



VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

APRIL 16 - 19, 2026
SCOPE ARENA, NORFOLK, VA

A CELEBRATION 250 YEARS IN THE MAKING!



Presented by

VIRGINIA
ARTS
FESTIVAL

The
HIXON
FAMILY

VA250



2026 VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO



WHAT IS A TATTOO?

The centuries-old tradition of Tattoo originated as a signal from drummers instructing Dutch innkeepers near military garrisons to “Doe den Tap-too” or “turn off the tap.” Hearing the call “Tap-too,” soldiers would return to their barracks for an evening roll call. The ensuing parade of soldiers evolved into a spectacle now known worldwide as “Tattoo.”

The Virginia International Tattoo is America’s largest, most patriotic Tattoo, and a signature event of the Virginia Arts Festival.

This year, reconnect with your country in the place that made it possible. Join us in Virginia for a world-class performance that pays tribute to our past, celebrates our present, and inspires our future.

Virginia International Tattoo
America’s International Military Tattoo
History. Honor. Heart.

TICKETS AVAILABLE

ORDER TODAY for the BEST SEATS!

Tattoo performances sell out every year.
ORDER NOW!

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026, 7:30 PM (OPENING NIGHT)

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026, 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026, 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026, 2:30 PM

SCOPE ARENA, NORFOLK, VA 23510

VAFEST.ORG | 757-282-2822 | 1-877-741-2787

Guarantee great seats today!

Groups traveling on motorcoaches receive complimentary tickets for the driver and escort when at least 25 tickets are purchased.

CALL OUR GROUP SALES DEPARTMENT
757-282-2819 OR 877-741-2787

SEATING CHART



Savings for Students, Groups, Seniors, and Military.

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY THESE FREE EVENTS!



VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO HULLABALOO

Come early and enjoy music, dancing, drill routines and drumming exhibitions that kick off each Tattoo performance. Food, drink and souvenirs are available for purchase. Prepare for the downbeat of the Virginia International Tattoo!

THURSDAY - SATURDAY, APRIL 16 - APRIL 18, 2026, 4:30 - 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
SCOPE PLAZA, NORFOLK, FREE



INTERNATIONAL DRUMMING SHOWCASE

Percussionists from all over the world show their skills in this exciting display. In partnership with Drum Corps International.

THURSDAY - FRIDAY, APRIL 16 - APRIL 17, 2026, 6 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026, 5 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026, 1 PM
SCOPE PLAZA, NORFOLK, FREE



NATO FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

Celebrate the bond between the City of Norfolk and NATO at this military ceremony. See representatives from all NATO Member Nations and performances by the U.S. Fleet Forces Band.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026, 5 PM - 6 PM
SCOPE PLAZA, NORFOLK, FREE



NORFOLK NATO FESTIVAL 73rd ANNUAL PARADE OF NATIONS

The only parade in the U.S. to honor NATO features over 100 parade units, including U.S. and international bands, military units, community groups and floats representing every NATO Member Nation!

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026, 10 AM - 11:30 AM
DOWNTOWN NORFOLK, FREE
RESERVED SEATING: \$10 - VISIT VAFEST.ORG



NORFOLK NATO FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

Visit the Village in Norfolk's beautiful waterfront Town Point Park. Explore international heritage with performances complimented by food and international beers available for purchase. Immediately after the Parade of Nations.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026, 11:30 AM - 3 PM
TOWN POINT PARK, NORFOLK, FREE



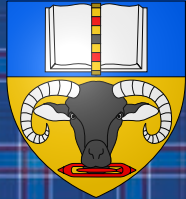
VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO AMERICAN PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

This traditional Scottish contest features the largest gathering of the best pipe bands in the Eastern United States, adjudicated by an international panel of judges. The event concludes with an exciting massed band performance and awards ceremony.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026, 12 PM - 5 PM;
MASSED BAND PERFORMANCE AND AWARDS - 6 PM
SCOPE PLAZA, NORFOLK, FREE

THE VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO HIXON TARTAN

THE SCOTTISH REGISTER
OF TARTANS



Tartan items for sale at
VAFEST.ORG/SHOP



The Virginia International Tattoo has embraced Scottish tradition with its own tartan design, inspired by Virginia Arts Festival Board Member Jim Hixon and named the Virginia International Tattoo Hixon Tartan.

The tartan reflects the Tattoo's rich heritage and deep Virginia roots. "Festival Blue" represents the Virginia Arts Festival and the power of the arts. Red, white, and blue threads symbolize the patriotic themes and stirring performances of America's International Military Tattoo. Blue hues nod to the Virginia Flag and Norfolk Seal, while grey stripes evoke the Navy's mighty ships and the jets that remind us of those who serve.

VISITING THE TATTOO IS EASY!

The Virginia International Tattoo is located in the Coastal Virginia city of Norfolk, which is home to the world's largest Navy base, NATO's only North American headquarters, and the largest population of active duty and retired military in the United States. With our "home port" in these waters, it is no surprise that our Tattoo is widely known as the most patriotic in the world.

Whether you fly, drive, or ride the train or bus, our central mid-Atlantic location is easy to reach — within a day's drive from two-thirds of the nation's population, and serviced by international airports.



DISTANCE FROM:

Outer Banks, NC...75 miles
Richmond, VA.....90 miles
Washington, DC....195 miles
New York City356 miles
Atlanta, GA.....564 miles



GROUPS LOVE THE FESTIVAL! For information about bringing your group of 10+ to a Virginia Arts Festival performance, call **757-282-2819** or email groupsales@vafest.org.

