estella Benedetti & Michael Giger Band and Guido Melone & The Down Town Blues Band. These bands will be presented to jury and audience, and the winners' band may take part in the main program at the Blues Festival Basel in 2018.

The 18th Blues Festival Basel 2017 is rounded up by the Blues Brunch on Sunday morning with the Festival Allstars. All the festival musicians still staying in the city will gather on stage for the great final jam session.

BFB, Rolf "Vanny" De Marchi
