

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2019

CONTACT: Claire Holmes, (646) 822-0355

PHOTOS [HERE](#)

Credit: Max Guliani for Hudson River Park

**HUDSON RIVER PARK PRESENTS:
THE 20th ANNUAL BLUES BBQ FESTIVAL
ON AUGUST 24 AT PIER 97**

Rolling Stones touring saxophonist Karl Denson will perform alongside other celebrated blues musicians at the day-long festival

NEW YORK—This summer, Hudson River Park’s famous free Blues BBQ Festival, known for its incredible riverfront performances, is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a jam-packed lineup. The day-long festival will take place at Hudson River Park’s Pier 97 on Saturday, August 24, from 2 to 9 p.m., with performances from Kevin Burt, The World Famous Harlem Gospel Choir, AJ Ghent [j-ent], Ruthie Foster, and Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe.

Every year, the festival brings together some of the most exciting blues performers from all over the country—more than 100 musicians have taken the stage over the last two decades. All performances take place against the backdrop of the Hudson River, with audiences coming from far and wide to hear the music.

The acts are spaced throughout the day so visitors coming at any point can enjoy an outstanding experience. Renowned New York City BBQ joints Blue Smoke, Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, Butcher Bar and Mighty Quinn's will also be onsite all day long serving up classic dishes to enjoy with seasonal brews from Sixpoint.

The Blues BBQ Festival, which launched in 1999, is the longest-running free blues festival in the New York region and brought together some of the genre’s most famous performers from all over the country. Since then, the festival has grown and attracted a cult following.

“In the last twenty years, Hudson River Park has become a destination for blues fans and celebrated musicians looking to hear classic bands and exciting new music,” **said Madelyn Wils, President and CEO of Hudson River Park Trust.** “This year, we are proud to celebrate the festival’s twentieth anniversary with an incredible and diverse lineup of acclaimed blues performers.”

Festival Schedule:

2:00 PM - Kevin Burt

3:15 PM - The World Famous Harlem Gospel Choir
4:30 PM - AJ Ghent [j-ent]
6:00 PM - Ruthie Foster
7:30 PM - Karl Denson's Tiny Universe

The lineup, carefully curated by Hudson River Park, is designed to showcase the many interpretations and influences of the blues genre. Kevin Burt brings Iowa blues roots and outstanding vocals. The World Famous Harlem Gospel Choir, known for their contemporary gospel that blends jazz and blues, have performed for three presidents, two popes. AJ Ghent [j-ent] fuses blues, funk, rock, and pop into a fresh, electrifying genre he calls, NEO BLUES. Three-time Grammy nominee Ruthie Foster mixes blues, gospel and folk to deliver powerful performances. Highly regarded as one of the best live acts on the planet, singer and saxophonist Karl Denson fronts the Tiny Universe as if he's preaching the gospel. His energy and spirit are contagious while his songwriting serves a larger message of fellowship—across generations and cultures.

Previous years have featured some of the all-time greats; guitarist Robert Cray; percussionist and vocalist Cyrille Neville; New Orleans's Dirty Dozen Brass Band; guitarist Hubert Sumlin; blues harp legend James Cotton; blues singer John Lee Hooker Jr.; "Queen of the Blues" Koko Taylor, and others.

###

About Hudson River Park

Hudson River Park extends from Chambers Street to 59th Street along Manhattan's west side, making it one of the longest riverfront parks in the United States and an important outdoor recreational area for countless New Yorkers. The Park plays a critical role in protecting the Hudson River ecosystem and is committed to educating residents on the local habitat and environment.