

ADAM HOLMES AND THE EMBERS (SCO)

The Tønder Festival audience took Scots singer and songwriter Adam Holmes and his band The Embers to their hearts in 2015. Now they are back in 2016, so even more music lovers can enjoy this 25 year-old talent and his band. Adam Holmes is from Edinburgh, where his musical parents introduced him to the town's vibrant live folk music scene. Fiddle was his first instrument, but he swapped to guitar and songwriting. Adam Holmes' debut album *Heirs and Graces* from 2014 was produced by the legendary John Wood, who has also produced albums by Sandy Denny, Richard Thompson and Nick Drake. The warm reception the album received launched Adam Holmes as an important newcomer on the Scots music scene. Adam Holmes also works with the group called Rura, and he will be appearing with them at Tønder Festival in 2016, as he did in 2015.

www.adamholmesandtheembers.com

KLUBSCENEN • THURSDAY 5:00 PM | LA GAYOLA • FRIDAY 2:00 PM | LA GAYOLA • SUNDAY 2:00 PM

ANDERSON EAST (USA)

Horns and tight rhythm & blues are the order of the day when Anderson East take the stage at Tønder Festival 2016. Anderson East is fronted by 27 year-old Michael Cameron Anderson, whose smooth, soulful vocals have won him many fans at home in USA. In 2015 he attracted national attention with his first album *Dellilah*, produced by Dave Cobb, the man responsible for producing music by three of the currently hottest country artists, Jason Isbell, Sturgill Simpson and Chris Stapleton. Anderson East is spending his spring and summer touring USA, and part of the tour – almost sold out as we write – is shared with the same Chris Stapleton. Major festivals like Forecastle and Bonnaroo are stops on the way, too. Anderson East's concert Tønder Festival will be the first in Denmark by one of the fastest-rising stars in US rhythm & blues and roots.

www.andersoneast.com

TELT 2 • SATURDAY 12:30 AM | TELT 2 • SUNDAY 4:00 PM

THE AVETT BROTHERS (USA)

It was love at first sight when The Avett Brothers took Tønder Festival by storm in 2011. And it was a two-way thing. Back then, not many Danes knew the American band with brothers Scott and Seth in front, although their Rick Rubin produced album *I and Love and You* from 2009 had already assured them a breakthrough at home in USA. Today, The Avett Brothers are one of the biggest touring bands in the country, and after their spectacular concert on the Open Air stage two years ago, Tønder Festival fans have taken The Avetts to their hearts. The Avett Brothers songs have a knack of touching their audience, and with the rest of the band, bassist Rob Crawford and cellist Joe Kwon, The Avett Brothers reach all the way to the back row, even in the largest stadia. You can hear it on the band's live album *Live, Volume Four* (2014)

www.theavettbrothers.com

OPEN AIR • SATURDAY 8:45 PM

BARRA MACNEILS (CAN)

They had to cancel their 2015 European tour due to illness, but now The Barra MacNeils are coming to play at Tønder Festival 2016, their only Danish festival this year. The Barra MacNeils have both a clan history and folk music history to tell. Last at Tønder Festival in 1997, they have been playing together since the 80s, earning and maintaining their reputation as some of the finest ambassadors for Cape Breton Celtic music and culture. A concert with The Barra MacNeils is a guided tour of the folk music, history, language, tales and culture of Nova Scotia. The group have performed throughout the world, put out 17 albums and won a host of awards. The Barra MacNeils are: Kyle, vocal, guitar, violin, mandolin; Lucy, vocal, bodhrán, celtic harp, violin, stepdancing; Sheumas, vocal, keyboards, bodhrán, violin, bouzouki; Stewart, vocal, accordion, tin whistle, flute, bouzouki, guitar, stepdancing; Boyd, mandolin, violin, guitar, banjo, percussion, stepdancing, and Jamie Gatti, bass.

www.barramacneils.com

TELT 1 • THURSDAY 3:15 PM | TELT 2 • FRIDAY 10:45 PM

BEN & ANITA (USA, CAN)

Ben Miller and Anita MacDonald started their duo work after meeting at Celtic Colours Festival on Cape Breton on the eastern Canadian seaboard. Anita is a native of Cape Breton, where traditional music is a natural part of childhood. She began playing fiddle aged eight, and she also sings in Gælic. Ben Miller, born in USA, has been fascinated by the Highland bagpipes since an early age. At twelve, he changed to the border pipes and small pipes, concentrating on music from Scotland's west coast and the Canadian islands. Together, Ben and Anita build bridges between traditions and instruments. You can hear it on the recording *A Day at the Lake*, nominated for a 2016 East Coast Music Award for roots/traditional album. Hear it again at Tønder Festival 2016, when the duo hit the stage with their driving tunes and captivating songs.

www.benandanita.com

LA GAYOLA • THURSDAY 11:00 PM | VISEMØLLEN • FRIDAY 5:30 PM

BIG DADDY WILSON (USA)

Big Daddy Wilson, from North Carolina in USA, lives in Germany. Although his music career started relatively late in life, Big Daddy Wilson has a high profile as a blues artist in Europe today. His is an unusual story, since he had to come to Europe to discover the blues. He came to Germany in 1979 as a soldier with the US Army. When his term of service was done, he resolved to stay in Germany, with the blues as his calling. For twenty years now, Big Daddy Wilson has been making his mark on the considerable German and European blues scene. He has won several awards, and his most recent release is the album *Time* from 2015, produced by Eric Bibb. Big Daddy Wilson appears solo at Tønder Festival, as well as contributing to *A Blues & Roots Revue* with Eric Bibb and Hans Theessink Band.

www.bigdaddywilsonb.de

TELT 1 - "A BLUES & ROOTS REVUE" • SATURDAY 10:45 PM | PALAIS DES GLACES • SUNDAY 12:30 AM

BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA (USA)

The original members of this legendary gospel group met in the late 1930s at The Alabama Institute for the Negro Blind. They gave their first concert in 1944, and throughout the 40s and 50s they toured the southern states of USA. They were part of the soundtrack of the civil rights movement in the 60s, and in the 80s they finally reached a wider audience. They have won five Grammys, published almost 100 recordings, and worked with many other musicians: Tom Waits, Aaron Neville, Richard Thompson, Willie Nelson, Ben Harper, Bon Iver, Prince, Dr. John, Peter Gabriel, Taj Mahal... to name some of them. The group leader, born in 1929, is a founder member. Jimmy Carter is his name, though he has never been US president. A documentary film, *How Sweet The Sound*, about The Blind Boys of Alabama, was released in late 2015.

www.blindboys.com

TELT 1 • SUNDAY 10:45 PM

A BLUES & ROOTS REVUE: HANS THEESSINK BAND, ERIC BIBB AND BIG DADDY WILSON (USA, NL, ZIM)

No Tønder Festival without blues music. And this is the blues served in a very special manner. Three guitarists and songwriters meet on stage: Big Daddy Wilson, Eric Bibb and Hans Theessink.

Big Daddy Wilson comes from North Carolina in USA but lives in Germany. He was a relative late-comer to a career in music. His most recent release, the album *Time* from 2015, was produced by Eric Bibb. 64 year-old Eric Bibb is an American who has lived in Scandinavia for decades. He is an acoustic guitar master, a true bluesman, and has, since the early 70s, made 36 albums.

