



**Media Contact**  
Becky Peters Kile  
Marketing Consultant  
becky@roswellartsfund.org

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: (Roswell GA) September 21, 2021**

### **Roswell Arts Fund Announces Pop Up Performance at the Chattahoochee Nature Center Featuring Jakes Xerxes Fussell**

Roswell Arts Fund (RAF) is thrilled to welcome folk and blues musician, Jakes Xerxes Fussell and his band to kick off our 2021 -2022 Pop Up Performance Series. Originally from Georgia, Fussell is a singer and guitarist who brings traditional Southern songs to new generations in innovative and thoughtful ways. Funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, RAF is delighted to share this evening of storytelling, music and community under the stars at the Ben Brady Pavilion at the Chattahoochee Nature Center on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7:00pm.

#### **PERFORMANCE DETAILS**

- **WHEN:** Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2021, Doors at 6:00 pm, Show at 7:00 pm
- **WHERE:** Chattahoochee Nature Center Ben Brady Outdoor Pavilion
- **TICKETS:** \$20.00 (adults), \$17.50 (students) *Price increases after October 5*
- **COVID PROTOCOL:** Proof of vaccination is required for entry. Masks are required in all indoor spaces.
- **MORE INFORMATION:** <http://www.roswellartsfund.org/popup>
- **CONNECT:** Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Roswell-Arts> Instagram at @RoswellArts.
- **CONTACT:** Becky Peters Kile, Roswell Arts Fund Marketing Consultant, [becky@roswellartsfund.org](mailto:becky@roswellartsfund.org)

#### **ABOUT THE ROSWELL ARTS FUND POP UP PERFORMANCE SERIES**

RAF envisions creating a new, state-of-the-art and regionally distinct performance space. Having completed a feasibility study in 2018, RAF understands how a new performance space for music, theatre, and dance—a place where our community gathers to enjoy a favorite band or ballet production, a destination for entertainment, inspiration, and laughter, and to present fresh opportunities to showcase emerging talent and bring world-class performances—will expand and enhance Roswell's arts and culture scene.

The RAF Pop Up series is the first step towards building a permanent, premium performing arts venue in Roswell with the potential to complement our robust restaurant scene, increase



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tourism, embody our local pride, strengthen our brand, and activate our Modern Spirit. Southern Soul.

The 2021 - 2022 Pop-Up Performance Series presents curated performing arts experiences to engage audiences and strengthen community support for development of the new facility. Last season, the Pop Up Series featured: Ed Roland, The John Driskell Hopkins Band with Mike Rizzi and Friends, Ruby Velle and the Soulphonics, The Randall Bramblett Band and Acoustic Syndicate with Carly Bures. Additional experiences will be "popping up" throughout Roswell in 2022.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **ABOUT JAKE XERXES FUSSELL**

*"Jake Xerxes Fussell creates music that resides at the seams of Appalachia and the cosmos." – NPR Music's All Songs Considered*

*"Jake Fussell understands a couple of things about old songs: they weren't always old, and they changed as they went from hand to hand or sometimes country to country. They shouldn't be trapped in an imaginary past, but should be refreshed and reinvented." – Colin Escott, author of Hank Williams: The Biography*

**Durham, North Carolina** singer and guitarist **Jake Xerxes Fussell** (yes, that's his real middle name, after Georgia potter **D.X. Gordy**) grew up in **Columbus, Georgia**, son of **Fred C. Fussell**, a folklorist, curator, and photographer who hails from across the river in **Phenix City, Alabama** (once known as "The Wickedest City in America" for its rampant vice, corruption, and crime.) Fred's fieldwork took him, often with young Jake in tow, across the Southeast documenting traditional vernacular culture, which included recording blues and old-time musicians with fellow folklorists and recordists **George Mitchell** and **Art Rosenbaum** (which led Jake to music) and collaborating with American Indian artists (which led Jake eventually to his graduate research on Choctaw fiddlers.)

As a teenager Jake began playing and studying with elder musicians in the Chattahoochee Valley, apprenticing with Piedmont blues legend **Precious Bryant**, with whom he toured and recorded, and riding wild with Alabama bluesman, black rodeo rider, rye whiskey distiller, and master dowser **George Daniel**. He joined a Phenix City country band who were students of **Jimmie Tarlton of Darby and Tarlton**; he accompanied **Etta Baker** in North Carolina; he moved to Berkeley, where he hung with genius documentary filmmaker **Les Blank** and learned from Haight folkies like **Will Scarlett (Jefferson Airplane, Hot Tuna, Brownie McGhee)** and cult fingerstyle guitarist **Steve Mann**; he appeared on *A Prairie Home Companion*. He did a



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whole lot of listening, gradually honing his prodigious guitar skills, singing, and repertoire. In 2005 he moved to **Oxford, Mississippi**, where he enrolled in the Southern Studies department at **Ole Miss**, recorded and toured with **Rev. John Wilkins**, and in 2014, began recording his first solo album.

