

# The Virginia Key GrassRoots Festival of Music, Art and Dance Announces Lineup

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*Multi-cultural, family-friendly annual festival returns to Miami for a fourth year*

**Miami, FL – January 7, 2015** – The inclusive four-day arts and culture extravaganza known as the **Virginia Key GrassRoots Festival of Music, Art and Dance** will return to the **Historic Virginia Key Beach Park** (4020 Virginia Beach Drive Key Biscayne, FL 33149) Thursday, February 19, 2015 through Sunday, February 22, 2015. A week of camping, dance, cooking and movement workshops will precede the festival during **GrassRoots Culture Camp**, starting Sunday February 15th.

This year's lineup will feature **Rubblebucket, Marco Benevento, Keith Frank, AJ Ghent Band, Big Mean Sound Machine, Donna the Buffalo, Swear and Shake, Telekenetic Walrus, Danay Suárez, Morikeba Kouyate, Locos Por Juana, MC Yogi, Jim Lauderdale, the Spam Allstars, Afrobeta** and 40+ other acts.

Rubblebucket is a Brooklyn, NY-based indie / dance band touring in support of their latest release *Survival Sounds* and their latest single "Carousel Ride." They brand their music as a "mischievous, playful, boundary-smashing blast," and their live shows have been known to cause mass dancing.

Marco Benevento is a New Jersey born and raised pianist whose influences run the gamut of indie rock, jam and post-rock/experimental. His latest effort *Swift*, released in 2014, is nine tracks of ambitious alternative jams with catchy hooks and pop-like melodies. He has previously toured with **Phish's Trey Anastasio**.

Keith Frank stands at the forefront of the "nouveau zydeco" movement, his accordion prowess the product of a family tradition that began with his father, the great **Preston Frank**. His style is steeped in the rich tradition of North American and specifically, Louisiana Cajun zydeco music.

Lap steel guitar prodigy AJ Ghent is currently based in Atlanta, GA, but his six-piece band, a fusion of southern rock, blues, soul and funk, tours the southeast U.S. pretty extensively. They are currently working on their debut release.

Founded in 1989, Donna the Buffalo are a GrassRoots staple hailing from upstate New York. Their original roots music, hued by elements of Cajun, rock, folk reggae and country, travels well up and down the east coast throughout the year. They will be making their fourth appearance at the Virginia Key festival.

Danay Suárez, originally from La Habana, Cuba, has been generating a buzz throughout Latin America and Europe with her soulful voice, razor-sharp lyrics and innovative musical style. Performing since the age of 15, Suárez formed part of the *Havana Cultura* series, collaborating with various artists throughout the years. Danay recently released her third studio album *Palabras Manuales*, which includes a combination of hip hop, reggae, jazz and R&B sounds.

The Spam Allstars are a pioneering Latin funk act, the brainchild of DJ Le Spam, a composer, producer and musicologist. A Latin Grammy-nominated act, the band plays often in South Florida and beyond, appearing at both the NC and NY editions of the GrassRoots festivals. They are gearing up for the release of a new EP of material, slated for this spring.

The dance/pop/electro funk duo of Smurphio and Cuci Amador are better known as Afrobeta and have been heating up dance floors on both coasts of the U.S. since 2006. They recently issued a remix of their single called "Everywhere," and new music from them is in the works.

**Full Lineup:**

Afrobeta

AJ Ghent Band

Big Mean Sound Machine

Bobbie Henrie

Brendan O'Hara

Chantil Dukart

Consortes

Cortadito

Danay Suarez

Dark Water Rising

DJ Bill Kelly

DJ Richard McVay

Donna the Buffalo

Driftwood

Elastic Bond

Electric Piquete

Ephniko

Fabi World Experience

Jim Lauderdale

Juke

Keith Frank & the Solieau Zydeco Band

Keith Secola & His Wild Band of Indians

Lanzallamas

Lobo Marino

Locos Por Juana  
Marco Benevento  
MC Yogi  
Morikeba Kouyate  
Nag Champyons  
Nativos Orchestra  
Nikki Talley  
Osceola Brothers  
Preston Frank  
Richie Stearns & Rosie Newton  
Rubblebucket  
School of Rock  
Sihasin  
Sindy Rush  
Spam Allstars  
Suenalo  
Swear & Shake  
Tamboka  
Telekinetic Walrus  
The Apple Butter Express  
The Baboons  
The Blind Spots  
Uma Galera  
Uproot Hootenanny  
Uruchamba  
WildCat Creek  
Zey Ta Blan  
Zona De Bomba

This year, the non-profit Virginia Key GrassRoots Festival was awarded a \$75,000 matching grant through **The Knight Arts Challenge**, in recognition of the dynamic support they provide to the arts community of South Florida, as well as the world class music they bring to the citizens and visitors that attend the festival. The Knight Arts Challenge Grant validates the work of the festival, which strives to grow community using the magnets of music, art and dance.

New for 2015, the **GrassRoots Culture Camp** will predate the festival itself, running Sunday, February 15th through Wednesday, February 18th, featuring yoga, instrument and cooking workshops, and more, ending each night with a daily family-style dinner and dance. Think beachside camping coupled with innovative workshops led by some of the GrassRoots Family's greatest talent.

The festival will also feature the **Zen Village Healing Arts** area, the **Kids Village**, the **Sustainability Fair and**

**Expo**, band and instrument contests, the **Beer Garden & Vinyl Lounge**, the **GrassRoots World Café**, live art, craft vendors, daily yoga session, beach camping and more.

Tickets are available online at [VirginiaKeyGrassRoots.org/general-info/tickets](http://VirginiaKeyGrassRoots.org/general-info/tickets). For more information, visit [VirginiaKeyGrassRoots.org](http://VirginiaKeyGrassRoots.org) or call [786.409.5261](tel:786.409.5261).

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## **ABOUT GRASSROOTS**

The original **Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival** began in 1990 as a benefit concert to support a local AIDS organization in Ithaca, NY. Encouraged by the success of that night, a decision was made to create an annual festival dedicated to raising money for the fight against AIDS, while supporting arts and education. With the help of countless volunteers, the Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival has become an internationally-recognized event with a focus on traditional and contemporary roots music and dance from all over the world. For four days every July, the festival hosts more than 60 performing groups on four stages at the **Trumansburg Fairgrounds** in central New York, near the university town of Ithaca.

Twelve years later, the **Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival** was launched on a 75-acre farm in rural North Carolina near the triangle cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill. Twice a year, in April and October, thousands of people attend the event to revel in great music, sweat it out on the dance floor, celebrate the arts, and build community. The site has since become the **Shakori Hills Community Arts Center**, a non-profit organization created to strengthen the community through music, arts and education.

The festival is down south for the winter once again, having found an amazing site, the **Historic Virginia Key Beach Park**, just off the coast of Miami, FL. It's the ideal spot for the fourth annual season **Virginia Key GrassRoots Festival**.

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