Hans Theessink, born in 1948 in Holland, guitarist and songwriter, is quite at home in Tønder, where he has often performed. He tours Denmark regularly with his Danish guitar pal Knud Møller. Hans Theessink lives in Vienna.

www.theessink.com

www.ericbibb.com

www.bigdaddywilsonb.de

TELT 1 • SATURDAY 10:45 PM

CAITLIN CANTY (USA)

Caitlin Canty's songwriting, a blend of folk, blues and roots rock, is catching on world-wide. She has played on the New York scene for some years, and her album *Reckless Skyline*, from 2015, drew a lot of attention. Some of the musicians on the album are from Ray LaMontagne's band, and the album was produced by songwriter colleague Jeffrey Foucault. SF Gate, webbased media in San Francisco, says in a review: "... Caitlin Canty is bound to be the next americana-star." The song *Get Up from Reckless Skyline* has been nominated in the Song of The Year category at The International Folk Music Awards. Working with Jeffrey Foucault grew, since the two americana musicians found they had musical affinities. At Tønder Festival, Jeffrey Foucault will be backing Caitlin Canty, and she will be a member of Foucault's band at his concerts at the festival.

www.caitlincanty.com

LA GAYOLA • SATURDAY 11:00 AM

THE CHAIR (SCO)

The Orkney octet The Chair are famous for rocking the room with violin, banjo, accordion, guitar and rhythm section. The sound is of a well-forged musical collective, high energy levels, acoustic instruments pushed to their utmost. The music is traditional Orkney folk with added elements of blues, klezmer, dub and much else. The Chair call their music Stomp Music from Orkney, and the choice of term is no accident. This music appeals to dancers, and The Chair present traditional music in a chaotic, sometimes anarchic, sound setting. The Chair's latest album *er The Road To Hammer Junkie* from 2013. They were crowned *Band of the Year* at MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards in 2008.

www.lovethechair.com

TELT 1 - FRIDAY 10:45 PM | TELT 1 - SATURDAY 12:00 PM

COREY LEDET (USA)

Tønder Festival's NOLA zone has been a huge success. It's here you can enjoy all the best ingredients of a New Orleans and Louisiana atmosphere. Zydeco and cajun music are important parts of the Tønder Festival music programme, and this year Corey Ledet & His Zydeco Band are the leading lights in that style. Corey Ledet hails from Houston, Texas and grew up with close family ties to the roots culture of Louisiana. His accordion playing is inspired by zydeco masters like Clifton Chenier and Buckwheat Zydeco. But the blues of B. B. King and Howlin' Wolf and reggae from Bob Marley, rock and soul from Prince and James Brown give added input to his music. In 2003, Corey Ledet formed his own band and soon won recognition. In 2012 Corey Ledet's sixth album, *Nothing But The Best* was nominated for a Grammy. His latest album is *Destiny* from 2013. This is Corey Ledet's first appearance in Denmark.

www.coreyledet.com

LA GAYOLA - FRIDAY 11:00 PM | LA GAYOLA - SATURDAY 11:00 PM | PALAIS DES GLACES - SUNDAY 6:30 PM

THE DEAD SOUTH (CAN)

Bluegrass, folk and rock from Saskatchewan in Canada. The four musicians apply themselves and their acoustic instruments to the task with soul, energy and a smile on their lips. The Dead South is: Nate Hilts, guitar and vocal, Scott Pringle, mandolin, guitar and backing vocal, Colton Crawford, banjo, and Danny Kenyon, cello. They have obviously listened to the fictive, but very convincing southern vocal group The Soggy Bottom Boys in the legendary film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, adopting their adventurous passion. The Dead South put out their debut album in 2014 and have since been busy playing festivals and venues. In November 2015 they tour Germany, Holland and the Czech Republic, with Tønder Festival in their diary for August 2106.

www.thedeadsouth.com

TELT 2 - FRIDAY 12:30 AM | LA GAYOLA - SATURDAY 5:00 PM

DEL BARBER (CAN)

Country music is what 32 year-old Canadian songwriter and singer Del Barber is all about. He has achieved fame in Canada and USA, where he is among the elite of the new generation of americana and country musicians. His inspiration comes from people like Townes Van Zandt, John Prine, Bob Dylan and Gram Parsons. Del Barber honours his roots traditions in his fine songwriting and storytelling. The songs follow the classic songwriter pattern, using concrete observations about people and their fates to widen the scope from the detail to the universal. Del Barber's music may be old school country, but this is an original troubadour. His most recent album is *Prairieography*, from 2014.

www.delbarber.com

KLUBSCENEN · THURSDAY 8:00 PM | LA GAYOLA · SATURDAY 2:00 PM

DUSTBOWL REVIVAL (USA)

As they put it on their website, Dustbowl Revival "celebrate the sounds that have kept America moving for over a century." Dustbowl Revival play bluegrass, swing, hot jazz, blues, soul and New Orleans funk to their own recipe. Guitar, mandolin, ukulele, washboard, violin, trumpet, trombone, bass, drums and plenty of vocal. Eight musicians, with singer Liz Beebe and guitarist and singer Zach Lupetin in front, driven by their dedication to American roots music.

Dustbowl Revival began in 2007 in Venice Beach, Los Angeles. They tackled the American string band and brass band traditions and soon won a reputation as a sparkling live band. Whether playing on a verandah or in an arena, the music comes out the same. In 2013 LA Weekly crowned Dustbowl Revival Best Live Band, and they have subsequently won hearts and front page space both in USA and Europe. Dustbowl Revival have made four albums, the latest being *With a Lampshade On* from 2015.

www.dustbowlrevival.com

OPEN AIR · FREDAG 2:45 PM | TELT 1 · SATURDAY 3:15 PM

EDDI READER, SOFIA KARLSSON & CATHY JORDAN MED GUSTAF LJUNGGREN AND ROGER TALLROTH (SCO/IRL/S)

Scotland's Eddi Reader has appeared at Tønder Festival many times and has given us moments of great beauty with her fine singing. Cathy Jordan, from Ireland, who has often been here with the traditional band Dervish, and Swedish Sofia Karlsson have both done likewise. Now the Tønder Festival audience has the opportunity to enjoy all three great singers on the same stage and in the same group, along with Denmark-dwelling Swedish multi-instrumentalist Gustaf Ljunggren and the Swedish guitarist and Väsen member, Roger Tallroth.

Gustaf Ljunggren has toured and recorded with Eddi Reader, Sofia Karlsson and Cathy Jordan separately, and it was he who suggested this constellation in 2015. It all came together at a gala show in Amager Bio in Copenhagen in November, where Gustaf Ljunggren was crowned with the award Gudman of the Year. Among the many acts to grace the stage that evening was this quintet, giving their maiden performance. This is a unique international combination, which we are sure will delight the Tønder Festival audience.

www.eddireader.co.uk

www.sofiakarlsson.com

www.dervish.ie/biography/cathy-jordan

TELT 1 · SUNDAY 9:00 PM

THE ELEPHANT SESSIONS (SCO)

The five young musicians in The Elephant Sessions all hail from the Highlands of Scotland and all are devotees of traditional Scottish folk music, which does not hinder them in bringing innovation to the time-honoured recipe with their own bid: new Scots folk music can sound this exciting! As so many others are doing these days, The Elephant Sessions collected funds via crowdfunding, added their own savings, and made an album. It paid off. Their 2014 debut *The Elusive Highland Beauty* was noted, reviewed and praised. Critics compare the band with Shooogenifty and Peatbog Faeries, emphasising The Elephant Sessions' fresh personality and gift of crafting fine songs. The Elephant Sessions took the prize for Up And Coming Act of the Year 2014 at Scots Trad Awards. Their concerts quickly won a reputation for their in-your-face energy, so there is every reason to make a point of catching a live show with The Elephant Sessions at Tønder Festival.

