



**Office of  
General Services**

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**NEW YORK STATE'S INAUGURAL HOPS AND HARVEST FESTIVAL ON  
SEPTEMBER 19 TO FEATURE THE INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS**

***Evening of food, drink, and music will feature craft beers from across NYS***

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced the lineup for the first New York State Hops and Harvest Festival at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. This free event will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19 and feature a performance by The Infamous Stringdusters.

"We are very excited to be presenting our first Hops and Harvest Festival at the Empire State Plaza where we will showcase some highlights of upstate New York's harvest season as well as the tasty beers crafted by several of the most innovative breweries our state has to offer," Commissioner Destito said. "This event will also feature an exciting lineup of bluegrass and folk bands, including our headliner, The Infamous Stringdusters."

Winners of a 2018 Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album for their 2017 release *Laws of Gravity*, The Infamous Stringdusters have consistently covered new ground, inspired fans, and redefined what a bluegrass band can be.

The free entertainment will begin at 5 p.m. with a performance by The Lonely Heartstring Band. Nourished by deep roots in the expansive canon of traditional American music, The Lonely Heartstring Band embodies the modern American condition — an understanding and reverence for the past that informs a push into the future. Next to hit the stage will be Honeysuckle, a progressive folk act that blends older influences and traditional instrumentation with modern effects and inspiration.

Adults with proper identification will be able to purchase New York State craft beers and a cider: Ithaca Beer Company's Flower Power, Brooklyn Oktoberfest, Saranac Pumpkin Ale, Druther's Fist of Karma Brown Ale, Adirondack Brewery's Oktoberfest and Lake George Cider Project, Ommegang Brewery's Rare Vos Amber Ale, Brown's Brewing Company's Oatmeal Stout, and Captain Lawrence Brewing Company's Orbital Tilt IPA. Pilsner Urquell will also be available.

In addition to the great beer, food, and music, the festival will include activities the whole family can enjoy: a pie-eating contest sponsored by Golden Harvest, a hop sensory experience with Indian Ladder Farms Cidery and Brewery, candle-making with Reens Soy Candles and Essentials, a bee hive presentation by Wild Mountain Apiaries, plus yard games such as Cornhole and Jenga Giant.

**Performance schedule:**

**5:00 p.m.** The Lonely Heartstring Band

**6:15 p.m.** Honeysuckle

**7:30 p.m.** The Infamous Stringdusters

Free parking will be available after 2 p.m. in the Cathedral lot off Madison Avenue and the Grand Street lot and after 4 p.m. in the East Garage on Philip Street off Madison Avenue. Paid parking is available in the visitor or V-lot underneath the Empire State Plaza.

For event updates, follow @plazaevents on Twitter, @EmpireStatePlaza on Facebook, or call (518) 474-4759. For additional information about Summer at the Plaza events, including directions and ground rules, visit <https://www.ogs.ny.gov/ESP/Summer>.

Sponsors of the New York State Hops and Harvest Festival include the Times Union, Renaissance Albany Hotel, Albany.com, and DeCrescente Distributing Company.

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