HOTEL PARTNERS

NORFOLK

Courtyard Norfolk Downtown Marriott
757-963-6000 • marriott.com/orfdt

Glass Light Hotel & Gallery, Autograph Collection
757-222-3033 • glasslighthotel.com

Hilton Norfolk The Main
757-763-6200 • themainnorfolk.com

Norfolk Waterside Marriott
757-627-4200, 800-228-9290 • marriott.com/orfws

Residence Inn Norfolk Downtown
757-842-6216 • marriott.com/orfrn

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
757-622-6664, 888-627-8042 • marriott.com/orfsi

VIRGINIA BEACH

Cavalier Resort
757-425-8555 • cavalierresortvb.com

Holiday Inn Virginia Beach-Norfolk Hotel & Conference Center
757-499-4400 • hivabeachnorfolk.com

Hyatt Place Virginia Beach Town Center
757-431-7000 • hyattplacevirginiabeachtowncenter.com

The Westin Virginia Beach Town Center
757-557-0550 • marriott.com/orfwi

WILLIAMSBURG

Colonial Williamsburg Resorts
757-220-7976, 855-231-7240 • colonialwilliamsburghotels.com





The VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL with HIXON FAMILY Present

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

APRIL 16 - 19, 2026 • SCOPE ARENA, NORFOLK, VA

Presenting Sponsor **VA250**

“Everyone needs to experience this once in their lives.”
Davina, 2025

U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps



Musique de la Marine



Republic of Korea Traditional Army Band



UK Royal Marines Band



2026 VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS — A SALUTE TO 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

As the nation prepares to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the founding of the United States, there's no better place to reflect on our shared story than Virginia — where more of what made America happen, happened. From the founding ideals that shaped a nation to the leading figures who helped forge it, Virginia stands at the heart of our country's revolutionary legacy.

In 2026, the Virginia International Tattoo proudly joins the Commonwealth's VA250 Commemoration with a once-in-a-generation celebration that blends history, heroism, and breathtaking spectacle.

It's more than a show — it's an unforgettable experience.

Join a cast of over 800 performers from across the globe as they take the stage in a dazzling display of military pageantry, precision, and passion. Featuring massed pipes and drums, military bands, drill teams, dancers, choirs, and more.

With stirring music, historic photos and video, tributes from U.S. military bands and appearances by special guests, we will remember and celebrate 250 years of America! Get your tickets now!

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026, 7:30 PM
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026, 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026, 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026, 2:30 PM
SCOPE ARENA, NORFOLK



AUSTRALIA
Pipes and Drums of the Royal Caledonian Society of South Australia



CANADA
Royal Canadian Air Force Pipes and Drums



FRANCE
Musique de la Marine

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Republic of Korea Traditional Army Band

HUNDREDS OF PERFORMERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD!



UNITED KINGDOM
Dougie Anderson
Pipes and Drums of the Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry Association
Royal Marines Band

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Camden County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums
Granby High School Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps
Hampton Roads Police Color Guards
Kilgore College Rangerettes

Norfolk Fire - Rescue Honor Guard
Old Dominion University Concert Choir
Rhodes Academy of Irish Dance
Tidewater Pipes and Drums
U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band
U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum
U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company
U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps
U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Band
Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus

**Cast subject to changes and additions.*

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2026 CAST



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

- 4:30 - 7:30 PM** TATTOO HULLABALOO
Scope Plaza, Norfolk, FREE
- 5 PM** NATO FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY
Scope Plaza, Norfolk, FREE
- 6 PM** INTERNATIONAL DRUMMING SHOWCASE
Scope Plaza, Norfolk, FREE
- 7:30 PM** VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO
Scope Arena, Norfolk

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

- 4:30 - 7:30 PM** TATTOO HULLABALOO
Scope Plaza, Norfolk, FREE
- 6 PM** INTERNATIONAL DRUMMING SHOWCASE
Scope Plaza, Norfolk, FREE
- 7:30 PM** VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO
Scope Arena, Norfolk

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

- 10 AM** NORFOLK NATO FESTIVAL PARADE OF NATIONS
Downtown Norfolk, FREE
- 11:30 AM - 3 PM** NORFOLK NATO FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE
Town Point Park, Norfolk, FREE
- 12 PM - 6:30 PM** VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO AMERICAN PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP
6 PM: MASSED BAND PERFORMANCE AND AWARDS
Scope Plaza, Norfolk, FREE
- 4:30 - 7:30 PM** TATTOO HULLABALOO
Scope Plaza, Norfolk, FREE
- 5 PM** INTERNATIONAL DRUMMING SHOWCASE
Scope Plaza, Norfolk, FREE
- 7:30 PM** VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO
Scope Arena, Norfolk

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

- 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM** TATTOO HULLABALOO
Scope Plaza, Norfolk, FREE
- 1 PM** INTERNATIONAL DRUMMING SHOWCASE
Scope Plaza, Norfolk, FREE
- 2:30 PM** VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO
Scope Arena, Norfolk

Highland Dancers





PO Box 3595
Norfolk, VA 23514



VIRGINIA
INTERNATIONAL
TATTOO



**CAST POSTER &
CALENDAR OF EVENTS INSIDE!**

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