

CLARK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT. HOSTS RIBS AND BLUES CONCERT

The second annual Ribs and Blues Concert, on May 17 at Sunset Park, features a dynamic double bill headlined by the Charlie Musselwhite Band. Opening for Musselwhite will be traditional blues artists Cephas and Wiggins.

Award-winning ribs will be available for purchase, as well as beer and soft drinks. Advance tickets are \$8, or \$10 at the gate. Children under 14 with an adult are admitted free.

Guitarist John Cephas and harmonica man Phil Wiggins have been performing the Piedmont blues together for a dozen years. Their music has its roots in the rural dance music and blues of Virginia and North Carolina.

John Cephas was recently honored with a National Heritage Fellowship Award for his musicianship, an honor that designates "national treasures" who have preserved a unique American tradition.

Together, the duo has won two W.C. Handy Awards. One was for their album, "Dog Days of August," which was named Best Traditional Blues Album of the Year. They were also named Blues Entertainers of the Year, an award which had previously gone to mainstream electric artists.

The two have played every major blues festival to standing ovations and toured throughout the world.

Their music, while based on tradition, has a polish and excitement that reaches audiences of all ages. Mike Joyce of *The Washington Post* said, "Bowling Green John Cephas and Phil Wiggins turned in a series of remarkable guitar and harmonica duets, including some that literally pulled people out of their seats." *Guitar Player* said about John Cephas' singing, "Exquisite and heartfelt...his rich, resonant voice projects a confidence that rivals Leadbelly's"

Charlie Musselwhite is well known to Las Vegas blues audiences. In 1990 he racked up some richly deserved honors, saw his new album "Ace of Harps," take off, and toured Europe for the first time in six years. He was a guest soloist on John Lee Hooker's Grammy-award winning "The Healer" album. Musselwhite also won the Handy for "Best Instrumentalist of the Year."

The critics continue to praise Charlie Musselwhite and his band. *Rolling Stone* raved, "With unabashed excellence, Charlie Musselwhite and his tight band set the standard for blues bands everywhere." From the *New York Times*, "... harmonica virtuosity ... a veteran performer and a member of the first generation of white Chicago blues musicians ... solos reminiscent of Little Walter."

The concert kicks off the weekend-long Craft Fair and Rib Burn Off, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00

p.m. Saturday and Sunday. This year's event features continuous live music, children's activities, a classic car show, handmade crafts for sale and a rib competition. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Last year's top three rib winners, Carollo's, Smokin' Okie and Famous Phil's Smoke N Locomotive, will be selling their award-winning ribs at the Friday night concert. Beer and soda will also be available for purchase.

Advance concert tickets are on sale at Winchester Community Center, 3130 S. McLeod, or at the Sunset Park office. Members of the Las Vegas Blues Society receive a one dollar discount on advance tickets.

The music starts at 7:00 p.m.; gates open at 6:00 p.m. Picnics are welcome. For more information call the Clark County Parks and Recreation Department at 455-7340.



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