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ROBERT W. CROSS  
PERRY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
**2018 FUNHOUSE FESTIVAL**

presented by

**Virginia Arts Festival and  
Bruce Hornsby**

**June 22 - 23**

**The Lawn of the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg**

featuring

**BRUCE HORNSBY & THE VIRGINIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**AND**

**ALISON KRAUSS**

As well as

**BRUCE HORNSBY & THE NOISEMAKERS**

**THE WOOD BROTHERS**

*and more artists to be announced*

*Tickets on sale this Friday, February 2 at 10:00 AM EST!*

NORFOLK, VA [January 29, 2018] – Grammy®-winning singer-songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist **Bruce Hornsby** and **Virginia Arts Festival** are bringing back **Funhouse Fest**, the outdoor music festival that gathers award-winning artists for a weekend of music-making in an intimate summer setting. Funhouse Fest returns to the Lawn of the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, June 22-23, 2018.

Named after Hornsby's 1998 song "Funhouse," the festival is curated by **Bruce Hornsby**, who will be performing alongside notable musicians throughout the weekend, as in past years.

Tickets for Funhouse Fest will go on sale Friday, February 2 at 10:00 am. Patrons may purchase 2-day packages or single day tickets online at [www.FunhouseFest.com](http://www.FunhouseFest.com), by phone at 757-282-2822, or in person at the Virginia Arts Festival Box Office at 440 Bank St., Norfolk, VA.

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Born and raised in Williamsburg, Virginia, **Bruce Hornsby** grew up in a musical family, and cut his teeth in the music business playing in local clubs and hotel bars. A decade after bursting onto the scene with *The Way It Is*, he returned to Williamsburg with his family, making the historic city his home base. Hornsby's work displays a creative iconoclasm that's been a constant in the artist's two-and-a-half decade recording career. His commercial stock soared early on, when "The Way It Is"—the title track of his 1986 debut album—became one of the most popular songs on American radio. Despite his early mainstream successes, Hornsby has pursued a more personal, idiosyncratic musical path, focusing on projects that sparked his creative interest, including collaborations with the Grateful Dead, Spike Lee, Ricky Skaggs, Don Henley, Ornette Coleman, Bob Dylan, Bela Fleck, Bonnie Raitt, Pat Metheny, and Robbie Robertson. Hornsby's Funhouse Fest performances offer a glimpse of a restless spirit who continues to push forward into exciting new musical terrain.

Hornsby will once again present two unique performances on the Funhouse Fest stage. Friday evening will feature Bruce Hornsby & the Noisemakers which includes long-time collaborators JV Collier (bass) and JT Thomas (keyboards), plus Gibb Droll (guitar), Ross Holmes (fiddle/mandolin) and Chad Wright (drums). On Saturday, Bruce Hornsby & the Virginia Symphony Orchestra will partner to present the Virginia debut of Hornsby's adventurous new orchestral program. Inspired by twentieth century modernist composers including Elliott Carter, Arnold Schoenberg, Anton Webern and Olivier Messiaen, Hornsby will present a unique program which utilizes the modern classical language in a pop song context.

Headlining the Friday evening performance is **Alison Krauss**, winner of seven Country Music Association Awards and 27 Grammy® awards, including five for *Raising Sand*, her collaboration with Robert Plant that won Album of the Year and Record of the Year in 2009. Her new album, *Windy City*, is her first effort away from her band Union Station in a decade. The album, produced by renowned music legend Buddy Cannon, has received critical acclaim and two Grammy® nominations.

Funhouse Fest is also pleased to announce **The Wood Brothers** will perform on Saturday, June 23. The Americana/Folk Rock trio is made up of brothers Oliver Wood and Chris Wood, and drummer Jano Rix. The **Wood Brothers** seamlessly blend the blues, folk, and roots-music they loved as kids into their own evocative sound. Building off the success of their 2015 album *Paradise* which was dubbed "the warmest, most sublime and occasionally rowdiest Wood Brothers release yet," by *American Songwriter*, the group will release their sixth album *One Drop of Truth* in early February this year.

Additional artists will be announced in the coming weeks.

*Co-presented with the City of Williamsburg, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and in partnership with Visit Williamsburg. Funhouse Fest is funded in part by the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission and the City of Williamsburg.*

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**About the Virginia Arts Festival**

Since 1997, the **Virginia Arts Festival** has transformed the cultural scene in southeastern Virginia, presenting great performers from around the world to local audiences and making this historic, recreation-rich region a cultural destination for visitors from across the United States and around the world. The Festival has presented numerous U.S. and regional premieres, and regularly commissions new works of music, dance, and theater from some of today's most influential composers, choreographers, and playwrights. The Festival's arts education programs reach tens of thousands of area schoolchildren each year through student matinees, in-school performances, artists' residencies, master classes and demonstrations. ###