www.elephantsessions.com

KLUBSCENEN · THURSDAY 1:00 AM | KLUBSCENEN · SATURDAY 1:00 AM

ELIZA CARTHY AND THE WAYWARD BAND (UK)

Eliza Carthy has earned her place as one of the best-known names on the English folk music scene. Now 40 years of age, this singer, song-writer and multi-instrumentalist, with the fiddle as her main tool, has simply carved her initials into British folk music history. Her parents are singer, songsmith and guitarist Martin Carthy and singer Norma Waterson, both legendary figures, British folk music royalty. Eliza Carthy has naturally from her early childhood been imbued with the English folk music tradition, through her family connections, but she is also an explorer of new musical territory. She has released recordings and toured in her own name, worked with her parents in Waterson:Carthy and in Blue Murder, who appeared at Tønder Festival in 2005. The list of other musical partners is long and varied: Billy Bragg, Wilco, Jools Holland, Paul Weller, Roger McGuinn, Salsa Celtica and many others. There has been no shortage of prizes and nominations for Eliza Carthy, either, and the inventory of her recordings, both solo and with others, is too long for this space. Her latest studio recording in her own name is the album *Wayward Daughter*. When Eliza Carthy takes the stage at Tønder Festival, it will be in the company of the 12-piece Wayward Band, which includes musicians from Bellowhead, Peatbog Faeries and Blowzabella.

www.eliza-carthy.com

TELT 2 · SATURDAY 10:45 PM

ERIC BIBB (USA)

The acoustic blues guitar is in good hands: Eric Bibb's. This 64 year-old American, on the scene since the early 70s, has 36 albums to his name, and is a true bluesman, who has toured the world with his versions of the immortal songs of the blues, folk and roots music. Eric Bibb was born in New York, his father, Leon Bibb, was a well-known figure on the 60s folk scene, his godfather was the singer and activist Paul Robeson, and his uncle was the jazz pianist John Lewis. Eric Bibb moved to Stockholm in 1970 and lives today in Finland. His approach to the acoustic blues and his soul-inspired vocals owe a lot to Taj Mahal, among others. It was his 1994 album *Spirit & The Blues* that gave Eric Bibb his breakthrough. The latest album is *Blues People* from 2014. Eric Bibb is performing solo at Tønder Festival, as well as appearing in *A Blues & Roots Revue* with Big Daddy Wilson and Hans Theessink Band.

www.ericbibb.com

TELT 1 - "A BLUES & ROOTS REVUE" · SATURDAY 10:45 PM | KLUBSCENEN · SUNDAY 9:30 PM

FLOOK (IRL)

One of the noted names in Irish traditional music is back. Flook offer virtuoso performances on flute, whistle, guitar and bodhrán, Irish traditional music at its best, and they have critical acclaim and prizes to prove it. Flook was founded in 1995, among the founder members being Michael McGoldrick, who thrilled the Tønder Festival audience with the Usher's Island group in 2015. It did not take Flook long to establish an enviable reputation as a live band, and their first album release was indeed *Flook! Live!* in 1996. This was followed by numerous other albums and hectic touring. Then in 2008 Flook split up and went their various ways. But public interest in Flook did not abate, and in 2013 they joined up again. Flook members are: Brian Finnegan, flute, Sarah Allen, flute, Ed Boyd, guitar, and John Joe Kelly, bodhrán. Flook have played several times in Denmark, including an appearance at Tønder Festival in 2003.

www.flook.co.uk

OPEN AIR • THURSDAY 12:45 PM | PALAIS DES GLACES • FRIDAY 12:30 AM

FOLKBALTICA (DK, D)

FolkBaltica Ensemble consists of 40 young musicians from Sleswig Holstein and South Denmark. The orchestra grew out of the annual folkBALTICA Festival, at the end of April each year. The FolkBaltica Ensemble is a youth orchestra which straddles both geographical and musical frontiers, both the national borders and those separating traditional and contemporary folk music. Tønder Festival is an active investor in young folk music talent, thus it follows naturally that FolkBaltica Ensemble are invited back to participate at this year's Festival. Danish violinist Harald Haugaard, artistic director of folkBALTICA Festival, leads the ensemble, assisted by two eminent musicians, Andreas Tophøj and Rasmus Zeeberg. The past two years have seen wildly enthusiastic audience reaction to FolkBaltica Ensemble's concerts in Tent 1, and this year will be no different. FolkBaltica Ensemble will also be giving a massive concert for pupils at schools on both sides of the Danish/German border.

www.facebook.com/folkbalticaensemble

OPEN AIR • THURSDAY 10:30 AM | OPEN AIR • SUNDAY 12:00 PM

FOLK SPOT: BASCO + JULLIE HJETLAND – HIMMERLAND – FRU SKAGERRAK – SHERZANDUM – FROMSEIER/HOCKINGS – D.U.K – ELOF & WAMBERG (DK), ODDE & HOLMEN (N)

Nordic traditions meet the diverse world, when Folk Spot Denmark 2016 presents seven Danish and Scandinavian folk bands. In their various ways they show how they have drawn inspiration from the whole world. In the two days Folk Spot lasts, we can hear Nordic, British and Celtic traditions, syncopated African rhythms, klezmer and Balkan dances, Northatlantic cross-over and world music for bass and ukulele. Folk Spot Denmark, besides offering concerts to the Tønder Festival audience, is also an international showcase for key music branch professionals, invited from Norway, Germany, England and Canada, so they can hear world-class Danish and Scandinavian music, with a view to bookings, as well as enjoying one of the world's finest festivals. The Folk Spot concerts on Friday and Saturday are a unique opportunity to learn what is cooking on the Danish live folk and roots scene right now.

www.folkemusic.dk/syv-navne-klar-til-folk-spot-denmark-2016

SEE PROGRAMME

FORTUNATE ONES (CAN)

Catherine Allan and Andrew James O'Brien have discovered a recipe for pop folk that appeals directly to the heart. Fortunate Ones come from New Foundland in Canada. In 2015 they won a Canadian Folk Music Award as Vocal Group of The Year.

Catherine and Andrew met in 2010, but did not start singing as a duo under the name Fortunate Ones until 2013. As Alan Doyle of Great Big Sea puts it, Fortunate Ones are "two voices singing like one." Andrew also plays guitar, and Catherine's piano and accordion give the music its own tone, separating Fortunate Ones from other folk duos. Fortunate Ones' long-awaited debut album appeared last year, and two of the songs, *Lay Me Down* and the title number *The Bliss* hit the top spot on national CBC Radio 2's Top 20. This summer, Fortunate Ones can be heard for the first time in Denmark, when they perform at Tønder Festival.

www.fortunateones.ca

LA GAYOLA · THURSDAY 8:00 PM | KLUBSCENEN · FRIDAY 9:00 PM

GRAHAM, GUTHRIE, MCCONNELL & PODOLAK WITH FRIENDS AND SPECIAL GUESTS (USA, CAN, DK)

They met at Tønder Festival and share a love of folk and roots music. Now they hit the stage together, with special guests, at this year's Tønder Festival. This very special super group consists of Lukas Forchhammer, vocal; Leonard Podolak, banjo player and founder of the Canadian group The Duhks; Jordan McConnell, former guitarist with The Duhks; and Sarah Lee Guthrie, singer, songwriter and Arlo Guthrie's daughter. Leonard Podolak tells, with a wink, how you start a band like this. "Listen to the music from the moment you are born. Tag along with your parents to their funny folk music concerts and festivals. Stay up way past your bedtime. Remember the songs. Learn to play an instrument. Go to folk festivals and jam away with your friends. Stay friends." Lukas Forchhammer is looking forward to it: "My dad took me to Tønder Festival when I was 18. Tønder is an important part of my youth. There's room here to be inspired by both music and people," he says.

