

Daily Press

Bay Days to blend R&B, Southern rock

Texas blues, Minneapolis funk and Southern-fried rock will be on the menu at this year's festival in Hampton.

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Delbert, Morris and Charlie.

Together, they might make a pretty good comedy team - or crime-solving trio.

But in reality, they're supplying the music at this year's Bay Days festival in downtown Hampton. Organizers announced Monday that Delbert McClinton, Morris Day and The Time, and the Charlie Daniels Band would headline the outdoor extravaganza Sept. 8 to 10.

McClinton - who'll take the stage Friday, Sept. 8 - is an R&B singer in the tradition of Wilson Pickett, Bobby "Blue" Bland and Van Morrison. His 1980 hit "Giving It Up for Your Love," for example, was a catchy blast of funk-blues.

His 1997 album "One of the Fortunate Few" included contributions from artists as diverse as country great Vince Gill, blues legend B.B. King and folk hero John Prine.

McClinton, a 65-year-old Texan, has been enjoying a spurt of popular attention of late. This year, his "Cost of Living" CD earned him a Grammy for Best Contemporary Blues Album. McClinton won the same honor for his 2001 disc "Nothing Personal."

Compared with McClinton, Morris Day has maintained a low profile in recent years. But the singer and his funky band The Time continue to function. Day - who'll take the Saturday, Sept. 9, slot - earned fame alongside Prince as Minneapolis' dance-music scene grabbed national attention in the early 1980s. Day's charismatic-yet-goofy performance in the Prince movie "Purple Rain" helped propel him and The Time onto the charts with hits "Jungle Love" and "The Bird."

After the original Time disbanded, Day released a series of modestly successful solo albums and dabbled in acting. He appeared in Andrew Dice Clay's movie "Ford Fairlane," as well as a short-lived ABC-TV sitcom, "New Attitude," from 1990.

Day's most recent disc, "It's About Time" from 2004, features live versions of tunes from his old band, along with a handful of new tracks.

Charlie Daniels - who'll perform Sunday, Sept. 10 - is a giant of Southern boogie rock. In the 1960s, the North Carolina-born singer and fiddler worked as a studio musician in Nashville, Tenn. There, he played on sessions for Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Pete Seeger, among others.

Inspired by the Allman Brothers, Daniels formed a Southern rock band in 1971 and became one of the style's most popular live acts.

Hits "Devil Went Down to Georgia" and "In America" cemented his image as a good-ol'-boy rocker.

Last month, Daniels and his band performed for U.S. troops serving in Iraq.

"We're (touring) to honor the men and women who protect our way of life," he said. "It's the least we can do."