



Smithsonian

Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Smithsonian Folklife Festival records: 2019 Festival of American Folklife

Charleen Smith-Riedel, Dave Walker

2019

Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
600 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, D.C.
rinzlerarchives@si.edu
<https://www.folklife.si.edu/archive/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Title:	Smithsonian Folklife Festival records: 2019 Smithsonian Folklife Festival
Date:	2019
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Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Names:

Smithsonian Folklife Festival
Smithsonian Institution. Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Container Listing

Series 1: DC Music Preservation

Description: At a time when dramatic changes in our city's demographics, built environment, and economy are impacting local communities, the Folklife Festival continues to highlight D.C.'s distinct heritage. In doing this, the Festival program 2019 had originally been designed to use DC's homegrown go-go and punk communities to anchor explorations about a constellation of music making in the region.

Activities before and during the Festival would trace the sources, musical conversations, and creative departures emerging from these scenes and resonating in sounds and communities associated with other genres, from folk to hip-hop, jazz to marching band. The intent was NOT to exhaustively survey music genres and communities, but rather to sample a creative ecology—exploring the intersection of social practice and music, revealing how both segregation and interaction—among neighborhoods, communities, and individual artists—is expressed through music.

In February 2019, the Festival plan shifted to a weekend format. The DC program was re-envisioned to occur in venues off the Mall over a period of five months, with one afternoon on the Mall, and to provide digital experiences and content that contribute to efforts to preserve and expand access to DC music history resources.

Within this framework, the months leading up to and during the 2019 Smithsonian Folklife Festival were scheduled with punk and go-go anchor presentations of a constellation of music making in the metro region, showcased as homegrown DIY, youth-driven music communities. Each of these presentations embodies stories of migration, displacement, segregation, and political activism in the city. Through performances, discussions, and new web features, the extended festival presentations explore diverse sources, creative conversations, and musical departures emerging from these scenes and resonating in the sounds and communities associated with other genres.

With this program, the festival affirms its commitment to collaborate with local knowledge keepers and artists, providing them with support in the preservation and promotion of their local histories and culture.

Production and Participants: **Production Curators:** Sojin Kim, Nichole Procopenko **Media/Documentation:** Albert Tong, Dave Walker, Charlie Weber **SI Consultation and Support:** Cristina Diaz-Carrera, Erin Dowdy, Julia Gutierrez, Diana N'Diaye, Shay Stevens **Interns:** Ashley Avila, Rameshwar Bhatt, Gissel Bonilla (Real World History high school afterschool program), Xueying Chang, Mara Hoplamazian, Aidan Keys, B. Deva Macias, Melissa Queen, Lucy Sprague, Colin Stucki, Harry Zhu, Rameshwar Bhatt **External SI Contributors:** Ben Ashworth, John Davis, Emily Hilliard, Natalie Hopkinson, Amy Horowitz, Richard Howard, Noel Lopez, Allison Martin, Mark Puryear, Cita Sadeli, Farrah Skeiky, Albert Tong, Antonia Tricarico, Alexandra Tyson, Seshat Walker, Allison Wolfe **External Advisors and Consultants:** Natalie Avery, Olivia Cadaval, Michelle Casto, Barbara Dougherty, Ashley Emerson, Federico Frum, Maggie Gilmore, Derek Gray, Greyson Harris, Nico Hobson, Amanda Huron, Alec MacKaye, Ian MacKaye, Frankie and Sherry Meneses, Vance Levy, Kip Lornell, Ronald Moten, Jimmy Pelletier, Mo Shorter, Kimberly Springle, Luke Stewart, Jim Thompson, Carl Walker **Participants:** *D.C. Music Preservation Pop-Up*

- DC Public Library Punk and Go-Go Archives
- D.C. Public Library, Washingtoniana
- Globe Collection and Press at MICA

- Anacostia Community Museum
- Mayor's Office on African American Affairs
- D.C. Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment
- National Park Service
- Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives with the DC Oral History Collaborative
- Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives, University of the District of Columbia
- Punk and Indie Fanzine collection at UMD
- DontMuteDC—Don't Mute The Movement

Go-Go PA Tape Listening Session

- Nico Hobson, the GoGo-ologist

Off-site and in the City, Anacostia Community Museum

- Alma Robinson, local artist

#DontMuteDC—Don't Mute The Movement

- Natalie Hopkinson, cultural scholar
- Ronald "Mo" Moten, peace activist
- Julien Broomfield, music producer Tone P
- Donald Campbell. Metro PCS store owner
- Jacqueline Jackson

Local Record Label Market

- Carpark Records
- Crooked Beat Records
- Dischord Records
- Smithsonian Folkways Recordings
- This Could Go Boom!
- Electric Cowbell Records
- Free Dirt Records and Service Co.
- Lovitt Records

Crown Vic and Area Woman's Weird World Record Party

- Jim Thomson
- Eliza Childress

DC Bluegrass Union Jam Go-Go Performance: The Royal Pocket Tour

- Ronald Moten
- Natalie Hopkinson

Punk Rock Story Time Percussion Workshop with Malik DOPE Drummer Black Girls Handgames Project

- OnRaé LaTeal

First Ladies to Anthology of Booty: Women DJ Collectives in D.C.

