

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Today On St. Croix: The Legendary "Rhythm And Blues Cruise"

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ST. CROIX -- The island of St. Croix will come alive with music today as residents welcome the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, arriving aboard Holland America's MS Nieuw Amsterdam in Frederiksted, a press release the Department of Tourism issued late Tuesday has revealed.

The welcoming of the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, a resolution for which was passed by members of the 31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands, encouraged the Virgin Islands Department of Tourism to handle production elements on St. Croix.

The Department of Tourism, which is working alongside the "Blues Cruise" organizers and local production company KDM Productions, announced that performances by a variety of artists aboard the ship will take place at the Verne Richards Park main stage in Frederiksted.

The main stage activity commences at 1 p.m. and will feature St. Croix's youth group Mind, Body and Soul and local scratch band performer Eddie Russell. Performers from the mainland include the Ruthie Foster Band, North Mississippi Allstars, and Latimore. A dynamic performance by legendary Crucian group Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Nights will close out the free event.

The island's culinary delights and artistic offerings will also be on display for patrons to enjoy.

Deputy Commissioner of Tourism Neelia Ross noted that in addition to the main stage performances, DOT has partnered with the Department of Education to offer a "Blues in the Schools Concert" at St. Croix Educational Complex from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The Sugar Blue band will perform during the special event.

"We expect a very busy day filled with entertainment and education," said Ms. Ross, who explained that the seamless integration of tourism and the community was a key priority for DOT.

Performances will also be held at Rainbow Beach, Blue Moon and Paradise during the day.

This is the 26th edition of the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, which attracts musicians and blues cruisers alike, according to the release.