

Thursday 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Leinenkugel Beer Stage



Carey & Lurrie Bell

Of all the different styles of blues music, perhaps none is as reflective and warm as blues that is played acoustically. The Bayfront Blues Festival is proud to bring you an hour and a half of intimate, acoustic blues from Chicago's famed father and son duo of Carey and Lurrie Bell. At a blues show in Finland, during a cold and snow filled Scandinavian winter in 1991, blues fans were treated to a set by Carey and Lurrie that included an acoustic set. The crowd was moved to the highest degree, often standing up to show their appreciation for what they were witnessing. Tour manager Chip Covington felt that he needed to chronicle this blues marvel for posterity, so he set up an impromptu recording session with the legendary father and his mercurial son. Without

the luxury of rehearsals or overdubs, the duo laid down tracks for their one and only acoustic album. It would later be titled *Second Nature*, and remarkably, each song was recorded in one take. The album was released this year on Alligator Records. "The two play off each other almost telepathically— both men sing with deep soul feeling, each and every song is a blues revelation" (Alligator Records biography). Carey ran away from home at the age of fifteen and made his way to Chicago to look for some paying jobs. He went on to meet and learn from Sonny Boy Williamson II and Big Walter. Today Carey is considered a Goliath among Chicago blues harp blowers. He is a superb bandleader who has released critically commended albums on both the Alligator and Blind Pig labels. Lurrie Bell was born in 1958, and he was taught the blues firsthand from all of his father's friends and colleagues, but perhaps none made more of an impact on him as much as his father's long time employer, Muddy Waters. By age seventeen, Lurrie was playing with Willie Dixon. In an age of "guitar gods" who are preoccupied with how many notes they can jam into each measure, Lurrie is a musician who strives to keep traditional blues alive.