

# Folk Happenings

## Moab Folk Festival Virtual Celebration

The 2020 Moab Folk Festival will feature a virtual celebration November 6-7, 2020. Due to Covid-19, we are presenting a special retrospective video to remind us of all the good music in the past seventeen years. Each fall since 2003, performers and audiences have gathered the first weekend in November to create the spontaneous community known as the Moab Folk Festival. The event is known not only for its locale in the stunning red rock, but also for its intimate venues and unique lineup. Festival founder Melissa Schmaedick cultivates a blend of folk, roots, Americana, bluegrass, blues, and world music.

Annually, audiences vote for their favorite performer. The winning performer earns a return slot in the next year's Festival and is presented a coveted Moab Folk Festival commemorative ukulele. The People's Choice Returning Artist is a valued Festival tradition. The event has hosted Judy Collins, Richard Thompson, Bruce Cockburn, Tom Paxton, and Martin Sexton. Unknown performers are often the ones who are voted to return. They reach out with the perfect alchemical blend and make connections to hearts and souls.



Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman

Thirteen of our People's Choice Returning Artists contributed songs for this event. Karen Savoca and Pete Heitzman have performed together for decades. Savoca's strong, sensual vocals and drumming coupled with Heitzman's virtuoso grooves create an uplifting chemistry. Jonathan Byrd is a preacher's son, Gulf War veteran, and an award-winning songwriter from Chapel Hill, NC. Byrd shares

tales of the small people that make the world such a big place. Sloan Wainwright is a Festival and Moab Folk Camp favorite. Wainwright's music is unified by her melodious tone and rich, powerful contralto providing transformative, healing, and energetic experiences for audiences. Kenny White arrived in Moab as the opening act for Cheryl Wheeler. White's accomplished and sought-after piano playing along with his clever lyrics won over audiences. David Olney is well-known worldwide for his strength as a songwriter's songwriter, and as one of Nashville's founding fathers of Americana music. Unfortunately, Olney died January 18 during a performance in Florida. Canadian "Mysticissippi" blues man Harry Manx has been called an "essential link" between the music of East and West, creating music that weds the Blues with classical Indian ragas. His unique sound is hard to



David Olney



Sloan Wainwright

forget and deliciously addictive. Peter Mulvey is best known for his warmly wry songwriting and his intense percussive guitar style. He folds all his encounters into his work: poetry, social justice, scientific literacy, and a deep abiding humanism. When Ellis Delaney sings, she leaves her audience better than she finds them," with



Jonathan Byrd



Penny & Sparrow

softened edges & opened hearts." This will explain why she was voted back repeatedly. John Fullbright also won our People's Choice award twice through the pure power of his performances. The Grammy nominated Oklahoman's prowess as a songwriter, musician and singer elicits encore requests. Mark Erelli's intelligent songwriting, expressive performances and exuberant signature sound won over Festival Audiences. A talented artist, he excels in his role as storyteller and entertainer. Kyle Jahnke and Andy Baxter make up indie folk duo Penny & Sparrow. Combining one guitar and two



John Fullbright

voices in close harmony, Penny & Sparrow convey genuine heartfelt emotions. Their songs and humorous banter create a moving, memorable performance. Hubby Jenkins enchanted audiences with his multi-instrumental talent, sense of humor and historical knowledge of old time American music. He doesn't shy away from hard topics; political, social, and otherwise. May Erlewine's gift for writing empathetic and engaging

songs that feel fresh and soulfully familiar earned her a return slot at our event. She made a palpable connection with attendees. We look forward to having her on our stage in 2021.



Ellis Delaney

The Virtual Moab Folk Festival will give our community an opportunity to be connected as we are accustomed at this time of year. We are striving to keep as many of our traditions alive as possible. On the evenings of Friday November 6th and

## MOAB FOLK FESTIVAL

Saturday November 7th, a retrospective video will debut at 7 PM on our website and facebook. On Saturday at 11 AM, Cosy Sheridan will host a virtual singer songwriter in the round. KZMU will feature Festival Performers on select programming leading up to the event. The event schedule can be found at [www.moabfolkfestival.com](http://www.moabfolkfestival.com). Festival merch, fundraising raffle tickets and links to artists' donation pages will be available at our new online store. Please follow us on facebook and Instagram for updates.



Harry Manx



Kenny White



Mark Erelli

**FREE Virtual**

# MOAB FOLK FESTIVAL

November 6-7, 2020 • Moab, UT

MoabFolkFestival.com

*People's Choice  
Returning Artists Retrospective*

**Karen Savoca  
& Pete Heitzman**

**Jonathan Byrd**

**Sloan Wainwright**

**David Olney**

**Ferron**

**Harry Manx**

**Peter Mulvey**

**Cheryl Wheeler**

**Ellis**

**John Fullbright**

**Mark Erelli**

**Penny & Sparrow**

**May Erlewine**










