Seven stages of music, more than 50 artists from around the world, a full workshop and educational schedule, daily yoga, family and kids activities, artisan marketplace, and Global Indigenous People’s Village and onsite camping are just the beginning of areas to explore at this year’s 22nd Annual California WorldFest, presented by The Center for the Arts.

Music industry magazine Pollstar calls the California WorldFest a “festival of discovery.” FestForum named WorldFest for their “Innovation in Music” award in 2016. The Center for the Arts is well known in the local community and across the country for their premiere production capabilities, and WorldFest is no exception.

The Gold Country festival transforms California’s “Most Beautiful Fairgrounds” into a world village for more than 6,000 participants per day!

A brand new main stage will be revealed at this year’s event, including an additional video screen, new sound, new lights, and a bigger performance space overall! Video screens have also been raised higher, making for easy viewing no matter where you end up enjoying the show.

WorldFest is presented by regional arts non-profit The Center for the Arts, also based in Grass Valley. Center Executive Director Amber Jo Manuel says: “Music brings us together. We understand each other, our differences, and grow to become a stronger community by opening our hearts to the beat and dancing to the music of the world together each year.”

The WorldFest motto “Music Connects Us All” is a continuous theme of the event over the years, celebrating music as the connective thread between cultures and traditions new and old, near and far. This year’s WorldFest lineup exemplifies the theme - featuring artists from Korea, Mali, Israel, India, USA, and more!

Artists are showcased in traditional festival format on stage, but also in less expected contexts. Jam sessions and workshops are hosted throughout the weekend by various artists, activists, and leaders. One of the most unique elements of the festival is having the opportunity to hear (and take part in!) jam sessions with a multitude of totally unexpected artists - both scheduled and impromptu!

The Global Indigenous People’s Village celebrate indigenous voices, crafts, and entertainment to encourage a broader cultural exchange and awareness through dance and music. The Nisenan - Nevada County’s indigenous tribe - will open the festival, featuring an opening ceremony on Thursday evening. The Global Indigenous People’s Village also houses its own stage, complete with music, dance performances, and workshops promoting knowledge and understanding of world cultures.

Families are encouraged to attend with non-stop kid friendly activities, classes, workshops and more available for all ages - including a special Teen Scene. 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. The Games On the Green is right next to the Music Meadow so parents can keep an eye on the kids and see the evening music, too. Children are welcome at any of the music workshops or jam sessions during WorldFest as well!

Festival attendees can camp onsite at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in tents or RVs under the iconic mountain pines with plenty of shade and parking throughout. For all the glampers out there, WorldFest will have luxury showers available for purchase onsite for the first time this year!
HEADLINERS INCLUDE

GALACTIC featuring Erica Falls on vocals
It’s been more than 20 years since Ben Ellman, Robert Mercurio, Stanton Moore, Jeff Raines and Rich Vogel began exploring the seemingly limitless musical possibilities born out of their work together as Galactic. Since then, the seminal New Orleans band has consistently pushed artistic boundaries on the road and in the studio, approaching their music with open ears and drawing inspiration as much from the sounds bubbling up from their city’s streets as they do from each other.

TREVOR HALL
Hall’s music, a blend of roots and folk music with hints of inspiration from India, has led him to a series of sold-out tours and collaborations with artists such as Steel Pulse, The Wailers, Jimmy Cliff, Matisyahu, Michael Franti, Xavier Rudd and Nahko & Medicine for the People.

ANOUSHKA SHANKAR
Sitar player and composer Anoushka Shankar is a singular figure in the Indian classical and progressive world music scenes. Her dynamic and spiritual musicality has garnered several prestigious accolades, including five Grammy Award nominations, recognition as the youngest – and first female – recipient of a British House of Commons Shield, credit as an Asian Hero by TIME Magazine, and a Songlines Best Artist Award. Most recently, she became one of the first five female composers to have been added to the UK A-level music syllabus.

MAGIC GIANT
Magic Giant was named by Rolling Stone as one of the 10 “Artists You Need to Know.” The trio, comprised of Ausn Bisnow (lead vocals), Zambricki Li (viola, banjo, harmonica), and Zang (acoustic guitar, cello) released its debut album, In the Wind in 2017. The band’s initial single Set on Fire broke the Top 25 on Billboard’s US Alternative chart and their current single Window debuted on the Hot AC Top 50.

For the complete lineup of more than 50 artists from around the world, visit worldfest.net/lineup!

Presented by The Center for the Arts, 314 West Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945
530.274.8384 • www.worldfest.net