



NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSICIANS—AS WELL AS TALL SHIPS—DESCEND UPON REGION FOR TALL SHIP CELEBRATION JULY 11—14

[Bay City, Michigan] Music has always been a big part of life aboard a working tall ship and so it is that music has always been a big part of Tall Ship Celebration, the nationally-acclaimed maritime festival that will return to Downtown Bay City on July 11th. In addition to the twelve tall ships visiting Bay City, nine musical groups will travel from as far away as Poland to participate in the International Maritime Music Festival, an event within the event.

From July 12 through 14, professional maritime musicians will alternate performances on two stages, one in Wenonah Park and one in Veterans Memorial Park. Performances will occur during the time the festival is open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day. There is no additional cost to enjoy these talented musicians. Once guests have paid the Admission fee of \$8.00 per day, most activities including the International Maritime Music Festival, are available at no additional charge.

Sponsorship from SC Johnson supports the appearance of participating musicians especially those traveling from Europe like Banana Boat from Poland, Armstrong's Patent and Nanna & Ankie from The Netherlands, Mâles de Mer from Belgium and Warp4 from Ireland. Participating musicians from the US include: Bounding Main from Chicago, Illinois; The Hardtackers from Columbus, Ohio; Bocca Musica from Michigan; and Bay City's own Hoolie.

When the festival closes at 5:00 p.m. Friday—Sunday, July 12—14, the Tall Ship Celebration shanty musicians can be heard in a new entertainment venue "The Quarterdeck." Located within the festival grounds in Veterans Memorial Park, patrons of the The Quarterdeck will also enjoy Michigan craft-brewed beers and wines each evening until 11:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. on Sunday. There will be a \$5.00 per person coverage charge to enter The Quarterdeck which is waived for those guests who have purchased a Souvenir Passport.

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Tickets for the four-day festival go on sale April 1st. Admission is \$8.00 per person, per day. Souvenir Passports are required to board and tour the visiting tall ships and they are available for an additional \$8.00 (\$10.00 after June 30). Tickets and Passports will be available on-line at www.tallshipcelebration.com, in person at Jack's Fruit and Meat Markets in the Great Lakes Bay Region after May 1st or at the festival admission gates. Tall Ship Celebration: Bay City is presented by Dow Corning and sponsored by MLive Media Group with additional support from St. Mary's of Michigan, Dow Chemical Company, Consumers Energy, Citizens Bank, Wildfire Credit Union, Independent Bank and The F.P. Horak Company.

Bay City has produced Tall Ship Celebration previously in 2001, 2003, 2006 and 2010 and has won "Port of the Year" honors for its efforts in 2001 and 2006. When it welcomes the TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® fleet in July 2013, Bay City will again be the only official host port in the state of Michigan.

For more information about Tall Ship Celebration: Bay City, contact Shirley Roberts by phone at 855.825.7447, by email at Shirley.Roberts@charter.net, or visit the organization's website www.tallshipcelebration.com.

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Editor's Note: Musician biographies are attached. An MP3 file of an original song by Banana Boat, "Do Calais!," is included in this Press Kit.



2013 International Maritime Music Festival Participant Bios



Armstrong's Patent is an enthusiastic group of men from Appingedam, The Netherlands, who specialize in singing sea songs and shanties. Our shanties (work-songs) are performed in the original a cappella style led by a "shantyman". We also perform "forebitters" and other types of sea songs which the sailors may have sung in their spare time. The songs sung by Armstrong's Patent come from the glory days of sailing and were sung on board Clippers, Whalers and Packet-ships, etc. Every side of sailing has its own specific songs. Through research and much correspondence at home and abroad, Armstrong's Patent has been able to produce a fairly authentic picture of the sailor from the last century.

Banana Boat is a Polish a cappella sextet, authoring and performing original songs representing the genre of neo-shanties. Being one of the pioneers of the new genre, the group retains its simultaneous focus on contemporary interpretations of traditional sea shanties and maritime music. Owing to its characteristic six-part, jazzy harmony, departing from the traditional sound of the music of the sea, the group has become one of the emblems of what the international artists of the maritime stage have informally come to dub as the *Polish style* maritime song. The group is a Member of International Seasong and Shanty Association (ISSA).



Bocca Musica (Music of the Mouth) is an international, award-winning, musical comedy troupe based in Michigan known for their spicy sense of humor! They combine original and traditional songs with jokes and toasts to delight their audiences. Bocca formed in the fall of 1996 and has performed at many festivals and fairs in the US and Canada. Bocca has been featured on several national podcasts and compilation CD's and were honored to receive recognition on the Renaissance Festival Podcast Awards in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012.



Bounding Main is a group of three male and two female vocalists who sing richly harmonic versions of traditional maritime songs. "Beautiful Harmonies with a Maritime Flair!" Their shows are filled with spirit, humor and harmony; their arrangements of traditional nautical music bring the listener into the world of fellowship, adventure and romance. Each member of Bounding Main is a music and theater veteran, with diverse entertainment backgrounds. The group's performances and CDs have been well received with brisk US and international sales. They have performed at music festivals, nautical festivals, major tall ships events, maritime museums, renaissance fairs, folk music venues and corporate events on both sides of the Atlantic.

Hoolie is an internationally-acclaimed trio from Bay City specializing in maritime music, specifically music from our own Great Lakes sailing traditions and original songs about maritime history. Hoolie has been featured at maritime festivals in The Netherlands, Scotland, England, Wales, Germany, Norway, and Belgium. Stateside, they have been a featured act at Mystic Seaport and have played tall ships festivals and light houses around the Great Lakes and Canada.



The quartet **Mâles de Mer** (seasickness in French) comes from a small region in south Belgium called "la Gaume" famous for its beer. Although the group lives hundreds of miles from any coastline, they get their kicks from adapting 4 voices singing harmonized shanties and performing them acapella with powerful enthusiasm in English, French, Dutch or even Creole. They also play traditional Irish music accompanied by fiddle, Bodhran, guitar and Tenor banjo. Mâles de Mer has been touring across Europe with appearances in Norway, Germany, Holland, Belgium and France, as well as Tall Ships gatherings in the USA. Although the band is relatively young, they have been playing in other maritime and folk formations for several years and are currently recording their first CD.

Two excellent voices and both great musicians, Nanne and Ankie sing around the world in Freisian, Dutch, English and Esperanto. They have been playing and singing together since 1980 in several different groups. Together they have produced 30 albums and CD's and regularly tour in Europe, Australia and North America. Nanne and Ankie sing traditional as well as original songs and have a vast repertoire. Maritime and historical themes are important in their music, but they also enjoy singing about comic everyday events.



The Hardtackers are a seven-man Sea Shanty Crew based in Columbus Ohio, that performs songs of the sea, lakes and rivers. They have known each other for many years and are musicians and vocalists in their own right. Coming together 4 years ago following a request for a one off shanty sing. It was such good fun and with demands for more they continued. They have not looked back since and have performed at many festivals and events, including three trips to Canada in 2012 and are booked to go back in 2013.



Warp Four & The Press Gang has its roots in the great folk music revival of the fifties. Two long-time shanty singers from different groups came together in 1991 to participate in a tall ships event in Cork. The first shanty specific group was born and was the foundation for what was to become Warp Four. They all agreed that an album of Shanties must be produced and vowed to make it so. It took a further two years to deliver on this vow, as the group went into semi-retirement. An

invitation to perform at the Mystic Seaport Maritime Festival and at The New York City Folk Society in June 2002 revitalized the group and indeed has had the side effect of bringing the Press Gang back after a break of approximately 25 years.