TELT 1 · FRIDAY 12:00 PM | OPEN AIR · SATURDAY 12:00 PM

HANS THEESSINK BAND (NL, A, ZW)

Hans Theessink, guitarist and songwriter born in the Netherlands in 1948, is quite at home in Tønder, where he has appeared at the Festival countless times, virtually since the beginning. He tours Denmark regularly, most recently in March 2016 with his Danish guitar buddy Knud Møller. Hans Theessink has been on the road for over 40 years, chalking up around 7000 concerts and a long list of albums.

This year, Hans Theessink is here with his band, playing blues and roots with a twist of gospel and world music. Alongside Theessink, on guitar and vocal, the band numbers Austrian Roland Guggenbichler, on keyboards, plus three musicians from Zimbabwe: Vusa Ndlovu, vocal, Blessings Nkomo, vocal, percussion, and Ramadu Moyo, vocal and djembe. Hans Theessink lives in Vienna, and is currently in the news for his nomination, with his colleague Terry Evans, for an Austrian Amadeus Award 2016 for their album True & Blue.

www.theessink.com

MUSEET · FRIDAY 10:45 PM | TELT 1 - "A BLUES & ROOTS REVUE" · SATURDAY 10:45 PM

LA GAYOLA · SUNDAY 5:00 PM (Hans Theessink solo)

HUDSON TAYLOR (IRL)

Brothers Harry and Alfie Hudson-Taylor from Dublin have long since won the hearts of the Tønder Festival audience: this is their fourth appearance here. Using the name Hudson Taylor, they have rapidly scaled the heights of the British and then the international music scene since they set out in 2011. With charm and talented, melifluous vocal harmonies, the two brothers sing folk, roots and pop. As anyone who has experienced a Hudson Taylor concert at Tønder Festival will tell you, Hudson Taylor have a natural stage presence, and their charisma reaches all the way to the back row. Growing up in South Dublin, the boys began to sing together at an early age. Their debut EP *Battles* was released in August 2012, about the same time as their first Tønder appearance. They have subsequently made another two EPs, and in January 2015 their album *Singing for Strangers* made it to third place on the Irish charts.

www.hudson Taylormusic.com

PALAIS DES GLACES • THURSDAY 3:30 PM | OPEN AIR • FRIDAY 11:45 AM

OPEN AIR • SATURDAY 1:45 PM | PALAIS DES GLACES • SUNDAY 12:30 PM

JACOB DINESEN (DK)

Alex Nyborg Madsen, presenter on Radio Denmark's P4, introduced 20 year-old Jacob Dinesen as one of Denmark's most promising talents in recent years. The whole country is gradually coming round to the idea that this songwriter and musician from Tønder is a prize for the Danish folk roots scene. Jacob Dinesen started playing guitar aged 12 and has developed a fascinating style, both musically and as a writer of songs inspired by folk, rock and americana. He has often appeared with the veteran English songwriter Allan Taylor and has also toured with guitarist Mikael Pedersen. A songwriting scholarship to Austin, Texas some years ago was a fillip to Jacob Dinesen's career, and in 2015 he released the album *Count The Ways*. Jacob Dinesen first appeared on the P4 Stage at Tønder Festival in 2012. Last year he gave several concerts at the Festival and after a busy year with many shows in many parts, he is back on his home ground in 2016.

www.facebook.com/JacobDinesenBand

OPEN AIR • THURSDAY 2:00 PM | OPEN AIR • FRIDAY 11:00 AM | VISEMØLLEN • FRIDAY 3:45 PM

JASON ISBELL (USA)

There is intense interest in americana today, and few musicians within that genre are more in focus than singer, songwriter and guitarist Jason Isbell – one of the most important younger artists on the US roots rock scene.

His birth certificate reads Alabama 1979, and he grew up to a family soundtrack of bluegrass, gospel and American folk music. At 14, Jason Isbell was practising with his band in the garage, and he later had a spell at the noted FAME studios at Muscle Shoals in Alabama. Jason Isbell's career took off when he joined the southern rock band Drive-By Truckers in 2001. In 2007 Jason Isbell left the Drive-By Truckers, releasing his first solo album *Sirens of The Ditch* the same year, followed the ensuing years by a series of recordings with the band The 400 Units. Their album *Southeastern* won three prizes at the Americana Music Awards in 2014. Latest release is *Something More Than Free* from 2015.

www.jasonisbell.com

OPEN AIR • THURSDAY 8:45 PM

JEFFREY FOUCAULT (USA)

The Tønder Festival once again presents a great American songwriter. 40-year-old Jeffrey Foucault from Wisconsin offers a mix of country, roots rock, blues and folk. He is a musician on permanent tour and has released four albums under his own name, the latest being *Salt as Wolves* from 2015. In addition, he has two albums out with the group Cold Satellite. He is also a producer for other artists.

Jeffrey Foucault is a top-class songwriter and guitarist, inspired by artists like John Prine, Bob Dylan and Townes Van Zandt. In 2009 he released the album *Shoot the Moon Right Between the Eyes* with John Prine songs. For the past three years, Jeffrey Foucault has been touring with his colleague Bill Conway, drums and percussion. At The Tønder Festival Jeffrey Foucault also appears with songwriter colleague Caitlin Canty, whose album *Reckless Skyline* he produced. Caitlin Canty is also in Foucault's band.

www.jeffreyfoucault.com

KLUBSCENEN · TORSDAG 10:30 PM | PALAIS DES GLACES · SATURDAY 9:30 PM

JONAH BLACKSMITH (DK)

It is rare for a Danish roots band to win the hearts of their audience as Jonah Blacksmith has done. Brothers Simon and Thomas Alstrup and their band have a sound that is both grandiose and international. Their line-up of two drummers, an arsenal of banjos, guitars and pedal steel are reminiscent of Bon Iver, while their songs and tales are deeply rooted in the sandy soil of Thy, where grandfather Johannes, the smith in question, lived and worked. The brothers' attachment to their grandfather and their home ground underpin Jonah Blacksmith's debut *Northern Trail* and their heart-warming film *In the Middle of Nowhere*. At a late-night concert on the P4 Stage at Tønder Festival 2015, Jonah Blacksmith scored a deserved victory that won a six-star review from Århus music magazine Gaffa. Jonah Blacksmith is back this year, ready once again to delight their fast-growing crowd of admirers.

www.jonahblacksmith.com

OPEN AIR · FRIDAY 9:15 PM | KLUBSCENEN · SATURDAY 11:00 PM

KARINE POLWART (SCO)

Karine Polwart is both singer, songwriter and author. She was born in 1970 in Banknock in Scotland, has studied philosophy and worked for some years for the organisation Scottish Women's Aid. Since 2000, music has taken pride of place in Karine Polwart's life. She was a member of the successful band Malinky, who played at Tønder Festival in 2000, and has also performed with Battlefield Band and Lau. Karine Polwart's solo career was launched in 2003, when she released her first solo album *Faultlines*.

