



Produced by Downtown Kingston! B.I.A.  
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## **LIMESTONE CITY BLUES FESTIVAL KICKS OFF WITH OPENING CONCERT AT K-ROCK CENTRE!**

For the first time ever, an opening night concert for the Limestone City Blues Festival will be held at the K-Rock Centre. Thursday August 27<sup>th</sup> will feature Blues & guitar legend **Robert Cray** with special guest star, blues & gospel legend **Mavis Staples**.

Tickets will be \$35 and go on sale to the general public Friday, June 26, 2009 at 12 pm.

“A Celebrate Ontario grant from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism is what has made this fantastic addition possible”, says Michèle Langlois, General Manager of the festival. “That, along with the tremendous support & co-operation of K-Rock 105.7 and Arcturus/SMG is what is making this possible - and viable”.

The Limestone City Blues Festival will once again bring Downtown Kingston alive with the sounds of the blues August 27, 28, 29 and 30, 2009. This year will deliver another year of blues greatness. The main stages at The Hub and in Springer Market Square will feature Garrett Mason, Delta Highway, Fathead and Shemekia Copeland. The regular \$10 admission bracelet will be available from participating venues beginning July 2 and will be good for all outdoor concerts including the Princess Street & Springer Market Square stages and is good for admission to all participating clubs during the four day festival.

### **Robert Cray**

Dashingly handsome, possessed of a soulful voice and a terse guitar style that never wastes a note, **Robert Cray** smoulders with sensuality. He burst upon the scene at the very time when roots-based music needed him the most. According to the book *Guinness Rockopedia*, "the 1980s 'blues revival' revolved around Cray. His 1986 break-out album, *Strong Persuader*, hit #13 on the charts, higher than any other blues record since 1963.

The son of an army quartermaster, Cray was destined from the day he was born on a military base in Columbus, Georgia on August 1, 1953 to a life on the road. By his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, he had lived in four states and two countries. “I got a guitar because of the Beatles,” says Cray who had originally planned to be an architect. “I started with the blues around '69. That's when I saw Albert Collins in an outdoor concert. He just blew us all away.”

Cray's career now spans 35 years with 15 albums to his credit. He has performed with the legends of the blues and has garnered 6 Grammy Awards along with 11 other nominations. A personal favourite of Eric Clapton, Cray played at both Slowhand Guitar Festivals and opened Clapton's 2006/07 world tour.

### **Mavis Staples**

For over fifty years, **Mavis Staples** has been an American treasure, working her vocal magic on the highways and byways of gospel, folk and soul music. With both her family group, the Staple Singers, and as a solo artist in her own right she has helped to define much of what is righteous and soulful in American music. In the early 1960s, the Staple Singers worked with Dr. Martin Luther King singing in support of the Civil Rights movement. Over the course of her rich career, she has sung with Ray Charles, Bob Dylan, The Band, and many others. Mavis, a 2004 Grammy nominee, is celebrating her 70th birthday this year

For festival updates, continue to check the website at [www.kingstonblues.com](http://www.kingstonblues.com)

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