

Blues Traveler Talks to Patch Before Taking Raue Stage

Blues Traveler bassist, Tad Kinchla, weighs in on the upcoming show this Sunday at the Raue Center.

By [Jonathan White](#) August 20, 2011

Known for elaborate improvisational live shows and top 40 singles like "But Anyway" and "Run-Around," New Jersey jam band Blues Traveler gears up to play the [Raue Center](#) Sunday, Aug. 21.

The roots of this group span from 10 studios albums and 24 years of existence.

Bassist, Tad Kinchla, caught up with Patch to talk about their upcoming appearance in downtown Crystal Lake and what fans can expect from their future endeavors.

First off, I'd like to know whether you've played at the Raue Center in Crystal Lake before? Any other small venues in other suburbs?

We have not played the Raue Center in Crystal Lake. We've played lots of suburbs around Chicago though. Naperville, Northern Illinois University and Ravinia are a few we've played in recent years.

Are you guys looking forward to the show? What really makes the difference between playing the intimate small stage setting or the large theaters?

We are looking forward to the show. Intimate stages are a great way for us to really connect with the audience. There is less physical separation from the audience that lends itself to a more direct interaction with the crowd. We can hear the audience much better and it feeds the band's energy. It's also nice to be closer on stage. We can really hear each other much better. While larger stages have a great open feel, it helps to hear every instrument well and react to builds and swells more naturally.

What is the band currently working on now and what are they most excited about bringing to the fans? How have things evolved from the early years until touring now?

We are currently in the process of writing a new album for next year. It will mark the band's 25th anniversary. In addition, we will be releasing a "best of" as well as some previously unreleased material. We are all really excited to celebrate this great benchmark in our careers. We feel so fortunate to be able to do what we do. The longevity of the band is really a testament to our fans and the continued support we've received over the years. As a band

we've obviously changed over the years. There is a marked difference with the addition of two new members but we have retained the essential sound that we view to be Blues Traveler.

Where are your favorite places to play?

New York City, Chicago and San Francisco have always been great cities to play in. While it's hard to say unanimously what our favorite venues are, we all pretty much share the opinion that Red Rocks in Denver, CO is really our most anticipated play of the year. We've been playing there for 15 years in a row on July 4. Not only is the outside amphitheater a magical space, we get to play there on a great day. The energy there is really remarkable. It's always a very special day.

What made you choose to bring your show to the Raue Center in Crystal Lake?

This year we've made it a point to try to play as many new venues as we can. In anticipation to a heavy touring year next year in which we will be playing a lot of major markets, we wanted to play some places we would not have the opportunity to. The Raue Center seemed like a perfect fit.

What new things are you planning to bring out that you haven't done in recent years?

We have some new songs we're working on that we try to work in to the repertoire. In addition, we will be playing some covers we've added to our song list this year.

What can the Crystal Lake fans expect from the show this Sunday?

We try to play music that spans our whole career. A little from all our studio releases and some we only play live. Fans should look forward to a bit everything.

If there was sentence you could use to describe the sound and essence of who 'Blues Traveler' is, what would it be?

We like to think of ourselves as an improvisational rock band. At times we dip into different genres but in essence we're just a rock band that likes to segue.

Blues Traveler will be playing the Raue Center in downtown Crystal Lake at 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21. For tickets, [click here](#) or visit the [Raue Center](#) ticket window.