Social questions, the environment, scientific and political topics find their way into her songs, making Karine Polwart one of modern Scotland's essential creative musicians. Karine Polwart has won a when of prizes, among them BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, twice given her for Best Original Song, and the Scots Trad Music Awards. On stage, Karine Polwart is accompanied by her brother Steven Polwart on guitar and vocal, and Inge Thomson on accordion, percussion and vocal.

www.karinepolwart.com

MUSEET · FRIDAY 9:00 PM | TELT 2 · SATURDAY 5:00 PM

KING JAMES & THE SPECIAL MEN (USA)

Piano, horns, guitar, bass and drums and singer Jimmy Horn in front: King James & The Special Men are the real funky deal from New Orleans. They recall the classic New Orleans sound of Roy Brown, Professor Longhair and Fats Domino. King James & The Special Men performed at Tønder Festival in 2015 and added authenticity to the festival's popular NOLA zone, where the flavour is Louisiana and New Orleans. King James & The Special Men used to play every Monday at BJ's Lounge for years. Nowadays, the venue is Sidney's Saloon, but the evening is the same, the music is the same, and the Tønder Festival audience will surely revel in this repetition of last year's success - the same energy, that sweaty, old-school New Orleans rhythm 'n' blues. The seven-piece band are spending the spring of 2016 finishing their debut album.

www.specialmennola.com

KLUBSCENEN • FRIDAY 1:00 AM | LA GAYOLA • SATURDAY 8:00 PM | LA GAYOLA • SUNDAY 11:00 PM

KIRA SKOV (DK)

Singer Kira Skov has moved from rock to jazz and on to her own personal musical form, a musical universe that defies genres: Kira Skov would rather explore new paths than retread the old familiar ones. Kira Skov was born in 1976, moved at an early age to England and later to USA, pursuing a career in music. She sang in a band, Butterfly Species, with DAD drummer Laust Sonne. In 2002, back in Denmark, she founded Kira & The Kindred Spirits, proving herself in the subsequent years to be one of the country's best female rock singers. Later she inclined to jazz, making the well-reviewed album of Billie Holiday covers *Memories of Days Gone By* in 2011. Two years later appeared the intense and emotional album *When We Were Gentle*, a musical triumph for Kira Skov, according to many critics. Since then, Kira Skov has, among other projects, worked in tandem with her colleague Marie Fisker. Her latest album is *May Your Mind Explode A Blossom Tree* (2015).

www.kiramusic.com

PALAIS DES GLACES • SUNDAY 9:30 PM

MÁNRRAN (SCO)

They played Tønder Festival in 2012 and in 2015 and they have amassed a growing Danish fan base. Scots Mánran is six musicians who pile power and energy into long-standing folk rock traditions. Mánran's sound has both highland and uilleann pipes, violin, flute, guitar, accordion, bass and drums. There is the full wheech of jigs, strathspeys, hornpipes and reels, plus songs in both English and Gaelic. Mánran are tradition-bearers, adding new songs and tunes, widening the appeal of a music style that has adherents all over the world. In February 2016 Mánran tour Denmark, then it's off to Australia, not for the first time. On Mánran's website, they write of their appearance at last year's Tønder Festival: "...this is truly one of the world's great festivals, and we left inspired once again after hearing and playing with some really fine musicians."

www.manran.co.uk

TELT 1 • SATURDAY 9:00 PM | OPEN AIR • SUNDAY 2:45 PM

MARGO PRICE (USA)

They are calling her the new big name in country music: 32 year-old singer and songwriter Margo Price. She comes from a little town in Illinois and, aged 20, decided to go to Nashville. Here she gathered a band, Buffalo Clover, released a number of albums and played with Sturgill Simpson and guitarist Kenny Vaughan, among others. Margo Price has garnered comparisons to Loretta Lynn and Tammy Wynette, and she has been inspired by classic country artists like Dolly Parton and Emmylou Harris. In 2014, Rolling Stone magazine wrote that Margo Price was one of the new names 'you just had to know.' Her debut album *Midwest Farmer's Daughter* was published in March 2016 by Jack White's company Third Man Records. Once again, Tønder Festival has found a new rising international star, and Margo Price is giving this one concert in Denmark this summer.

www.margoprice.net

PALAIS DES GLACES • FRIDAY 6:30 PM | TELT 2 • SATURDAY 3:15 PM

MARY GAUTHIER (USA)

A Mary Gauthier concert is an intense experience. This is high-octane songwriting. Mary Gauthier's quietly epic narratives and her stage presence create an unfiltered communication between musician and audience. Mary Gauthier's preference for sad songs is well known. As she puts it, "There's no such thing as going too deep." The poetry is stark. No punches are pulled. Mary Gauthier's personal story shines through the songs. Born in 1962 in New Orleans, Mary Gauthier lived in an orphanage, was adopted, ran off at 15, had drink and drugs problems in her youth. Later she studied philosophy, ran a restaurant for some years, began writing songs aged 35. Her 1997 debut album *Dixie Kitchen* helped establish her name as one of USA's most powerful and most personal songwriters. The most recent release is *Trouble And Love* from 2014, and in December 2015, Mary Gauthier is recording a new studio album in Nashville. The success of Mary Gauthier's concerts at Tønder Festival in 2015 has brought her back in 2016.

www.marygauthier.com

MUSEET • SATURDAY 4:15 PM | LA GAYOLA • SUNDAY 11:00 AM

MICK FLANNERY (IRL)

One of the new notabilities to come from Ireland to Tønder Festival, 32 year-old Mick Flannery will no doubt feel right at home here. He is a songwriter and singer with a lot to tell, in a voice that touches all who hear it with its depth and intensity. Mick Flannery finds inspiration in forerunners like Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan and Tom Waits. "Mick is a first class songwriter. His voice reverberates with both power and pain. Recorded or live, his the music carries through and it will stop you in your tracks," wrote a critic in New York folk magazine Urban Folk. Mick Flannery's songwriting career began when he was travelling in USA. He entered a song-writing competition in Nashville and won two prizes. His first album, *Evening Train*, appeared in 2007, and his renown has subsequently grown both in Ireland and on the international scene. Mick Flannery's latest album, his fourth, is *By The Rule* from 2014.

www.mickflannery.com

PALAIS DES GLACES • THURSDAY 6:30 PM | MUSEET • SATURDAY 11:45 PM

NIELS HAUSGAARD (DK)

No Tønder Festival without Niels Hausgaard. The North Jutland satirist and songwriter has appeared at every Tønder Festival since the late 70s, adding his bit to the atmosphere and spirit of the festival. With Niels Hausgaard on stage this year will be Christian Alvad, guitar, Signe Svendsen, vocal and keyboards, and Sara Indrio, percussion. Niels Hausgaard is never stingy when entertaining an audience. And his audiences keep on coming back for more. Venues sell out, in Tønder or wherever else in the country Niels Hausgaard's name is on the poster. Niels Hausgaard writes new material every year, but does not bother putting out cds. His most recent album is *Flyv så (Fly Away)* from 2006, and he released a live dvd in 2009. Niels Hausgaard would rather spend his energies before a live audience, hanging the knaves and swindlers of the day out to dry.

www.nielshausgaard.dk

PALAIS DES GLACES • FRIDAY 3:30 PM | PALAIS DES GLACES • SATURDAY 6:30 PM

NIELS SKOUSEN (DK)

At 72, Niels Skousen can look back on a career that has left its mark on Danish rock music, and he is still active, making music and writing his poetic, socially critical lyrics, travelling solo or with his band. The Danish language thrives in Niels Skousen's hands, as he still thrives in the role of troubadour and songwriter. An almost twenty-year break in the 80s and 90s, when he concentrated on his acting career, ended in 2002 when Niels Skousen made the album *Dobbeltsyn (Seeing double)*, a convincing comeback that was rewarded with glowing reviews and prizes at Danish Music Awards. More albums followed, most recently *Smil eller dø (Smile or Die)* from 2014. Niels Skousen has also been performing with his old partner Peter Ingemann, giving Danish audiences another chance to hear the music from the legendary Skousen & Ingemann album *Herfra hvor vi står (From Where We Stand)* from 1971.

