The Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion is an annual music festival that takes place in downtown Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia on the third weekend in September. The three-day festival features a diversity of performers in recognition of the fact that the 1927 Bristol Sessions influenced many genres of music in America, and that the roots established in Bristol have grown deep and spread wide. Each year, the Festival hosts over 100 bands on 13 stages in Downtown Bristol.

**Types of Music**

Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion music festival celebrates the very best in roots music, covering a wide range of genres. Old-Time, bluegrass, alternative country, western swing, progressive newgrass, rock, blues, and folk-rock are all included in lineups that consist of more than 100 acts of live music performed on 13 outdoor and indoor stages.

**Past Artists**

Artist alumni of Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion include Dr. Ralph Stanley, Emmylou Harris, The Avett Brothers, Buddy Guy, Doc Watson, Bela Fleck, The Carolina Chocolate Drops, Lucinda Williams, The Drive-By Truckers, Old Crow Medicine Show, Jason Isbell, Sturgill Simpson, Old 97’s, The Steep Canyon Rangers, Corey Harris, The Del McCoury Band, St. Paul & the Broken Bones, and many, many more.

**Festival Dates**

- **2021 | September 10-12, 2021**
- **2022 | September 16 – 18, 2022**

**Average Attendance**

40,000+ attendees yearly

**Location and Number of Stages**

The festival prides itself on the lineup, but downtown is the real showstopper. Its hometown atmosphere provides the perfect ambience for visitors and artists; there are no muddy fields and many unique venues for fans to explore. With seven (7) major outdoor stages strategically placed to highlight important Bristol landmarks and six (6) indoor venues—including the beautifully restored Paramount Center for the Arts and a number of downtown restaurants there is a wide array of local flavor for attendees.

**Additional Activities**

The Festival offers a free Children’s Day event, a 5k Run/ 2 Mile, Yoga in the Park, a Wernick Method Bluegrass Jam Camp, plus a variety of unique food and craft vendors.

**More Information**

For more information about Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion, visit BristolRhythm.com.

**Awards**

Over the years, Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion has earned countless awards including:

- Bronze Grand Pinnacle from the International Festivals and Events Association
- Shining Example Award from the Southeast Tourism Society
- Top 20/Best Event award from the Southeast Tourism Society
- Pinnacle Awards from the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association – numerous awards
- Gold Kaleidoscope from the Southeast Festivals & Events Association
- Arts 50 for 50 Arts Inspiration Award for the Exemplary Programs & Pinnacle Events by the Virginia Commission for the Arts

Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion has become one of the premier roots music festivals in the Southeast. Artists and visitors from all over the world appreciate our cities’ great music history and are eager to be part of the celebration every year. Once they’ve experienced what the festival has to offer, they want to return.

**Leah Ross**

Executive Director of the Birthplace of Country Music

Parent organization of Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion