

The Flatland Blues Festival welcomes Peter Madcat Ruth along with regional musicians to the lineup of musicians this weekend. The festival is being held Saturday, June 4 from 11:00am to 11:00 pm at the County Fair Grasslands and Memorial Park in Russell.

Coming from Ann Arbor, Michigan, Peter Madcat Ruth has established an international reputation through his virtuosity on the harmonica. By the late 1960s, Madcat was immersed in the Chicago Blues and studying harmonica with Big Walter Horton. He toured the world with jazz pianist Dave Brubeck and went solo in the 1980s. He has been an invited guest performer at many music festivals in North and South America, Europe and Asia, and has been named Harmonica Player of the Year by the Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica. He currently performs with blues guitarist Shari Kane, Muruga's Free Funk Band, The Big Joe Manfra Band in Brazil and with "Triple Play" along with guitarist Joel Brown and Chris Brubeck. CDs are out with these groups as well as a solo CD, "Harmonicology". Ruth will be performing solo for the Flatland Blues Festival.

Madcat is more than an expert musician. He is a performer who has such a good time playing music that audiences, ranging from pre-schoolers to senior citizens, delight in his performances. His enthusiasm is unpretentious and contagious. Ruth is known to area blues fans, having appeared at the Deines Cultural Center and Salina River Fest, and with Triple Play at Hesston, KS.

In addition to Ruth, the line-up for Saturday afternoon and evening features Anthony Gomes, Kelley Hunt, Back Porch Mary, Dan Bliss, Mudbone, Rick Hill and Code Blue.

And, starting at 11:00 on Saturday, regional musicians Linus Sarver, Osborne, and Nadine Guise, Lebanon, will perform. After nearly thirty years of playing other peoples' music, Sarver has begun to write and entertain with his own songs. Sarver is best known for his Southern Gospel, blues, and boogie styles. He has a light-hearted, easy-going approach to his piano and vocal music. Guise has been performing since she was three and is mostly self-taught. She has been composing since she was 13, and has been touring as a contemporary gospel singer since 1991.

Well-known regional vocalist Lyndell Rorabaugh will also be singing the blues at the festival. "Lyndy" grew up in a musical family with her father playing fiddle and mother guitar and piano. She's been singing on stage since she was 13. Lyndell Rorabaugh has been a member of the Flatland Band for 29 years, and is well known for her bluegrass and blues vocals and harmonies. Her voice has been likened to those of Patsy Cline, Bonnie Raitt and Janis Joplin

Steel guitarist Ray Smith, Wilson, will also be performing. Smith, originally from the Chicago area where he was influenced by the styles of the 1920's and 30's country style blues legends, has been playing blues guitar for over 30 years. He currently is living near Wilson where he makes Natural Tree Furniture. Smith built his own acoustic guitar in 1979. He plays a self-taught style of circular picking and slide guitar on the dobro or steel guitar.

The Second Flatland Blues Festival is hosted by Friends of the Deines Cultural Center, Russell Main Street and Russell Arts Council. 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](http://www.flatlandblues.com) or by contacting [deinescenter@russellks.net](mailto:deinescenter@russellks.net).