TELT 2 • THURSDAY 10:15 PM

THE NORDIC FIDDLERS BLOC (NO, SE, SCO)

When top fiddlers meet in the North.... The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc is Olav Luksengård Mjelva from Norway, Anders Hall from Sweden, both members of the Norwegian/Swedish folk quintet SVER, and Kevin Henderson from Shetland, who has Boys of the Lough, Fiddlers' Bid and Session A9 on his CV. The trio explore new directions in Nordic folk music, exploiting the many common traits shared by the three countries' music traditions. The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc take us on a journey through Norway's and Sweden's musical countryside and on a voyage out over the Atlantic to the traditional music of Shetland.

www.thenordicfiddlersbloc.com

VISEMØLLEN • SATURDAY 5:30 PM | LA GAYOLA • SUNDAY 8:00 PM

THE PANORAMA JAZZ BAND (USA)

New Orleans tempts many plates with its wide-ranging musical menu. The Panorama Jazz Band is a magnificent main course that appeals to many of these tastes. Their music bubbles with flavours of traditional New Orleans jazz, second line, funky rhythm 'n' blues and caribbean rhythms. The Panorama Jazz Band is all-acoustic: saxophone, clarinette, trombone, accordion, banjo, tuba and drums. This is the sound of New Orleans musical history, delivered by premier musicians. "Acoustic party music from the whole world routed through New Orleans," is how the band themselves put it. Panorama Jazz Band find inspiration not only in New Orleans, but from Eastern Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America, too. The band got together as a trio in 1995, to play at a wedding. Since then, they have played at many's the wedding, private parties and gatherings, not to mention playhouses and festivals. In other words: this is a real New Orleans band.

www.panoramajazzband.com

PALAIS DES GLACES • THURSDAY 12:30 AM | PALAIS DES GLACES • FRIDAY 9:30 PM | PALAIS DES GLACES • SATURDAY 3:30 PM

PEATBOG FAERIES (SCO)

20 years ago this year, Scottish band Peatbog Faeries put out their debut *Mellowosity*. The album was an early catalyst in the celtic fusion wave that hit Europe in the mid 90s, led by Afro Celt Sound System. Peatbog Faeries were among the pioneers, mixing folk music, trance and psychedelica. Their 2000 release *Faerie Stories* was favourably compared to the major trip-hop acts of the day, such as Massive Attack and UNKLE. Their hard-hitting beats and tight tunes put Peatbog Faeries at the forefront of British live music acts. More recently, the band have moved on from the pumped-up beats and adopted a more organic sound, with a horn section adding nuances of jazz, reggae and afro. This won Peatbog Faeries the title of Best Live Band at BBC Folk Awards in 2012. This August, it's Tønder Festival's turn to thrill to Peatbog Faeries – a blast of bagpipes, hot rhythms and trippy keys.

www.peatbogfaeries.com

OPEN AIR • THURSDAY 7:00 PM | TELT 1 • FRIDAY 3:15 PM

ROB ICKES & TREY HENSLEY (USA)

If you are inclined to bluegrass, don't miss this. If you are inclined to music, don't miss this. For here come two instrumentalists of a standard rarely heard. This is world class bluegrass. Rob Ickes is a dobro master, having won the Bluegrass Dobro Player of the Year title 15 times. His famous colleague Jerry Douglas won it five times. Rob Ickes has played in bands: 20 years in Blue Highway, besides tours with Merle Haggard and Alison Krauss. Singer and guitarist Trey Hensley stood on The Grand Old Opry stage in Nashville at the age of 11 and has played with prominent folk such as Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash, Ricky Skaggs and The Oak Ridge Boys. His talents are writing fine songs and handling a mean guitar. He started working with Rob Ickes in 2013, and in 2015 they released the album *Before The Sun Goes Down*.

www.robandtrey.com

KLUBSCENEN • THURSDAY 6:30 PM | VISEMØLLEN • FRIDAY 7:15 PM

ROCK MY SOUL: MCCRARY SISTERS & FAIRFIELD FOUR (USA)

A Sunday forenoon treat – cure perhaps? – is on offer when The Fairfield Four and McCrary Sisters and band take the stage. Take *Rock My Soul* literally. This show has gospel singers and world class Afro-american roots music, so we may see the Tønder audience in ecstasy.

The Fairfield Four, the male vocal quartet famed for their contribution to the sound track of the iconic Cohen Brothers film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, have also sung alongside John Fogerty and Dolly Parton, among many others. The group name The Fairfield Four has been in existence since 1921 and is one of the most respected in gospel USA. In this *Rock My Soul* show, the four gentlemen sing alongside four ladies: The McCrary Sisters. The relationship between the two quartets is more than musical, however, since the four McCrary sisters, Ann, Deborah, Regina and Alfreda, are all daughters of Sam McCrary, one of the original members of The Fairfield Four. Do not miss this exceptional gospel concert.

www.mccrarysisters.com

www.thefairfieldfour.com

TELT 2 • SUNDAY 10:30 AM

ROD (DK)

ROD is an annual Easter folk music rally for young people of 15 to 25. But ROD is more than that. It has become a youth movement whose effect on the development of folk music in Denmark has been inestimable. Along with the Folk Music Academy, ROD has fostered renewed and growing interest in folk music among young people. In the past couple of years, ROD has seen a doubling of membership, which is a clear sign that ROD has helped expand youth activity in folk music, both playing and listening, in Denmark. At ROD you will find both raw beginners, competent players and experienced musicians. What unites them is their love of folk music and the desire to play the music and experience it together. They were a riot last year: ROD are back at Tønder Festival.

www.rodfolk.dk/2016

VISEMØLLEN • SATURDAY 9:00 PM

ROSANNE CASH WITH JOHN LEVENTHAL (USA)

Since her debut in the late 70s, Rosanne Cash has been at the forefront of the US music scene with her mix of country, pop, folk and americana. Born in 1955, Rosanne Cash is eldest daughter of Johnny Cash and his first wife, Vivian Liberto Cash. Her second album, *Right or Wrong*, from 1980 took Rosanne Cash to the top of the country hitlists in USA. The 80s saw her establish her name solidly, releasing five albums and winning a Grammy in 1985 for Best Female Country Vocal Performance. The critics loved her most recent album, *The River & The Thread*, from 2014, and she was presented with three Grammy Awards. In October 2015, Rosanne Cash achieved entry into the Nashville Songwriters' Hall of Fame, an honour she shares with her father, Johnny Cash. In Denmark, Copenhagen daily Politiken gave the album five stars.

www.rosannecash.com

TELT 1 • FRIDAY 9:00 PM

ROSS AINSLIE & JARLATH HENDERSON BAND (SCO/IRL)

Scottish border pipes and Irish uilleann pipes meet, when Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson drive speedy reels and bonny airs from their chanters and drones. The Tønder Festival audience went wild in 2008 when the two young pipers struck up AC/DC's Thunderstruck and the pair are back, now with their band, the same that played on their 2013 album Airfix. Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson test the frontiers of their instruments and for their Celtic traditions, expanding both with new arrangements and their own compositions. Ross Ainslie helped found the Treacherous Orchestra and was part of Salsa Celtica. Jarlath Henderson was the youngest-ever winner at BBC Young Folk Awards, and in his career has appeared with Jack Bruce, Lau, Capercaillie and Salsa Celtica. Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson each have numerous well-reviewed solo albums to their names, but it is as the well-known dynamic pipe duo backed by their talented band that we will enjoy their music at Tønder Festival 2016.

