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Tallahassee's Sarah Mac Band wins COCA contest

Local arts agency bestows winners with tickets to Nashville's Americana Music Festival and Conference

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Written by
Lindsay Marshall
Staff Writer

Tallahassee local act, The Sarah Mac Band, was recently announced the winner of Tallahassee's Council on Culture and Arts' (COCA) Americana Music Fest Contest.

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The Americana Music Festival is a four-day event of live music and workshops in Nashville, Tenn., aimed to educate musicians on how to best promote their music and thrive in the industry. There are more than 70 acts scheduled to perform at the festival within the many Nashville venues. In addition to winning free tickets to attend the event, The Sarah Mac Band has received free hotel stay and gas thanks in part to Extended Stay Hotels and Music Lessons Express.

Thirteen local Americana artists competed in COCA's contest. Americana is an umbrella genre that encompasses folk, bluegrass, traditional country, blues,

roots and old-time music. The artists were featured on COCA's website, where voters could listen to a music clip and visit their respective websites. After the 22,000 votes were tallied, the Sarah Mac Band was deemed the winner.

The Sarah Mac Band is an Americana band that formed in 2005, with a sound they describe as being 'jazzy, bluesy rock with a heavy dose of soul.' The group consists of Sarah Mac, who plays guitar, keyboard and sings lead vocals, bassist and vocalist, Claire Swindell and guitarist and vocalist Charlie Vanture. The band is set to release their third full length album, *Static and Signals*. They hope by winning the contest, they will garner new fans and expose their music to the thriving Nashville music scene.

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