

## Historic Athens Porchfest Returns

Doriana Serrano



Athens-Clarke County Mayor Kelly Girtz introduces the band, EDDie HalfasS, at his home during the 2023 Historic Athens Porchfest. Mayor Girtz is involved with the prominent annual event that showcases Athens' music scene. (Photo/Andrea Hudson)

The sixth and largest recurrence of musical festival, Porchfest, will return on Sunday, Oct. 20 from noon–8 p.m. Hundreds of local performers will entertain attendees across several historic neighborhoods. This year's event comes with a number of new partnerships and features and is organized by Historic Athens, a non-profit organization that [works to improve historic preservation and heritage conservation](#).

"Historic Athens Porchfest is truly a celebration of community, creativity and history," said Denise Sunta, engagement coordinator for Historic Athens.

Visitors to Porchfest can choose from 209 performers, [several more than last year's event](#), to watch perform on the porches of homes located among seven historic neighborhoods in Athens. Admission to this event is free due to the support from

performers, hosts and sponsors. According to Sunta, a new feature of the event will include trolley rides, in partnership with Athens Trolley Tours, to help people travel between neighborhoods.

SoundCloud, a major music streaming platform where [independent artists can share their work](#), is another new partnership this year. There will be a dedicated SoundCloud zone for attendees to learn about this music service and pick up free merchandise.

A variety of musical genres will be represented at the festival, including rock, indie and R&B. Artists will have the opportunity to showcase their talent and be exposed to new audiences. SJ Usrey, a Porchfest musician, noted that she likes the “down to earth” feel of the festival and her choir has drawn some large crowds in the past.

Tommy Valentine, executive director of Historic Athens, noted that in an effort to engage event goers, a series of social media posts will be published that emphasize the routes one should take in alignment with their particular music interests.

Valentine explained that Porchfest is also a way to appreciate the historic architecture of what people refer to as “the Classic City,” which coincides with Historic Athens’ [mission](#) of “developing community-wide understanding of the value of historic buildings, neighborhoods, and heritage.” Alison Miller, a Porchfest host, expressed how she enjoys learning about her historic home from previous owners.

“The really fun thing about owning a historic house is that, you know, you’re just one chapter in this house’s life,” said Miller.

In addition to the live music, Historic Athens Porchfest is partnering with Indie South to host a [vendor market](#), at the corner of North Chase Street and Boulevard Avenue, for local artists and makers to showcase their handmade goods. The official Porchfest beer will also be available to visitors. The [lemon wheat beer](#), named “On the Rails” was created in collaboration with Authentic Brewing Company.

Donation buckets for the artists, along with their specific donation links will be at each porch throughout the event. For more information about Historic Athens Porchfest, the performers, and schedule times visit [historicathens.com/porchfest](https://historicathens.com/porchfest).

#Athens #Porchfest #HistoricAthens #AthensMusic

## ***Why I Wrote The Story***

*I wrote this story during a course that introduced me to the fundamentals of journalism and reporting. The assignment required me to preview, attend, and report on an event. It showed me how much time and preparation goes into reporting. I believe a solid understanding of a journalist's work is essential to being a better PR professional.*



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