Jake's 2015 self-titled debut record, produced by and featuring **William Tyler**, transmutes ten arcane folk and blues tunes into vibey cosmic laments and crooked riverine rambles. Collaborating with Tyler and engineer **Mark Nevers** in **Nashville** was a conscious decision to depart cloistered trad scenes and sonics for broader, more oblique horizons. Tyler, a guitar virtuoso known for his own compositions that untether and reframe traditional six-string forms and techniques, helmed the push boat in inimitable fashion, enlisting crack(ed) Nashville session vets **Chris Scruggs** (lap steel, bass, mandolin: **Bonnie "Prince" Billy, Marty Stuart**), **Brian Kotzur** (drums: **Silver Jews**), and **Hoot Hester** (fiddle; **Bill Monroe, Ray Charles**) to crew.

In 2017 Fussell followed his celebrated self-titled debut with a moving new album of Natural Questions in the form of transmogrified folk/blues koans. This time these radiant ancient tunes tone several shades darker while amplifying their absurdist humor, illuminating our national, and psychic, predicaments. ***What in the Natural World*** features art by iconic painter **Roger Brown** and contributions from three notable Nathans—**Nathan Bowles (Steve Gunn)**, **Nathan Salsburg (Alan Lomax Archive)**, and **Nathan Golub (Mountain Goats)**—as well as **Joan Shelley** and **Casey Toll (Mt. Moriah)**.

On ***Out of Sight***, his third and most finely wrought album yet, guitarist, singer, and master interpreter Fussell is joined for the first time by a full band featuring **Nathan Bowles** (drums), **Casey Toll** (bass), **Nathan Golub** (pedal steel), **Libby Rodenbough** (violin, vocals), and **James Anthony Wallace** (piano, organ). An utterly transporting selection of traditional narrative folksongs addressing the troubles and delights of love, work, and wine (i.e., the things that matter), collected from a myriad of obscure sources and deftly metamorphosed, ***Out of Sight*** contains, among other moving curiosities, a fishmonger's cry that sounds like an astral lament ("**The River St. Johns**"); a cotton mill tune that humorously explores the unknown terrain of death and memory ("**Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues**"); and a fishermen's shanty/gospel song equally concerned with terrestrial boozing and heavenly transcendence ("**Drinking of the Wine**").

## **MEET OUR SPONSORS**

Roswell Arts Fund is proud to announce that the 2021 – 2022 Pop Up Performance Series is supported in part by a number organizations who believe in RAF's vision to develop spaces and opportunities that support connection, community and the creative economy.



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The Roswell Arts Fund Pop Up Performance Series receives signature support from Martin's Gardens at Coleman Farms, an organic family farm located in Roswell and Ardent/ECI Redevelopment LLC, owners and re-developers of the East Village Shopping Center. The series generous media partners include the Atlanta Journal Constitution and Visit Roswell. Additional support is provided by Chattahoochee Nature Center, All Together Now, From the Earth Brewing Company, and Hitch Law, LLC.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA INFORMATION**

Media partnerships and artist interviews are available upon request.

Jake Xerxes Fussell Pop Up Images:

- 1200 x 600 [https://roswellartsfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/1200-x-600-Hero-Web\\_Fussell.png#main](https://roswellartsfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/1200-x-600-Hero-Web_Fussell.png#main)
- 108 x 1080 [http://roswellartsfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/1080-x-1080-IG\\_Fussell.png](http://roswellartsfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/1080-x-1080-IG_Fussell.png)

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### **About Roswell Arts Fund**

Roswell Arts Fund, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is the designated arts agency for the City of Roswell. Roswell Arts Fund was founded to strengthen the scope of the arts in the city and to champion the ability of diverse cultural experiences to excite the imagination, strengthen public places, and encourage conversation. Through each of our initiatives, Roswell Arts Fund aims to IGNITE creative conversations, INSPIRE residents, visitors, and businesses to create, support, and become engaged in the arts and IMPACT the economy by making Roswell a cultural destination.

*Roswell Arts Fund is funded in part by the City of Roswell, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, the Imlay Foundation and the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta.*

Website: [www.roswellartsfund.org](http://www.roswellartsfund.org)  
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