



MUSIC EXPORT MEMPHIS PRESENTS

# MEMPHIS as ⚡ FOLK

## WEDNESDAY

10:30 PM AYBIL  
10:55 PM SINGA B.  
11:20 PM DOUG MACLEOD  
11:45 PM JEREMY STANFILL  
12:10 AM MARY HATLEY  
12:35 AM WALT PHELAN

## THURSDAY

10:30 PM DOUG MACLEOD  
10:55 PM WALT PHELAN  
11:20 PM FRANK MCLALLEN  
11:45 PM MARCELLA SIMIEN  
12:10 AM JEREMY STANFILL  
12:35 AM KEENYA CREATES  
1:00 AM SINGA B.  
1:25 AM BRIAN BLAKE

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## FRIDAY

10:30 PM BRIAN BLAKE  
10:55 PM MARCELLA SIMIEN  
11:20 PM KEENYA CREATES  
11:45 PM AYBIL  
12:10 AM SINGA B.  
12:35 AM WALT PHELAN  
1:00 AM FRANK MCLALLEN  
1:25 AM MARY HATLEY

## SATURDAY

10:30 PM KEENYA CREATES  
10:55 PM FRANK MCLALLEN  
11:20 PM MARY HATLEY  
11:45 PM BRIAN BLAKE  
12:10 AM AYBIL  
12:35 AM MARCELLA SIMIEN  
1:00 AM JEREMY STANFILL

GET YOUR FOLK ON

# ROOM ⚡ 1012



MUSIC EXPORT MEMPHIS PRESENTS

# MEMPHIS as ⚡ FOLK

FEATURING

MARCELLA SIMIEN | AYBIL | DOUG MACLEOD  
FRANK MCLALLEN | WALT PHELAN | JEREMY STANFILL  
MARY HATLEY | KEENYA CREATES  
BRIAN BLAKE | SINGA B.



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## AYBIL



Songwriter Aybil released *Jordan Poole*, a stripped down haunting melody about war and addiction in 2020. She has since released several projects, all rooted in vulnerability and a love for storytelling. Pulling on her folk, gospel, and 60s soul and rock influences, her goal is the creation of timeless music that heals the spirit. Notable performances are DreamFest: Loungin' In the Park, and Celebrate AMERI'KANA Music & Arts Festival. She is making her Folk Alliance International debut as an official juried showcasing artist.

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## BRIAN BLAKE



Brian Blake is a performing and touring songwriter based in the greater Memphis area. Brian is a rostered artist on the Mississippi Arts Commission and writes heartfelt and thought-provoking folk, Americana, and roots music. In 2021, Brian was named the Songwriter of the Year by the Memphis Songwriters Association. His first full-length album, *Book of Life*, was released in 2022 and achieved considerable success and acclaim including the #3 Editor's Pick for album of the year by *Americana Highways*. Full of memorable stories and characters, *Book of Life* delves into Blake's southeast Texas roots, where his family goes back more than 175 years. The album was produced by Walt Wilkins with musicians such as Rich Brotherton (Robert Earl Keen), Warren Hood (Lyle Lovett), and BettySoo joining in the mix. His sophomore album, *Little Things*, is planned for release in spring of 2026.

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## SINGA B.



Singa B is a rising voice in modern blues, blending raw soul, Memphis grit, and a contemporary storytelling sound that connects across generations. Shaped by the musical legacy of Memphis, Singa is a self-taught vocalist, guitarist, and pianist whose performances are emotionally charged and deeply rooted in blues tradition. He has shared stages and studio collaborations with legends including Bobby Rush and recently completed a national tour with Tony! Toni! Toné! His upcoming debut EP, *Brand New Blues*, was recorded at Ocean Way Studio in Nashville and showcases a refreshing approach to the blues that is both reverent and forward-thinking. Singa is dedicated to preserving and evolving the genre, speaking at universities like the University of Memphis and Berklee College of Music on the history, culture, and future of blues music.

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## KEENYA CREATES



Keenya Creates captivates as a singer, rapper, storyteller & musician. Her music is a savory blend of soul and hip-hop, slow-simmered in folk traditions and served with love. After years of honing her skills in Memphis' underground music scene, Keenya is now emerging as one of the city's most fiery talents. Fresh from her first regional tour, Keenya is preparing to release her new EP, "*Wings of Sankofa*," in Spring 2026. Through artful storytelling and affirming lyricism, she crafts a coming of age tale with a liberating level of honesty. The tone and texture are uniquely Memphis, but the message within the music reaches far beyond the borders of her beloved hometown.

