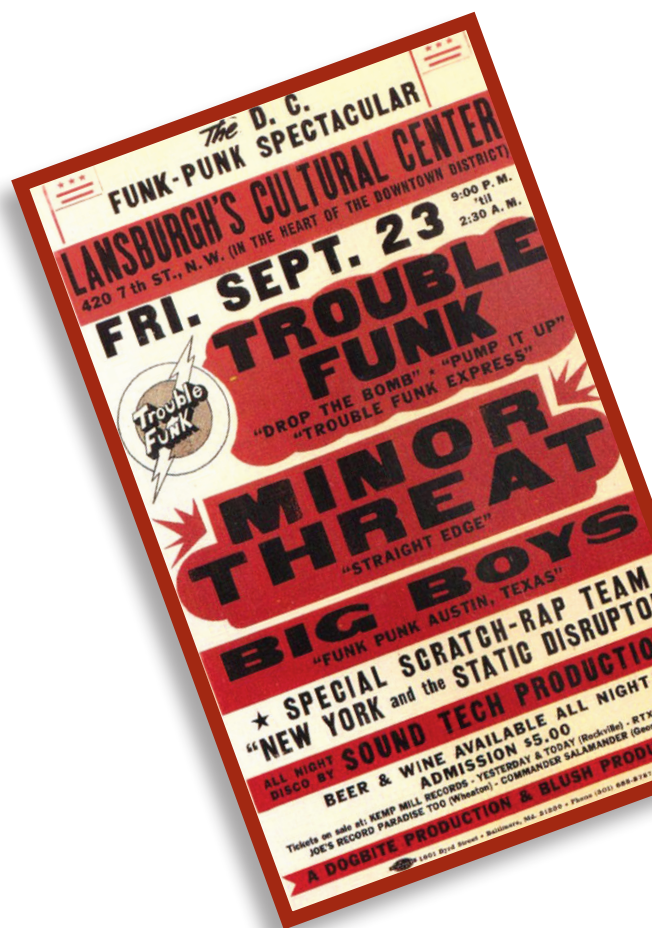


“Washington is a fascinating town because there’s so much emphasis on the federal government that there’s this shade that’s created. And what grows in the shade? **Something nutritious and profound.**”

—Ian MacKaye, musician and co-founder, Dischord Records



PHILANTHROPY AND SUPPORT

The Smithsonian Institution—the world’s largest museum, education, and research complex—shares a strong commitment to inclusivity and catalyzing conversations by reaching audiences across the nation and the globe. Our programs are innovative and help people better understand their place in the world, using technologies to engage learners from all walks of life. We are changing the way that people experience programs and museums.

Founded in 1967, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival is dedicated to promoting the understanding and sustainability of living cultures. At the Festival, musicians, dancers, instrument makers, artisans, and other cultural practitioners engage visitors through daily workshops, master classes, discussion sessions, and performances. The public—both on site and across digital platforms—is encouraged to participate in activities and share stories about the ways in which local living culture connects them to each other and to the larger world.

OUR CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

The Folklife Festival receives approximately 30% of its infrastructure costs from the federal government. Every year the remaining 70%—as well as all of its program-related expenses—must be raised from outside sources. Your generous support enables us to continue promoting culture of, by, and for the people!



To learn more, contact:
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JUNE 25–28 and JULY 1–5, 2020
(June 24– Community Preview)

SMITHSONIAN
FOLKLIFE
FESTIVAL

**DC. THE SOCIAL
POWER OF
MUSIC**



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This program celebrates local Washington, D.C., music movements and communities. It explores how music, social practice, and sense of place intersect atop the ever-shifting grounds of a city that is at once a hometown, the nation's capital, and an international tourist destination. D.C.'s punk and go-go scenes reflect the tensions and legacies of these contrasts. These homegrown, DIY, youth-driven music communities embody histories of migration, displacement, segregation, and political activism in the city.

In this program leading up to and during the 2020 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, punk and go-go anchor presentations of a constellation of music making in the region. The program explores the diverse sources, creative conversations, and musical departures emerging from these scenes and resonating in the sounds and communities associated with other genres. It examines how music matters to a sense of local identity, and how this identity is musically produced in response to the region's changing social and cultural environments.

THEMES

Through multiple formats—including performances, discussions, skateboarding, dance, visual arts, music workshops, and recorded oral histories—we explore:

- ☀ **Social Power of Music**—How does music reflect and contribute to community life in D.C.? How do D.C. artists use music to express local realities and concerns?
- ☀ **Sense of Place**—Can a song or a form of music “sound like” or express something distinctly D.C.? Historically and today, what distinguishes D.C. music making—its sounds, stakes, and strategies?
- ☀ **Cultural Equity**—How does D.C. music making reflect challenges and efforts to shape a region that is a livable, equitable place for diverse communities and generations?
- ☀ **Cultural Vitality**—Who are the people and what are the resources contributing to D.C.'s homegrown musical heritage? What are the greatest challenges to sustaining its vitality?

PROGRAM IMPACT

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival has featured D.C. culture and communities in programs since the late 1960s. Today, at a time when dramatic changes in the city's demographics, built environment, and economy are impacting local communities, the Smithsonian recognizes D.C.'s distinct heritage. The Folklife Festival affirms its commitment to collaborating with local knowledge keepers and artists to promote cultural equity and support the preservation and promotion of regional histories and culture.

- ☀ **Convening and Catalyzing**—By engaging local artists, producers, scholars, and community-based experts, the program fosters new relationships and generative discussions that contribute to furthering D.C. music research and preservation.
- ☀ **Off the Mall**—Starting in April 2019, over a dozen public programs will be produced in venues around the city in partnership with different organizations and communities.
- ☀ **Documentation and Digital Content**—A companion online experience will reach millions of visitors with original, dynamic content about D.C. music: a D.C. Music Map that invites public contributions of stories, images, and sound; feature articles and media pieces; playlists; oral histories; and highlights of over fifty years of D.C. musicians documented at the Folklife Festival.
- ☀ **2020 Folklife Festival**—The D.C. program will present live music and performances, panel discussions, skateboarding and roller-skating demonstrations, workshops and “maker spaces,” visual arts activities, and backstage views into the work and business of music, including the recording process and vinyl pressing.

**D.C. THE SOCIAL
POWER OF
MUSIC**