

## **Ben Rice - August 20, 2017**



Join the City of Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation Department for Ben Rice live at the Moonlight & Music Concerts. The concert takes place on Sunday, August 20, from 6-7:30pm at Millennium Plaza Park. All concerts are free and family friendly.

Ben Rice has been leaving huge impressions on audiences around the Northwest and winning awards for his vocals and guitar playing for the last seven years. In 2014 at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis Tennessee he left the audience speechless with a raw emotional delivery of his version of "Key To The Highway." His second consecutive trip to the International Blues Challenge he made the finals in the solo/duo category where he was awarded the St. Blues Guitarist award for best guitarist.

His debut on the international stage in 2014 was a landmark step forward in his career from being a regional act playing primarily around the NW to a national and international touring artist. Captivating audiences and presenting himself as someone who has a lot of depth in the various soundscapes of American music, Ben is gaining fans all over the world.

His original music blends Soul, Delta-Blues, Rockabilly, Jazz, and Funk into a Roots Stew. Influenced heavily by his parents' record collection from Al Green to Alice Cooper, Teddy Pendergrass to Marshall Tucker, Ben at a young age began investigating Blues and its history. Starting with B.B. King and going through the various regions and time periods he is inspired and influenced by historical figures like Muddy Waters, Mississippi Fred McDowell, Robert Johnson, Big Bill Broonzy, and Skip James to name a few. Ben spent his college years studying Jazz Guitar at the University of Oregon as well as classical music playing in the Celtic Folk ensemble and Mariachi groups on campus. He has been well versed in a lot of musical styles that all contribute to the unique sound of his originals.

As a performer Ben looks to the greats for inspiration always striving to connect with the audience through his music and stories. He also has an interesting arsenal of guitars playing resonophonic guitars and homemade cigar box guitars. More important than the visual appeal Ben has an amazing way of making these guitars sound, often bringing audiences to tears with his slide playing.

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Ben Rice has been a growing talent in the NW, winning awards for his singing, guitar work, writing, and performing. He is stepping into the national and international scene using his vast influences of American music to fuel his music and performance.

### **Directions**

Millennium Plaza Park 200 First Street  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034  
See map: [Google Maps](#)

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