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## DOUG MACLEOD



Doug MacLeod is a celebrated acoustic blues storyteller, singer, songwriter, and guitarist whose music carries on the rich tradition of the American blues. Known for his unique finger-style playing, soulful voice, and unforgettable stage presence, Doug has earned multiple Blues Music Awards. His songs have been covered by artists from Albert King to Eva Cassidy, and his performances blend humor, heart, and deep human truth. As Jorma Kaukonen said, "One of the great blues artists.... period!" Doug's latest album, *Between Somewhere and Goodbye*, continues his lifelong journey of sharing songs that speak to the soul.

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## MARY HATLEY



Mary Hatley is a singer-songwriter from Memphis, TN. She moved to Memphis when she was eight years old and immediately fell in love with the historic music scene. The soul of Memphis and the presence of famous musicians such as Elvis Presley, inspired her to pursue a career in Music. Hatley's early shyness subsided when immersed in music, her influences spanning classic rock to contemporary soul. A self taught guitarist, she channeled her experiences into introspective songwriting during quarantine. Working with producer Matt Qualls at Memphis' Easley McCain, Hatley has crafted her debut album that reflects the emotional landscape of her young life. Her music, an intimate exploration of vulnerability and strength, offers listeners a refuge, a shared space for emotional resonance. Hatley's work marks her as a compelling voice in the Memphis music scene, one forged in personal experience and delivered with raw authenticity."

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## FRANK MCLALLEN



After two decades as one of Memphis's most trusted sidemen, Frank McLallen is stepping into the spotlight with *Extra Eyes*, his first full-length solo album on Red Curtain Records. On this album, McLallen emerges as a songwriter whose voice balances vulnerability with poise, somewhere between the stark intimacy of Will Oldham, the luminous pop sensibility of Big Star, the surrealist wit of Robyn Hitchcock, and the sleek clarity of Role Model. *Extra Eyes* is a vibrant, eclectic collection that showcases McLallen's expansive creativity and distinctive voice. A seasoned figure in Memphis's underground music scene, McLallen has played bass in EX-Cult, backed Jack Oblivian with the Sheiks, chased twang with the Tennessee Screamers, and powered the garage-pop urgency of Model Zero. But *Extra Eyes* is different. It is intensely personal, written in the wake of loss and renewal as a reclamation of his love of music and his artistic rediscovery.

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## WALT PHELAN



Walt Phelan crafts songs that feel like quiet confessions shouted into a canyon — intimate, raw, and echoing with heart. The Memphis-based songwriter weaves indie-folk storytelling with a rock edge, blending delicate acoustic textures with the emotional grit of lived experience. His newest album, *You, Mountain* (Red Curtain), traces the peaks and collapses of love, self-discovery, and the strange beauty of rebuilding yourself from the wreckage. With a voice that carries both tenderness and defiance, Phelan turns vulnerability into something powerful — an act of endurance and grace. His performances feel less like sets and more like shared awakenings, inviting listeners to step inside the storm and stay awhile.

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## MARCELLA SIMIEN



Marcella Simien is a Louisiana-born artist and a proud ninth-generation Creole. Her music is a soulful reflection of her deeply personal journey through spirituality and identity. With a genre-defying sound that blends Soul, American Roots, Blues, Jazz, and more, Simien crafts a sonic experience that is both timeless and uniquely her own. Drawing from the rich cultural heritage of her lineage, she bridges tradition and innovation with powerful authenticity and heart.

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## JEREMY STANFILL



Jeremy Stanfill is a Memphis based songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose music is shaped by the grit and soul of the city that raised him. With folk, rock 'n' roll, country, and R&B woven naturally into his sound, his songs draw from lived experience including love, loss, survival, and the search for connection. Stanfill writes not to chase trends but to make sense of the world around him while balancing music with the realities of everyday life. His work is honest, unguarded, and deeply human, carrying the weight of hard lessons while holding space for hope, resilience, and the belief that creating and connecting remain essential.

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## EXPERIENCE MEMPHIS AT FAI

Welcome to your guide to experiencing Memphis music at this year's Folk Alliance International festival and conference! As Memphis' music export organization, we're thrilled to be shining a light on our city this week, with showcases every night, official juried artists throughout the week, and hosted panels and sessions. Take a look at the schedule highlights below and review our private showcase schedule on the back cover. See an artist you love? Find their bio and contact details for booking, management and publicity right here. You can also be on the lookout for the blue "I'm from Memphis" ribbons - I promise, we'll be easy to find this week!



Elizabeth Cawein  
Founder  
Executive Director  
Music Export  
Memphis

## Music Export Offices Peer Session

10:30-11:30 AM | Evergreen - Floor 4

Hosted by MEM, this session will explore best practices in international market development, cross-border partnerships, funding models, and showcasing initiatives.

## OFFICIAL SHOWCASES

Marcella Simien

9:40 p.m. Thursday 1/22 | *Rhythms III* - Floor 2

Doug MacLeod

8:40 p.m. Thursday 1/22 | *Borgne* - Floor 3

Aybil

8:20 p.m. Friday 1/23 | *Maurepas* - Floor 3

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