

Tickets are now available for the Third Annual Flatland Blues Festival. The festival is hosted by Russell Arts Council, Friends of the Deines Cultural Center and Russell Main Street and takes place June 3rd and 4th in Russell. In Hays, tickets may be purchased at Dillons and Doerfler's Harley Davidson. Tickets are available in Russell at USA Express, Klema Hometown Market, the Chamber of Commerce Office and Deines Cultural Center. Ticket outlets in Salina are House of Sight and Sound and Dillons. Wichita locations include Dillons at Central and Rock Road and at the Dillons store at Central and Maize. Hutchinson and McPherson Dillons also have tickets for purchase.

This year, fans of the blues may also purchase tickets on-line using PayPal by visiting the festival website at www.flatlandblues.com.

Ticket prices are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door for adults. This year, the festival organizers are offering reduced price tickets for children ages six through fourteen at \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door with children under five being admitted free of charge.

ANTHONY GOMES RETURNS.

Anthony Gomes and his band return to the Flatland Blues Festival on Saturday June 3rd at the County Fair Grasslands and Memorial Park in Russell.

Gomes is originally from Canada (born in 1975 to Portuguese father and Canadian mother), but he now lives in Nashville, Tennessee. He has been evolving stylistically, starting with his first album in 1997 called "Blues in Technicolor," a mix of blues and rock. In 2000 he recorded a more traditional acoustic album "Sweet Stringin' Soul." His last, "Unity", recorded in 2002, is more rock with a touch of soul and funk, with some socially conscious lyrics on love and unity.

Anthony Gomes lived in Chicago for a time where he fused his blues with rock and soul. He has powerful vocal skills ranging from a raspy shout to a croon), and brings his energy together with his band as they tour North America and Europe doing live shows. His guitar playing is frantic and full of passion. His longtime bass player, Biscuit Miller, is not content to just pluck away in the background. He and his band are hard working, with an innovative style. Last year's Festival goers observed that his style is very interactive as he works the crowd and wants everyone up and dancing.

Anthony Gomes has been described as "genuine". And The Clarksdale Press Register says, "His voice morphs to music. One minute Anthony Gomes sounds like Otis Redding. Next breath, he's Robert Plant crossed with Delbert McClinton. On every song, however, Gomes is all roots."