



## *Cephas & Wiggins*

“Bowling Green” John Cephas (guitar) and Phil Wiggins (harmonica) are touring coast- to-coast this summer with a lucky stop (for us) in Duluth for the Bayfront Blues Festival. This dynamic duo blends African and European elements together into a country-blues style. Cephas was born in Washington, D.C.,

in 1930 into a deeply religious family. He takes his nickname from Bowling Green, Virginia, where he was raised. His first taste of music was gospel, but Cephas learned about blues from a guitar-playing aunt and blues soon became his calling..As a founder of the Washington, D.C. Blues Society, Cephas “would like to see a revival of country blues by more young people... more people going to concerts, learning to play the music. That’s why I stay in the field of traditional music. I don’t want it to die.” Wiggins was born in Washington, D.C., in 1954 and spent his childhood summers at his grandmother’s home in Alabama, where he listened to old-time hymns sung in church in the traditional call-and-response style. Phil was attracted to the blues harp as a young man and spent years accompanying locally noted slide guitarist and gospel singer Flora Molton. Wiggins is also a gifted songwriter and singer whose material has helped to define the duo’s sound. As a harmonica-guitar duo, Cephas and Wiggins are uniquely able to exemplify the synthesis of African and European elements which co-exist in the blues. You won’t want to miss the first act on the Premium Beer Stage this weekend on Thursday at 5:45.

[Performer website](#)