

Quincy Porchfest offers music, historic backdrop

17 local musicians volunteer to perform on North Florida porches
Saturday

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The Quincy Porchfest, a music festival held on various porches, will host 17 local acts from Quincy and Tallahassee. / Lindsay Marshall/FSView

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On Saturday, Sept. 8, in the historic district of Quincy, Fla., about half an hour from Tallahassee, an unconventional music event will ensue. The Quincy Porchfest, a weekend-long gathering, will host a variety of 17 local musicians from the Quincy and Tallahassee areas to play live music on eight different porches within a two-to-three block radius.

“At 2:00 p.m., there will be five performers at once,” Quincy Porchfest organizer Walter Kelleher said. “So if they don’t like the band, they can walk to another porch and hear a different one.”

Opening the fest is country and pop singer, Wayne Deweill, songwriter Eli Fenenbock, barbershop quartet the Rolling Tones, light rock artists Paul Harbin and Don Stock and classical guitarist Justin Hoke.

Later, folk musician Byrd Asbell, vintage acoustic band Keith and Barefoot Rob, acoustic rock and folk band Below the Dam Band, Quanta (who will perform eclectic piano and saxophone instrumentals) and the Legacy School of Performing Arts will all showcase their talents. The day will wind down with rock/funk/R&B/blues band The Benders. Country and southern band Six String South, classy country-strings musician Chuck Tallent, acoustic folk-rock band Urban Superstition, and Americana musician Jimi McKenzie.

The final two bands, smooth, acoustic band Hot Tamale, and rock and country band Local Motion, will close the night.

“None of the bands are getting paid,” said Kelleher. “It’s all volunteer. The only thing I put into it is creating maps and signs. But luckily 17 bands committed.”

The porchfest is new to Quincy, although the idea of music events held on porches has become popular in recent years.

“I’m a musician myself, and I was reading a music magazine, and saw something in Ithaca, New York, where two guys were sitting on a porch playing guitar, and it turned into an event,” said Kelleher. “It started small and then later started mushrooming. Eventually there were hundreds of porches involved, with 300 bands playing in one day.”

Historic Quincy boasts several establishments to hear live music, such as the Gadsden Arts Gallery, Quincy Music Theatre, Main Street Café and Half Shell Oyster Bar.

“Most people just drive through Quincy,” said Kelleher. “This way, they can stop and see the historic district. It’s a cool event.”

Parking will be available, along with maps of the performances in the area; the day can be spent walking the historic district and visiting different acts.

“I hope people come up and see historic Quincy for this free, family-friendly event,” said Kelleher.