



# veszprém blues Fesztivál

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Veszprém Blues Festival 13-16 April: The Largest Blues Festival in Hungary 4 Days, 4 Grammy Winners and Over 50 Concerts

For four days - between 13-16 April 2023 - Veszprém will not only be the 2023 European Capital of Culture, but also the capital of the blues. As a major festival element of the [Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture](https://www.veszprembalaton2023.hu) programme, the biggest blues festival in Hungary to date will feature world stars as well as the best-known artists of the Hungarian blues-roots community.

17 February 2023 - Among those taking the stage at the [Veszprém Blues Festival](https://www.veszprembalaton2023.hu) will be *European Blues Challenge* finalists, *International Blues Challenge* finalists, blues artists from fellow 2023 European Capital of Culture cities Elefsina (GR) and Timișoara (RO), Hungarian stars, and four Grammy Award-winning artists:

- [Sugar Blue](#) - platinum-selling harmonica player who has performed with The Rolling Stones;
- [Rick Estrin](#) - with his unique voice and frenetic harmonica playing, one of the icons of contemporary blues;
- [Matt Schofield](#) - the guitarist who reformed the British blues tradition; and
- [Buffalo Nichols](#), a young star who represents the genre's future.



Other featured international performers include **Raphael Wressnig**, who was repeatedly voted Hammond Organist of the Year by *Downbeat*; and his joint production with **Rechelle Yeanty** will be the first time Hungarian audiences will get to see him perform. Amsterdam-based New York singer **Michelle David** will be performing a show based on soul and gospel. Britain's number one blues export **Ian Siegal** will play several shows, and an original line-up will be joined on stage by one of the favourite artists of the Hungarian blues scene of the 1990s, the Greek band **Blues Wire**.

Among the local bands are home favourite Big Daddy Wilson, Little G Weevil, The Black Circle Orchestra, Jambalaya, György Ferenczi and 1<sup>st</sup> Pesti Rackák, Jumping Matt & His Combo, Muddy Shoes, Bluestone, The



Pontiac, Delta Bastards, Redbreast Wilson, Bluesberry, and Tamás Kontor & Misi Horváth. The programme also includes a long-awaited one-off reunion performance by the cult band Palermo Boogie Gang.

Consistent with the [UNESCO City of Music](#) title it earned in 2019, one of the main objectives of VEB2023's European Capital of Culture programme is to present the widest range of musical genres in Veszprém and the Bakony-Balaton region throughout the year – not just in the city, but reaching out and making the music accessible to towns and villages in the region. There will be acoustic mini-blues concerts at various locations, exhibitions, talks and workshops, and even world stars gathering for late-night jams after the official Veszprém Blues Festival programme. Festivalgoers will be able to experience the most comprehensive cross-section of the genre at the Veszprém Blues Festival, the biggest blues festival in Hungary's history.



*'The European Capital of Culture offers a wide range of events and projects that enliven the life of the city and the region through exhibitions, concerts, theatre and dance productions, workshops, culinary and wine evenings and many other exciting cultural programmes that represent our shared European cultural values. Along with VeszprémFest, the Veszprém Blues Festival is a superb example of how the Veszprém and Bakony-Balaton region can become a new cultural and creative centre on the European map. The Veszprém Blues Festival brings top blues musicians from around Europe and beyond, where they can come together with Hungarian blues musicians and fans'.* – **Zolán Mészáros, Chief Advisor to the ECoC CEO, CEO of VeszprémFest**

### [PROGRAMME](#)

Download photos for the Veszprém Blues Festival [here](#).

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### **Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture Background**

*'Our aim for the European Capital of Culture programme is to draw national and international attention to the exciting milieu of the Veszprém-Bakony-Balaton region that is rich in opportunities, experiences and innovation. The high-quality culinary offerings, unique vineyards of the Balaton Uplands and the genuine hospitality of the local people all contribute to the unusual density of good things that the region has to offer. We are convinced that the region's potential deserves at least as much international attention as such world-renowned tourist and cultural destinations as Tuscany or Provence. Anybody who visits us during the ECoC year will discover not just one, but many varied programmes that suit their interest'.* - **Aliz Markovits, CEO of Veszprém-Balaton 2023**



Being awarded the European Capital of Culture is a recognition that the common space of European culture is created by the combined contribution of different countries and cities. It conveys that European culture is shared; comprised of different regional cultural contributions and communicated through the language of the arts. Therefore, the **ECoC** initiative is an **integral part of the European Union's cultural**

**policy**; a policy which aims to bring the peoples of Europe closer together and promote greater knowledge of each other through culture.

The cultural programmes are grouped by both [cultural field](#) such as music, theatre, art, dance, wine and gastronomy...; and [clusters](#), which frame the main ambitions of the new cultural region. The 9 clusters - Music/City, The Busy World of Veszprém, Region/Alive, Fragile Balaton, Reflection, Bridges, Out of the Ordinary,



Celebration, and Beyond – together incorporate hundreds of individual programmes, or series of programmes, that will invigorate the city and the region. Organised by VEB2023 and its partners, the programmes will use art and culture as a means to respond to today's serious challenges; such as bringing life and community back to our towns and cities. Other aims include support for traditional and future-shaping activities in settlements that may be on the 'road less travelled'; to raise awareness of the ecological challenges facing Lake Balaton and its catchment area; engage young people and stimulate their interest in culture through remarkable performances and presentations; and to strengthen people's connection to each other, their environment, and the culture of coexistence.

**For constantly updated information:**

- **Apps:** [Android](#) or [iOS](#)
- **Web:** [English](#) and [German](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [YouTube](#)

A **Press Pack** is available with background information in Czech, English, Slovakian, German, French, Slovenian, Croatian and Serbian, and the **Programme Booklet** (in English).

**Photos:** Photos may be used freely provided the source is credited. (Photo: VEB2023 ECoC unless otherwise specified in the photo name). Download general photos of Veszprém and the region from [here](#).

**Short Videos:**

- [English Image Video](#)
- [English cluster videos](#)
- [German Image Video](#)
- [German cluster videos](#)

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