

**Blue Bear School of Music proudly presents**

**The 8th Annual**

**Blue Bear Benefit**

**Robert Randolph & The Family Band**

**Blue Bear Youth Bands**

**Saturday, May 18, 2013**

**Bimbo's 365 Club**

1025 Columbus Ave.

San Francisco, CA 94133

415-474-0365

[bimbos365club.com](http://bimbos365club.com)

Doors: 7pm / Show: 7:30pm

Tickets: \$75 GA / \$150 VIP / \$60 GA for Blue Bear Members

Buy Tickets & More Info: 415-673-3600, [bluebearmusic.org/benefit](http://bluebearmusic.org/benefit)

San Francisco, CA — Blue Bear School of Music, the original school of rock and roll since 1971, is pleased to present the 8th annual **Blue Bear Benefit** featuring **Robert Randolph & The Family Band** on **Saturday, May 18, 2013** at **Bimbo's 365 Club** in San Francisco. Talented **Blue Bear Youth Bands** will jump start this special evening with rocking performances. Tickets are \$75 general admission, \$150 VIP (includes complimentary catered cuisine, exclusive non-reserved VIP seating opportunities, non-hosted VIP bar and more) and \$60 general admission for Blue Bear Members. Tickets can be purchased at the front desk or via phone at Blue Bear School of Music (Fort Mason Center, Building D in San Francisco, 415-673-3600, [bluebearmusic.org/benefit](http://bluebearmusic.org/benefit)) or at the box office and online at Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus at Chestnut in San Francisco, [bimbos365club.com](http://bimbos365club.com)).

The annual Blue Bear Benefit provides crucial funding for the school's nonprofit mission and music education programs that enrich the lives of more than 800 Bay Area youth, including hundreds of kids from low-income families and at-risk communities. Proceeds support all of Blue Bear's music programs including Rock Band Ensemble, Group Guitar and Keyboard Lab programs at public school partner sites, their new Digital Studio Program at Bayview Hunters Point YMCA, and youth scholarships and sliding scale tuition support for low-income students of all ages receiving high-quality music instruction at Blue Bear's Fort Mason Center campus.

Headlining this year's Blue Bear Benefit — in the band's only Bay Area appearance this spring — is Robert Randolph & The Family Band, a group well known for their powerhouse live performances and led by a pedal steel guitar virtuoso who has been called one of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time by *Rolling Stone*. Blue Bear's Development Director and benefit Executive Producer Marcus Yelton says, "We're very excited to present Robert Randolph and his band at our 8th annual Blue Bear Benefit. His incredible musicianship will make for an amazing night of music and celebration, plus his background and his road to success is really an inspiration for our young students, several of whom will be performing on stage that evening."

A nonprofit organization founded in San Francisco in 1971, Blue Bear School of Music is the original "school of rock" and one of California's largest community music schools. Blue Bear is the Bay Area's leading destination for aspiring musicians of all ages and skill levels who want to learn and play rock, pop, blues, jazz and folk music. The school's commitment to providing superior quality and affordable popular music education has helped more than 30,000 students achieve their musical goals, regardless of their financial means.

Please join Blue Bear School of Music for this year's Blue Bear Benefit and help the school continue its 42-year legacy of bringing innovative and affordable music education programs to anyone who is motivated to sing, play or craft a song. For more information on the Blue Bear benefit, please visit [bluebearmusic.org/benefit](http://bluebearmusic.org/benefit).

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***Artist Bio:***

**Robert Randolph & The Family Band** is a group well known for their powerhouse live performances, and led by a pedal steel guitar virtuoso who has been called one of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time by *Rolling Stone*. Hailing from Orange, NJ, **Robert Randolph** started playing the pedal steel guitar — or "Sacred Steel," as the instrument is referred to in many African-American Pentecostal churches — as a teenager in his local church. He was discovered while performing at a Sacred Steel Convention in Florida, and shortly thereafter opened for the **North Mississippi Allstars** and **Medeski, Martin & Wood** in prestigious New York venues. Keyboardist **John Medeski** asked Robert to join an instrumental gospel/blues album with members of North Mississippi Allstars; calling themselves **The Word**, the band released an eponymous album in 2001 to critical and popular acclaim. Robert himself set the live music world on fire with his high-energy performances, and his style of incorporating a mix of funk and soul into his pedal steel playing, giving a new secular, multicultural element to the "sacred steel."

The first Robert Randolph & The Family Band album, ***Live at the Wetlands***, was released in 2002 just prior to the legendary club's closing. The band's 2003 studio debut, ***Unclassified***, caught the attention of **Eric Clapton**, who invited the band to open for him on tour and later guested on their 2006 studio album ***Colorblind***. They worked with producer **T-Bone Burnett** on their latest studio album ***We Walk This Road***, released in 2010 and featuring guest appearances from **Ben Harper** and **Leon Russell**. In Robert's words, *We Walk This Road* "is a celebration of African-American music over the past one hundred years and its social messages from the last thirty. Although we cover a whole timeline of different eras... what ties these songs together remain their message of hope, their ability to uplift." The band's newest release is the live album ***Live In Concert***, which captures performances recorded all across the U.S. with special guests such as **Susan Tedeschi**, **Joey Williams of Blind Boys of Alabama** and more.

Robert Randolph & The Family Band have performed on the ***Late Show with David Letterman*** and the PBS television program ***Austin City Limits***, opened for such artists as the **Dave Matthews Band**, **Derek Trucks Band**, **Karl Denson's Tiny Universe** and **Soulive**, and recorded with **Ringo Starr**, **Santana** and **Kirk Hammett of Metallica**, **Elton John** and **Leon Russell**, **Los Lobos**, **Buddy Guy**, and **Dirty Dozen Brass Band**, amongst others. For more information on Robert Randolph & The Family Band, please visit [robertrandolph.net](http://robertrandolph.net).

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