- Allison Wolfe
- Ebony Dumas
- Les Talusan
- Maegan Wood
- Kristy Chavez-Fernandez
- Kristina Gray (DJ K La Rock)

Action. Reaction, Action: Visualizing Fugazi (exhibition) Make Me Wanna Holler: Exploring DC's Music Legacy

- Chocolate City Rocks

- Anacostia Community Museum's "A Right to the City"
- National Postal Museum with the new Marvin Gaye stamp
- "Poetry and Percussion"
- Woodrow Wilson High School Poetry Club
- The Sanctuaries
- Head-Roc (Mayor of DC Hip-Hop/Chocolate City Rocks)
- Elise Bryant, DC Labor Chorus (E.D., Labor Heritage Foundation)
- Anthony Fields, DC Hip-Hop Legend/Pioneer bka Dimensions
- Ras Lidj, creator of Regg'Go
- Katy Otto, DC Punk Icon
- HDavid
- DJ RBI Music
- Smooth and EZ Hand Dance Institute
- Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center

There's a Story in Everything: Zinemaking and Comic Workshop

- Evan Keeling

Frame of Mind: Punk Photos and Essays from Washington, DC

- Antonia Tricarico

Storymakers Festival featuring Music and Deaf Culture

- WAWA
- SupaLee

Breaking the Sound Barrier: Deaf Perspectives from the Music Industry

- WAWA
- SupaLee

Downtown DC Live: Featuring TK Echo

- Josh Blair, drums
- Fiona Griffin, keyboards and vocals
- Aaron Leitko, bass
- Chris Richards, guitar and vocals

Storymakers Festival featuring Christylez Bacon and Wytold Downtown DC Live: Featuring Cigarette

- Drew Hagelin, drums and percussion
- Evan Napala, guitar and vocals
- Richard Howard, bass and vocals
- Jonathan Howard, guitar and vocals

Mt. Pleasant: The Social Power of Music

- Lost Origins Gallery
- District Bridges
- DC Public Library Punk Archives
- Janel Leppin, cello
- Anthony Pirog, guitarist
- Siobhan Hagan, DC Public Library Memory Lab
- The OSYX
- Park Snakes
- Bacchae
- Michelle Casto, DC Public Library
- Kristy la Rat, DJ

Cultivating Change: Music + Community in Mt. Pleasant Walking Tour

- Tim Wright, Attucks Adams Walking Tours
- Natalie Avery, Javera Group, Radio CPR

Summer in the Park, Late Skate at Anacostia

- Be'la Dona
- DC Public Library Go-Go Archives

Individual artist interviews

- Cherie Agurs, musician, Be'la Dona
- Richard Howard, musician, Cigarette
- Chris Richards, musician, TK Echo
- Allison Wolfe, musician, riot grrrl
- Brandi Thompson Summers, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Delece Smith-Barrow, The Hechinger Report
- Lauren Saxton Coleman, University of Southern Mississippi

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Series 2: Social Power of Music

Description: The 2019 Smithsonian Folklife Festival takes as its animating theme the "social power of music." Be it the lilt of a lullaby, the syncopated rhythm of a sacred drum, or the wail of a funeral dirge, music conveys cultural values while expressing an unlimited range of meanings and emotions.

When music compels us to engage and exchange, it displays a remarkable capacity to promote shared understanding, transcend difference, and fuel social cohesion. During moments of protest and resistance, it can express rage and hope in equal measure. Music's power—its social power—resides in its ability to transmit knowledge while synchronizing activities that create, sustain, and, occasionally, break bonds within and between cultures.

The 2019 Festival comprises two days of concerts, music workshops, and audio demonstrations. Beyond these two days with full programming, the program Social Power of Music partnered with the Downtown DC Business Improvement District to present a series of lunchtime concerts in Franklin Park. The very public nature of playing music in a city park speaks to the power of music outside of traditional club venues.

**Production
and
Participants:**

Production

Folkways Curators: Huib Schippers, John Smith, Claudia Foronda **Baltics Curators:** James Deutsch

Participants

The Bright Siders

- Kristin Andreassen
- Dr. Kari Groff

The Fierce Urgency of Now: Troubadours, Poets, and Wordsmiths

- Ruby Ibarra
- Quetzal featuring Alice Bag
- La Marisoul
- Kokayi and Friends

Grandmaster Flash Presents Hip-Hop: People, Places, and Things

Jourdan and Tarron

- Tarron Stewart
- Jourdan Jones

Community Sing with Rev. Nolan Williams, Jr.

Kokayi ft. Jenna Camille

- Kokayi
- Jenna Camille

Elizabeth Mitchell and You are My Flower

Curating the Social Power of Music

- Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- National Museum of American History

Hands On Music: Drum Circle

- Jonathan Murray

Hands On Music: Zine Making

- Evan Keeling

Sonia De Los Santos

Family Open Studio: Musical Innovations

- Freer|Sackler exhibition Resound: Ancient Bells of China

Dan + Claudia Zanes: "Rock Island Line"

Baltics Song and Dance

- Sudrabavots ("Silver Spring")
- Baltimore Lithuanian folk dance group Malūnas ("The Windmill")
- Traditional Estonian sack race

Kokayi: D.C. Vocalist, Underdog, Connector of Dots

The Sonic Landscape of Benin: Music from Smithsonian Folkways

TK Echo and the Social Power of Music in D.C.

Ian MacKaye on the Power of Punk

Hands On Music: Maracas Making Workshop

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Series 3: Special Events

Description: The Pete Seeger Tribute Concert celebrates the life and legacy of Pete Seeger in honor of his 100th birthday. For over sixty years, up until his death in January 2014, he performed powerful songs and lent his energies to causes he believed in. Seeger's influence and legacy has only grown as the issues he sang about, from labor struggles to environmentalism, have become increasingly urgent. His songs define these cultural and political flashpoints to this day, unique in their ability to offer a stance that is defined by strength, clarity, and compassion.

Production

Director: Sabrina Lynn Motley

Participants

- Sonia De Los Santos
- Elizabeth Mitchell and You Are My Flower
- Dan and Claudia Zanes
- Kristin Andreassen and The Bright Siders

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