www.rossandjarlath.com

TELT 2 • FRIDAY 12:45 PM

RURA (SCO)

This Scottish band did a great job at Tønder Festival 2015, where they met an ecstatic audience response. Not an isolated event: in December 2015, Rura won Live Act Of The Year at Scots Trad Music Awards in Dundee. Since 2010, Rura have been working their way up, armed with highland pipes, fiddle, bodhran, guitar, flute and their fine singing voices. These four young musicians, Steven Blake, Jack Smedley, David Foley and Adam Brown, broke ground at Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow in 2010, and their debut album *Break It Up* from 2012 boosted their efforts, winning critical praise and award nominations. The band's fifth member is singer and songwriter Adam Holmes, who was at his first Tønder Festival in 2015 with his own band The Embers. Adam Holmes' vocal and songwriting work introduced elements of americana to Rura's expert, innovative take on Scots traditional music. Rura's second album, *Despite The Dark*, appeared in April 2015.

www.rura.co.uk

TELT 2 • THURSDAY 12:00 AM | KLUBSCENEN • FRIDAY 11:00 PM | KLUBSCENEN • SUNDAY 7:00 PM

SCOTT WOOD BAND (SCO)

They started in 2012 as a trio round the young piper Scott Wood. An EP opened doors, and the trio became a quintet: bagpipes, violin, guitar, bass and drums. Based in Glasgow, these five musicians are at the forefront of the Scottish folk-roots scene. In early 2015, the Scott Wood Band released the album *Upsurge*, which confirmed the high standards they aspire to. The music is their own compositions overlaying Scots traditions, spiced with jazz, rock and world music influences. The Scott Wood Band has toured with the Mánran, Wolfstone and Skerryvore, all familiar to Tønder Festival's audience. The Scott Wood Band have a nomination in the Album of the Year category at Scots Trad Music Awards.

www.scottwoodband.com

TELT 2 • FRIDAY 5:30 PM | KLUBSCENEN • SUNDAY 5:00 PM

SHOOGLENIFTY (SCO)

Since 1990, Shooglenifty have been blasting Celtic fusion folk from the world's festival stages and taking world-wide musical impressions home with them to Edinburgh. Familiar Scottish reels are decorated with electronic elements and world beats, melding into hard-pumped folk-rock. Shooglenifty have always been open to working with other musicians, to widen their sound panorama even more. Last year Shooglenifty put out their seventh studio album *The Untied Knot*, which confronts Scots music with rhythms and tones from the North Indian province of Rajasthan, aided by The Master Musicians of Rajasthan and the Scots pìuir a beul (mouth music) singer Kaela Rowan, who will be appearing on stage with Shooglenifty at Tønder Festival. Shooglenifty have gradually worked their way up to their current status as one of the major names in British folk music, and they are festival favourites, guaranteed to maintain a party atmosphere until the bitter end. Shooglenifty have played Tønder Festival several times.

www.shooglenifty.com

OPEN AIR • FRIDAY 7:30 PM

SIGNE SVENDSEN (DK)

This Danish singer from Funen graduated from the Rhythmic Music Conservatory in 2003 and began her career as backing vocalist. Some years later, she toured with Niels Hausgaard, and this collaboration continues. Her ambitions as a songsmith with a solo career persisted, however, and were reinforced in 2010 with the release of her debut album *Ny passager (New Passenger)*. The album came about in close liaison with producer and guitarist Lars Skjærbæk. He was also sparring partner and producer on the album *Kun de faldne rejser sig igen (Only The Fallen Rise Again)* from 2013 and on the most recent collection *Rift*, released in March 2016. Signe Svendsen's songs operate in a pop folk universe, and she does not shy from citing personal experience or socially critical themes. The Tønder Festival audience has seen Signe Svendsen many times on stage with Niels Hausgaard. This time, she is here in her own right, with her own songs and her own band.

www.signesvendsen.dk

TELT 1 • SUNDAY 3:15 PM

SPIRIT FAMILY REUNION (USA)

So these two musicians were working in a bar in Brooklyn. They played in various bands, and gradually built up what in 2010 became Spirit Family Reunion: a six-piece acoustic band dedicated to country, bluegrass and traditional Appalachian folk music. This is urban old-time music given the big-city treatment by young musicians with huge respect for and insight into the traditions, plus bags of energy. Spirit Family Reunion have travelled from hipster Brooklyn to festivals and music venues throughout USA: today, this is a band on the road. They have toured with the likes of Alabama Shakes and Tedeschi Trucks Band, playing, among other places, at Newport Folk Festival. The band have two albums to their name: *No Separation* from 2012 and *Hands Together* from 2015. Now they are coming to Tønder Festival, and Spirit Family Reunion fit perfectly into the long line of promising young bands Tønder Festival presents its audience.

www.spiritfamilyreunion.com

KLUBSCENEN • SATURDAY 9:00 PM | PALAIS DES GLACES • SUNDAY 3:30 PM

THE STEEL WHEELS (USA)

An old-time music revival, no less: that's what's on offer from this quartet from the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia, USA. The Steel Wheels play acoustic guitar, mandolin, violin, bass and, of course, they sing. Fronted by singer, guitarist and songwriter Trent Wagler, The Steel Wheels have spent the past ten years conquering the US roots scene, playing at countless festivals and making eight records. This is mountain music based on old-time, bluegrass, blues and, like all the rest, the folksong tradition. One reviewer wrote of The Steel Wheels: "They don't fall for the clichés. They tap into sophisticated folk music. Woody Guthrie and Hank Williams would be proud of their wordplay..."

The Steel Wheels' annual SpokeSongs Bicycle Tour is all their own: round Virginia with the whole shooting works on bikes. There's an idea for keen cyclists among Danish folk musicians!

www.thesteelwheels.com

LA GAYOLA • FRIDAY 5:00 PM | PALAIS DES GLACES • SATURDAY 12:30 AM

THE STRING SISTERS (USA, S, N, SCO, IRL)

Six female fiddlers, backed by four male musicians, that's The String Sisters. Borders are no hindrance to this mob, who handle traditional music from USA, Sweden, Norway, Scotland and Ireland. The orchestra first met at Celtic Connections festival in 1998, in a project on (strangely enough) female fiddlers. In 2005 they managed to coordinate their busy musical schedules for a tour, and in 2007 they recorded a live album. In 2015, they were assembled again, this time for the famous Canadian festival Celtic Colours. Now it's Tønder Festival's turn, and this will be the orchestra's only European festival concert in 2016. The String Sisters are Emma Hardelin, violin, vocal (Sweden), Catriona Macdonald, violin (Shetland), Annbjørg Lien, Hardanger fiddle (Norway), Liz Carroll, violin (USA), Liz Knowles, violin (USA), Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh, violin, vocal (Ireland). Backing them will be David Milligan, piano, (Scotland), Tore Bruvoll, guitar (Norway), Conrad Molleson, bass (Scotland) and James Mackintosh, drums (Scotland).

www.stringsisters.net

TELT 1 • THURSDAY 10.45 PM

TALISK (SCO)

