

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MSU MUSEUM'S 2012 GREAT LAKES FOLK FESTIVAL SET FOR AUG. 10-12

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For Immediate Release

EAST LANSING, Mich. - The MSU Museum's Great Lakes Folk Festival has always been known as an eclectic exhibition of music, dance, arts and culture from across America and around the world, and the 2012 program is shaping up to be one of the most diverse in the event's history.

The event is set for Aug. 10-12 in downtown East Lansing, and fittingly, this university-city partnership takes on the program theme, "Campus and Community," developed with the Smithsonian Institution.

The popular music and dance program features tradition-bearers sharing **Celtic, bluegrass, a cappella gospel, polka, Zydeco, Dominican Merengue and stringed instrument sounds from the Armenian kanun, Ethiopian begena, and Indian sitar.** Musical artists perform two to four times throughout the weekend, so visitors have a chance to see the bands they like and discover new genres. The 2012 line-up is sponsored by the City of East Lansing.

Check online for a performance schedule: <http://www.greatlakesfolkfest.net>.



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The award-winning Great Lakes Folk Festival, produced by the MSU Museum's Michigan Traditional Arts Program, is a celebration of culture, tradition and community. The Michigan State University Museum works year-round to develop this festival program which reflects the **immense variety and vitality of art, skill, knowledge, and wisdom of our cultural heritage** for the public. GLFF offers a one-of-a-kind mix of music and dance, demonstrations of traditional arts and storytelling, authentic ethnic food, an arts marketplace, and many special activities for kids and their companions.

"Festival-goers appreciate the **rich and authentic experience**, and often note how the event promotes a greater understanding of diverse cultures, how it brings people together, and how it strengthens community," observes Marsha MacDowell, founding director and MSU Museum curator of folk arts.

Campus and Community

This year's theme for GLFF educational programs and exhibits is "Campus and Community," an adaptation of a special program presented at the 2012 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. An exhibit (along Abbot Road) as well as presentation and sessions on the Legacy Stage explore the many ways universities turn education into actions to solve problems, advance knowledge and enrich lives.

Children's activities explore "Campus and Community" too- - planting a "pizza garden" of herbs and spices, painting a spirit rock, helping build a homecoming float, and (continued next page)

adorning a "heritage tree" to honor family members, as well as more campus lore and traditions. The MSU Dairy Store will also be on hand.

The **GLFF Marketplace** returns with recycled and upcycled green goods such as jewelry, garden and fiber art, and sculpture. The MSU Museum also showcases master artists in textiles, basketry and other traditional arts, and **Taste of Traditions Foodways** offers authentic regional and ethnic food - Greek, Middle Eastern, Mexican, Southern barbecue, Asian and more.

The **Michigan Heritage Awards**, set for Sunday at 3:30 p.m. on the Legacy Stage, honors the state's leading tradition-bearers in music, material culture and community leadership.

The festival site -- across the street from the MSU campus -- spans the downtown core of the city for three days of festival fun. Find out more at <http://greatlakesfolkfest.net> or follow GLFF on Facebook and Twitter.

FESTIVAL FAST FACTS

HOURS: Friday, Aug. 10, 6 - 10:30 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 11, noon - 10:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 12, noon - 6 p.m. For more information, call the MSU Museum at (517) 432-GLFF (4533) or learn more at <http://www.greatlakesfolkfest.net> and on Facebook (Great Lakes Folk Festival) and Twitter (twitter.com/GLFF). Also check out the new "Great Folks" blog on the web site with year-round updates from the MSU Museum on tradition-bearers and museum programs.

GIVE: Admission is by donation (suggested \$10 per day). Contributions sustain the Great Lakes Folk Festival.

PARKING is available in downtown ramps and across Grand River Avenue on the MSU campus (in designated areas; free on weekends). GLFF also provides bike parking on-site, as well as CATA bus service from off-site lots at MSU (Lot 91 at Hagadorn and Service roads) and in East Lansing (Abbot Center at Saginaw and Abbot roads).

More than **300 VOLUNTEERS** assist the MSU Museum in staging the event - from artist transportation, to children's activities, information booth, site set-up and tear down, ice delivery and visitor surveys.

The Great Lakes Folk Festival is presented by the **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM**, Michigan's first Smithsonian affiliate. The MSU Museum's Michigan Traditional Arts Program researches, documents, preserves, and presents our shared heritage and cultural expressions. Primary financial support for GLFF comes from the City of East Lansing, Michigan State University Office of the Provost, University Outreach and Engagement, the National Endowment for the Arts, and many MSU departments. In addition, nearly 100 corporations, foundations and organizations also support GLFF annually, as well as individual donors, "Great Friends."

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