



STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES  
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**NEW YORK STATE'S ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL TO FEATURE MORE THAN 30 EMPIRE STATE  
BEERS, WINES & SPIRITS ON AUGUST 13**

**Eddie Money to Headline Day Full of Food, Drink, and Entertainment**

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced the lineup for the annual New York State Food Festival, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Due to construction, the stage has been relocated to the north end of the plaza, and seating will not be available on the museum staircase. People are encouraged to bring their own chairs.

"New York State boasts some of the best craft breweries, wineries, and distilleries in the nation, and we are proud to be showcasing many of them at our annual food festival," Commissioner Destito said. "This is one of our most popular summer events, and it is a wonderful opportunity to support local farmers at our afternoon farmers market, sample drinks and foods produced in New York, and enjoy some great music."

The festival will begin with the popular plaza farmers market, offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, along with breads, pastries and many other specialty items. For those looking for a new way to prepare their farmers market finds, this year's event will also feature farm-to-table cooking demonstrations at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. by chefs from Mazzone Hospitality restaurants: Angelo's Prime Bar & Grill and Aperitivo Bristro.

If cooking is not your thing, there will also be an opportunity for the first 10 people who sign up to participate in Plaza Paint – a Home is Where the Art Is painting class that will be conducted from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Be sure to catch lunch or dinner at one of the nearly 40 food vendors who will be serving up a wide variety of delicious international and domestic fare, from Indian, German, Greek, South American, Cuban, Lebanese and Jamaican cuisine to sliders, wood-fired pizza, ice cream, and crepes. There will be something to satisfy most everyone's palate.

One of the main attractions of the festival is the New York State wine, spirits and specialties tent, which will feature the products of some of the most highly sought-after beverage and specialty food makers from regions throughout the state, including: Adair Vineyards, Albany Sweet Tooth, BlackBird Cider

Works, Black Button Distillery, Brotherhood – America’s Oldest – Winery, Elf’s Farm Winery & Cider Mill, Fox Run Vineyards, Gusto Della Vita, Hillrock Spirits, Insane Fudge Company, Jiff-E-Chips, Lakeland Winery, Nine Pin Ciderworks, Oliva Vineyards, Pazdar Winery, Sun Dog Cider, Thousand Islands Winery, Van Brunt Stillhouse, and Yankee Folly Cidery.

Although alcoholic beverages purchased in the tent are not for consumption on site, there will be a beer garden where adults with proper identification will be able to sample at least a dozen New York State beers, including Brooklyn Lager, Captain Lawrence IPA, Keegan Ales Mother’s Milk Stout, Brown’s Cream Ale, Olde Saratoga Lager, Adirondack Bear Naked Ale, Lake Placid Ubu Ale, Empire White Aphro, Saranac Pale Ale, Saranac Octoberfest, Saranac Utica Club, and Ithaca Beer Company Cascazilla.

Those attending the event will be entertained by an exciting lineup of musical acts, headlined by the Brooklyn-born Eddie Money. Money burst onto the music scene with his eponymous debut album in 1977. The album, which went double platinum, featured hits like “Baby Hold On” and “Two Tickets to Paradise.” Money followed the success of his debut album with a stream of Top 40 hits such as “Think I’m in Love,” “I Wanna Go Back,” “Shakin,” and the classic, Grammy-nominated duet with Ronnie Spector, “Take Me Home Tonight.” Money continues to delight new and old fans alike at venues throughout the country. As the years have passed, Money’s blue-collar brand of rock n roll has managed to transcend generations and continues to move audiences today.

The entertainment will begin at noon, with a lunchtime Made in the Shade of the Egg performance by Sensemaya. The band fuses hot Latin dance rhythms with the cool sophistication of jazz improvisation. Their repertoire includes funkified interpretations of classic salsa to originals written in the revolutionary timba style of Cuba.

Music on the festival’s main stage will start cooking at 5 p.m. with a performance by The Blind Spots. This all original, female-fronted, five-piece moxy rock band from Ithaca features a solid-as-a-rock rhythm section, eclectic library of keyboard sounds, and bold and inventive electric guitar stylings. Electrifying lead vocalist and force of nature Maddy Walsh can hang with the best of them, continuing to reach new heights with her voice at every show and on every recording.

Next to hit the stage will be Soul Session, a high energy and emotive ensemble that performs multi-genre soul music with entertaining command and spontaneous originality. Soul Session, led by “soulist” Garland Nelson, the former lead vocalist of the New York Players, emotes supernatural passions from material by Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley, Bill Withers, and many others.

**Performance schedule:**

Noon - Made in the Shade of the Egg featuring Sensemaya

5:00 - The Blind Spots

6:15 - Soul Session

7:45 - Eddie Money

Free parking will be available after 3 p.m. in the cathedral lot off Madison Avenue and after 5 p.m. in the East Garage on the corners of Madison Avenue, Eagle Street, and Philip Street. Parking is also available for \$5 at the visitor lot underneath the plaza after 4 p.m.

For event updates, follow @plazaevents on Twitter or call (518) 474-0549. For additional information, including ground rules, visit our website at [www.ogs.ny.gov](http://www.ogs.ny.gov).

Sponsors of the New York State Food Festival include: New York State Lottery, New York State Public Employees Federation, Saranac, County Waste, PXX 106, Times Union, and Holiday Inn Express.

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