

KELLEY HUNT RETURNS TO FLATLAND BLUES FESTIVAL

Kelley Hunt returns to the Flatland Blues Festival for the second year. Her performance is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 4th.

Kelley Hunt has an identity clearly steeped in blues/roots/gospel music along with a freshness and commanding, passionate stage presence and superior skills as a vocalist, piano player and writer that have earned her the respect of critics and fans across the country.

Hunt's music has subtle reminders of the traditional influences she heard growing up in Kansas City, but her lyrics, soul and passion are all her own. Gary Nicholson, Grammy Award winning producer says, "She's a song's best friend."

Her growing grass-roots popularity has prompted invitations to perform seven times on NPR/PRI's "A Prairie Home Companion," and six times on "Beale Street Caravan" The Blues Foundation's syndicated radio show. Other appearances include "House of Blues Radio Hour", "Backstage Pass" and numerous other syndicated blues radio vehicles.

Her latest CD, "New Shade of Blue" debuted at #9 on the Billboard Blues chart late last summer and was met with critical acclaim from writers across the country.

Dan Bliss is scheduled to perform in the late afternoon on Saturday. Bliss is a guitarist and singer with a song list that ranges from original tunes to covers of such varied artists as Ray Charles, Bob Dylan, Robert Johnson, Taj Mahal, Lyle Lovett and many others.

He grew up just outside of Syracuse NY, settled with his wife in Kansas City in the late '80s and in 1993 joined Kelley Hunt's band for five years. As Hunt's guitarist, he played with legendary singer/B3 organist Mike Finnigen and rock and roll pioneer pianist Johnnie Johnson.

Bliss has been on his own since 1999, releasing his debut solo CD "Open For Business" and has kept a busy schedule as a solo performer including extensive club dates in Kansas City and around the Midwest.

The Second Flatland Blues Festival is being held at the Russell County Fair Grasslands and Memorial Park and is hosted by Friends of the Deines Cultural Center, Russell Main Street and Russell Arts Council. The festival begins at 11:00 am on Saturday, June 4th and continues until 11:00 pm. A beer garden and food booths will be available by non-profit organizations. The line-up features Anthony Gomes, Kelley Hunt, Peter Madcat Ruth, Carey Bell, Back Porch Mary, Dan Bliss, Mudbone, Rick Hill, Code Blue, along with Linus Sarver, Ray Smith, Brian Curran, Dave Kuehn and more.

Sunday's schedule features a Bagels and Blues gospel service and breakfast starting at 10:30 am.

Advanced tickets for Flatland Blues Festival are available for \$15.00 at G-B Records and Doerfler's Harley Davidson in Hays, Salina Harley Davidson and House Of Sight And Sound in Salina. In Russell tickets can be purchased at Deines Cultural Center, Russell Main Street, Klema Apple Market and U-S-A Express and in Great Bend at Dillons. Tickets at the gate are \$20.00.

More information is available at www.flatlandblues.com or by contacting deinescenter@russellks.net.