

Artists ~ Sunday August 6

Mystic Roots Band ~ 11:00

Formed when the members met in Chico, California this 5-piece band plays originals with two feet solidly in Reggae and adding elements of Hip-hop, Pop and Rock to the mix. The band is consistently sharpening their evolving musical arrangements of vocal harmonies and occasional beatboxing that are enhanced by the groups' female/male dynamic. The group has been together longer than most other California Reggae bands and have helped to define the "West Coast Reggae" genre. They've had over 4 million plays on their 2000 song "Pass The Marijuana". Released in May, their most recent album is entitled *Change*.



Sensimilla Dub ~ 12:45

On what is their first trip to the United States, the band is very excited to play on the ROTR stage and represent Brazil (a rarity in the festival's history). Formed there in 2000, this six piece deep roots Reggae band sing in Brazilian Portuguese and play "heavy reggae" influenced by 1970's Reggae and Acid Rock. Songs are performed and recorded with elements of Dub with instruments coming in and out of the mix, "dubwise" style. In 2016 the band released the album *Unity*, it was a first in Brazil, featuring 10 tracks performed by two bands, Sensimilla Dub and Bambu Station from the Virgin Islands.



Marla Brown ~ 2:30

As with any child of an icon, a great deal of responsibility comes with the creation and delivery of your own ideas. London-based vocalist Marla Brown comes from the foundation of UK-style Reggae as the daughter of the late "Crown Prince of Reggae" Dennis Brown. She's released a 7-song EP *Deliverance* that represents her first foray into the music business. A touring dancer and performer, she also has been a semi-finalist on the TV program *Britain's Got Talent*. Continuing her father's legacy, she sings in a honey-rich tone and deep resonance that reflects his own. By naming the EP *Deliverance*, Marla aims to represent her own "deliverance" into the world of the music business whilst giving a nod to her father.



Dezarie ~ 4:15

Hailing from St. Croix, US Virgin Islands this vocalist and songwriter returns to the 2017 ROTR festival stage in a rare tour appearance. Her set is highly anticipated as one of roots Reggae's female pioneers. Her 2001 debut album *Fya* exemplifies original Reggae from the perspective of a female artist from outside of Jamaica and was revered by fans and radio DJ's who continue to play this epic album in regular rotation. She received Atlanta's "Best New Female Reggae Artist" award in 2001 before returning to St. Croix where she currently resides. She's released a total of 5 albums and maintains a devoted following who resonate with her vocal style and lyrics that uplift women, address iniquity amongst class and race, and portray the African-Caribbean experience. Her band includes Ron Benjamin of Midnite on bass as part of an ensemble providing a heavy roots vibe for her complex vocal chants.



Ibibio Sound Machine ~ 6:10

Fronted by London-born Nigerian singer Eno Williams, Ibibio Sound Machine is a clash of African and electronic elements inspired in equal measure by the



golden era of West-African Funk & Disco and modern post-Punk & Electro. Weird and wonderful folk stories, recounted to Eno by her family as a child in her mother's Ibibio tongue, form the creative fabric from which the band's unique musical tapestry is woven. Ms. Williams was born in London, but she relocated to her mother's native Nigeria as a girl. Evocative Nigerian poetic imagery set against an edgy Afro-Electro soundscape that includes horns and percussion to allow the music to take its place within the current wave of modern Afrocentric sounds sweeping across the globe. Combining London electronic club music with Nigerian Funk and Pop the band's second album *Uyai* strengthens and deepens that cross-cultural alchemy. It was released earlier in 2017 and *National Public Radio* noted the band "has crafted a collection of irresistible, multidimensional anthems that reach far beyond the borders of geography, music and emotion."

Lutan Fyah and The Riddim Rebels ~ 8:00

With appearances on festival and club stages in over 30 countries, this artist hailing from Spanish Town, Saint Catherine, Jamaica first got his start in 1997 recording for Buju Banton's Gargamel label. Since that time his vocal strength is called upon for collaborations with other roots Reggae



artists who seek his own particular dose of reality through his songwriting. A part of the Bobo Shanti Rastafarian community, his lyrics address the injustices of the system and present solutions in the form of positive thought, word and deed. Lutan Fyah released his 16th album *Music Never Dies* in April. Produced by I Grade Records, it landed on the Billboard top 10 chart in its first week out. As for the title's origins, the artist explains "When I do music, I do it from my core. I evoke feelings and emotions, so that when my fans hear my songs, they are touched by my words and understand the place where it is coming from. Music is everything to me; music never dies." The artist makes a rare festival appearance at ROTR 2017 after an absence from the U.S. for the past several years. He's joined by the Riddim Rebels a set of seasoned players from Jamaica that will bring the fyah with his extensive catalog of tunes.

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