



Music industry magazine *Pollstar* calls the California WorldFest a "festival of discovery." FestForum awarded WorldFest their 2016 award for "Innovation in Music". 2016 headliner Nahko Bear of Nahko and Medicine for the People says, "It's not very often that I get to play a festival where Indigenous People are held in such an honorable way."

Accolades for California WorldFest continue to pour in. For 20 years this music festival has sought to bring people and cultures together to celebrate music and art, and seek the common thread.

The Sierra Gold Country festival transforms "California's most beautiful fairgrounds" into a world village complete with eight stages of live music, sustainability workshops, a global Indigenous People's village, onsite camping and a village marketplace complete with crafts, shopping, dining and foods of the world. Families are encouraged to attend with family-friendly activities and classes to keep kids of all ages enriched and entertained.

WorldFest is presented by regional arts non-profit The Center for the Arts. Center Executive Director Julie Baker says: "Honoring Native Peoples, emphasizing conscious living and sustainability practices, providing a safe and friendly environment for families to gather, celebrating global cultures and bringing people together through music is our mission."

The first three performers booked for this year's festival (with many more to be announced) provide a good glimpse of the variety in store.

With Jamaican-born singer-songwriter Etana, soul and gospel meet conscious reggae. Inspiring listeners to re-evaluate how they look at others she has been an instigator of change with her message of action and inspiration. Her 2015 release "I Rise" rose to number one on the Billboard Reggae chart.

From Austria, seven-piece Federspiel takes a creative approach to deconstructing brass-band music. Virtuoso playing meet youthful charm, spontaneity and joy. The band features self-penned compositions with pop-elements, arrangements of traditional Mexican music, and even zither as a solo instrument.

Raye Zaragoza is a Native-American/Taiwanese singer-songwriter who was born and raised in Manhattan, New York. At the age of fourteen, she moved across the country to Los Angeles and has since continuously been on the move touring and sharing her music with people of all walks of life. She has performed in more than twenty states on the East and West Coasts as well as Mexico, Canada and France.

The quality is showcased in traditional festival format, on stages, as well as in less expected contexts. WorldFest arranges times for festival-goers to meet and talk with performers in the Global Lounge, as well as hear novel combinations of musicians jam, a format that brings fans right into the creative process.

This year WorldFest plans to expand the Global Indigenous People's Village to celebrate indigenous voices, crafts, and entertainment and to encourage a more broad cultural exchange and awareness through dance and music. The Global Village also houses its own stage featuring music, dance performances and workshops promoting knowledge and understanding of world cultures.

WorldFest also offers a family-friendly atmosphere for all ages. With three areas dedicated to activities and music for kids from toddlers to teenagers, parents can relax knowing their children are engaged in a safe and friendly environment.

Attendees can camp onsite in tents or RVs, participate in over 50 workshops in music, dance, and wellness; shop world crafts from artisans and food vendors; and learn about beekeeping and cob home building in the Conscious Living expo.

Presented by The Center for the Arts, 314 West Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945
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