The three members of Talisk are headed for the top of the British folk scene. In 2015 they won the prestigious BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award. Mohsen Amini picked up the concertina at the age of ten and today is one of Scotland's finest concertina players. Guitarist Craig Irving, is from Inverness, but lives today in Glasgow, where he plays in several up-and-coming folk bands. Hayley Keenan took up the violin when she was 11, and today studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Together they form a tight, talented trio, who know their traditional music in and out, but have no fear of trying new routes. Talisk are ready with their debut album *Abyss* produced by Barry Reid of the Treacherous Orchestra. Guest musicians on the record number members of Mánran and Rura, and the album distills all the energy and creativity of Talisk's live concerts, which the Tønder Festival audience will have the opportunity to enjoy.

www.talisk.co.uk

PALAIS DES GLACES • THURSDAY 9:30 PM | LA GAYOLA • FRIDAY 11:00 AM | VISEMØLLEN • SATURDAY 3:45 PM

TEN STRINGS AND A GOAT SKIN (CAN)

The young Canadian trio Ten Strings And A Goat Skin played at the Tønder Festival opening ceremony in 2015, winning over the hearts of many listeners both there and at their subsequent Tønder Festival concerts. Now they are back, still delivering powerful, energetic traditional music in a fresh guise. The line-up and instrumentation are simple. Ten strings, to wit a fiddle and a guitar, and goatskin bodhrán. So far, so classic Celtic. Ten Strings And A Goat Skin master their instruments, as their tight phrasing and speedy melodic runs witness: this is Scots and Irish music as we know it from the eastern Canadian seaboard. The trio also compose, inspired by bands like Lau, Solas, Flook and Kila. Ten Strings And A Goat Skin are Jesse Périard, guitar, and brothers Rowen Gallant, fiddle, and Caleb Gallant, bodhrán. Their prize-winning first album, in 2011, was *Tri*, followed in 2013 by *Corbeau*.

www.tenstringsandagoatskin.com

TELT 2 • SUNDAY 5:45 PM

THREE TALL PINES (USA)

This American quartet played Tønder Festival in 2015. Here we have four first-rate instrumentalists on guitar, mandolin, violin and double bass. Add their close vocal harmonies and a mastery of bluegrass. Three Tall Pines both interpret and recreate bluegrass music's powerful traditions and complement with new ideas and inspiration from other genres. Songwriters Dan Bourdeau, on guitar and vocal, and Joe Lurgio, mandolin and vocal, set up the band after working as a duo for some years, expanding to a trio then in 2008 to the present quartet format. The other members are Ethan Robbins on bass and Conor Smith, violin and vocal. Critical praise has been heaped upon them, as have awards: Bluegrass Band of the Year in US Motif Arts Magazine and first prize at The Ossipee Valley Bluegrass Festival in New England. Three Tall Pines have released three albums: *Short While Ago* in 2008, *All That's Left* in 2011 and the EP *Taproot* from late 2014.

www.threetallpines.com

VISEMØLLEN • FRIDAY 9:00 PM | PALAIS DES GLACES • SATURDAY 12:30 PM

TIM O'BRIEN (USA)

Last year, Tim O'Brien was at Tønder Festival with the world-class bluegrass group Hot Rize, and the American super-instrumentalist and singer has been a frequent and popular guest at Tønder Festival for many years now, solo, with his own band, or with other fellow musicians. You will not be cheated this year either, for Tim O'Brien has announced his arrival, armed as usual with an whole arsenal of musical instruments. He is a master on mandolin, fiddle, banjo, guitar and other stringed instruments, and has an unmistakable style with roots in bluegrass, country, old-time and traditional music. Tim O'Brien was born in Virginia in 1954. In 1978 he founded Hot Rize, which launched his career. In the mid-80s, he made his first solo record, and now there are about a score of them. The newest is *Pompadour* from 2015. Tim O'Brien has won numerous awards, among them a Grammy for the best bluegrass album of 2014: *The Earls of Leicester*.

www.timobrien.net

MUSEET • FRIDAY 4:15 PM | TELT 1 • SUNDAY 12:00 PM

TINA DICKOW (DK)

The Girl From Århus, Tina Dickow's tribute to her home town, once again drew national attention in 2015 to the now 38 year-old songwriter and singer. Tina Dickow now lives in Iceland and her international career has been keeping her busy. Tina Dickow's rise has been impressive, since 2001, when she released her debut album *Fuel* on her own label. The following year she moved to England with an eye on an international breakthrough. At home, it was the album *Notes*, from 2003, that lit the fuse. Recorded over a few days, with a simple acoustic set-up, the album brought national acclaim to Tina Dickow, the guitar-playing girl who writes powerful, emotionally authentic songs. Not really a folksinger, Tina Dickow brings her mix of pop, americana, rock and folk to Tønder Festival for the first time in this year – her only Danish festival concert in the summer of 2016.

www.tinadickow.dk

TELT 1 • THURSDAY 9:00 PM

TREACHEROUS ORCHESTRA (SCO)

Big folk band, big folk sound: this is Treacherous Orchestra. 11 musicians challenge and explore traditional Scots music. This band builds on the musical foundations laid by Wolfstone, Peatbog Faeries, Shooglenifty and Salsa Celtica. Treacherous Orchestra plays instrumental music, and the group's two pipers, Ali Hutton and Ross Ainslie from Perthshire stand in no little debt to master piper Gordon Duncan, who died in 2005. Treacherous Orchestra's second album *Grind*, which appeared in February 2015, has won critical plaudits and nominations in the categories Album of the Year and Live Act of the Year at Scots Trad Music Awards.

www.treacherousorchestra.com

OPEN AIR • SATURDAY 7:00 PM

TRIAKEL (S)

Swedish bands Hoven Droven and Garmarna were two of the main players on the folk music scene in the 90s. Alongside the two bands' successes at home and abroad, Kjell-Erik Eriksson (Hoven Droven) and Emma Hårdelin (Garmarna and The String Sisters) shared a side project with Janne Strömstedt. Triakel began as a new year's resolution in 1994: Kjell-Erik and Janne agreed to perform on violin and harmonium together. Emma added her clarion-clear singing voice, and the trio have subsequently toured Europe, Japan, USA and Canada several times. The Triakel repertoire comprises traditional songs from Swedish regions Jämtland and Hälsingland, where the musicians grew up. The centrepiece is Emma's voice, and the melodies form the simple core of the trio's beautifully intimate arrangements that hold the audience captive. Since 1998, Triakel has put out six albums, and in 1999, with Benny Andersson of ABBA, they released the single *Innan Gryningen (Before the Dawn)*.

www.triakel.se

LA GAYOLA • FRIDAY 8:00 PM | VISEMØLLEN • SATURDAY 7:15 PM

VÄSEN (SE)

Since the start of the 90s, Väsen have been a power to be reckoned with in Swedish folk music. The trio consists of Mikael Marin on viola, Olov Johansson on keyed fiddle and guitarist Roger Tallroth. Through the years they have built up an enormous repertoire together, combining traditional and composed music based on that tradition. Väsen's trademark is top-flight musicality in dynamic arrangements full of finesse. A Väsen concert comprises beautiful waltzes, such as Roger Tallroth's famous composition *Josefin's Waltz* and rousing polskas. Väsen have frequently played in Denmark, but their tours take them far beyond Scandinavia: the trio have travelled the world, including many trips round USA and Canada, often with the Canadian band Le Vent Du Nord. In 2012 their tune *Flippen* was recorded by bluegrass-iconoclasts Punch Brothers on their album *Who's Feeling Young Now?* Väsen have made 16 albums so far, the most recent being *Live på Gamla Bion*, (*Live at the Old Cinema*) from 2014.

www.vasen.se

MUSEET • SATURDAY 9:00 PM | KLUBSCENEN • SUNDAY 11:30 AM
