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TENN-CMAFEST

2015 CMA Music Festival Sunday  
night

CMA, Bonnaroo wrap up, draw  
thousands to Middle Tenn.

Charles Esten teases 'Nashville'  
Season 4 at CMA Fest



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## Free festivals pack summer calendar



Mary Hance, [mscheap@tennessean.com](mailto:mscheap@tennessean.com)

2:41 a.m. CDT May 28, 2015



(Photo: Samuel M. Simpkins / File / The Tennessean)

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With summer comes a calendar full of festivals, and most of them are free and family-friendly.

So mark your calendars for some of these summer fests and enjoy the music, the food, the entertainment — and the price.

### •Cumberland River Compact is having a

**WaterFest** family festival from 9 a.m. to noon June 6 at Cumberland Park, 592 S. First St. The event, which aims to connect children to our local waters, is pet-friendly and includes water-related educational activities, fun games, a dance party hosted by our favorite DJ and a water slide! <http://cumberlandrivercompact.org/our-work/waterfest/>.

•The **International FolkFest** will take place with dance groups from around the world performing at several Middle Tennessee venues June 6-14 . Some of the performances have admission fees, but many are free, including 10 a.m. June 8 at Smyrna Public Library, 10 a.m. June 11 at the Linebaugh Library in Murfreesboro and 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 13 on the East side of the Rutherford County Courthouse. [www.mboro-international-folkfest.org](http://www.mboro-international-folkfest.org).



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Ms. Cheap's Summer Guide: Free music, movies and more

•The **CMA Music Festival is June 11-14**, and not only is there lots of free music throughout the festival, there are two free concerts leading up to it — the CMA World GlobalLive! concert at 6 p.m. June 8 in Hall of Fame Park, and the CMA Festival Kick-

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Adam Tamburin



CMA Fest heat-related illnesses  
nearly double

Jordan Buie

Live: CMA Fest creates music  
takeover in Music City

off Concert in Riverfront Park from 10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 10. The CMA festival is loaded with free daytime activities and musical performances on seven stages, with most running from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Artists performing on the free stages include Gary Allen, Diamond Rio, Lonestar, Maddie & Tae, Kellie Pickler, Charles Esten, Jamie Lynn Spears and the Marshall Tucker Band. For details on the free entertainment, go to [www.cmaworld.com/cma-music-festival/free-entertainment](http://www.cmaworld.com/cma-music-festival/free-entertainment) or see [www.cmafest.com](http://www.cmafest.com).

- There is a **Simply Smyrna Celebration**, celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Smyrna, from 5 to 10 p.m. June 12 on Front Street in the Depot District of downtown Smyrna. There will be crafts, food, live music and games for kids. [www.townofsmyrna.org](http://www.townofsmyrna.org).

- The **21st annual RC-Moon Pie Festival**, celebrating the South's first "fast food," is 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 20 in Bell Buckle, the little railroad village 55 miles from Nashville. With a population of 405, the town calls itself "close to home but a world away." The one-day fest, which draws as many as 25,000 people, includes Moon Pie-themed games, a parade, crafts, live entertainment and plenty of chances to sample Moon Pies and RC Cola. [www.bellbucklechamber.com](http://www.bellbucklechamber.com) or 931-389-9663.

- The ninth annual **Hot Chicken Festival** is set for 11 a.m. July 4 at East Park, 700 Woodland St. The event starts with a parade of fire trucks and free hot chicken samples to the first 500 people. There is live music and kids activities. [hot-chicken.com](http://hot-chicken.com).



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- Ashland City Parks "Summerfest"** offers live music (three entertainers each night) and a family festival with vendors and crafts and other activities and food trucks, from 6 to 10 p.m. June 23-27 at the Riverbluff Park on Old Cumberland Street in Ashland City. Search "Ashland City Summerfest" on Facebook.

- The **annual Irish Picnic on the St. Patrick's Church grounds in McEwen** will be held July 24-25, with games, music and food. It is said to be the oldest continuously running festival in the state, with this being the 161st annual event, benefiting the school. More than 4,200 chicken halves and 20,000 pounds of pork will be served. Call 931-582-3417.

- It is not technically a festival, but the **new "Open Streets Nashville"** is a free public event that will open streets in the Gulch to people and close them to cars, encouraging participation in physical activity and healthy recreation. Businesses will be invited to open their doors and expand into the street and sidewalk. Mini-stages, booths and



Katie Brumbeoloe



Darius Rucker salutes  
songwriters at Fan Fair X  
Juli Thanki

tents will be placed along the route featuring games, music, food and fun activities. Hosted by the mayor's office and Walk Bike Nashville, Open Streets will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 27. <http://www.openstreetsnashville.org/>.

- The **12th annual Tomato Art Fest** takes place 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Aug. 7-8. It's a family-oriented, costume-friendly festival with plenty of tomato eating, tomato-themed games, contests, a parade, art and business booths, music and children's activities in and around Art & Invention Gallery in Five Points in East Nashville. Last year, an estimated 40,000 came to celebrate this beloved fruit/vegetable and enjoy the day's festivities. [www.tomatoartfest.com](http://www.tomatoartfest.com) or 615-226-2070.



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Ms. Cheap's 101 free things to do: music, festivals, outdoors, family fun

- The **Nashville Shakespeare Festival's "Shakespeare in the Park" is celebrating its 28th year of theater under the stars at the Centennial Park band shell with "Henry V."** The performances are Thursdays-Sundays, Aug. 13-Sept. 13. Patrons can bring picnics, blankets and lawn chairs. There is family-oriented pre-show entertainment at 6:30 p.m., with the show following at 7:30 p.m. It's free, but the Shakespeare Festival suggests a \$10 donation. [www.nashvilleshakes.org](http://www.nashvilleshakes.org) or 615-255-2273.

- There is a **Hummingbird Festival** at Barfield Crescent Park's Wilderness Station in Mufreesboro from 3-5 p.m. Sept. 5. There will be guest speakers, children's activities and hummingbird merchandise. 615-217-3017.

There are, of course, lots of **Fourth of July festivals** coming up, including Nashville's award-winning Let Freedom Sing! festival featuring the Nashville Symphony and a fireworks extravaganza at Riverfront Park, but we will feature those festivals closer to their time.

Reach Ms. Cheap at 615-259-8282. Follow her at [www.tennessean.com/mscheap](http://www.tennessean.com/mscheap), at [Facebook.com/mscheap](https://www.facebook.com/mscheap) and on Twitter @Ms\_Cheap, and catch her every Thursday at 11 a.m. on WTVF-Channel 5's "Talk of the Town."



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