



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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“New Harmonies” will visit six communities in 2009

Six Nebraska communities have been selected to host the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition “New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music” in 2009.

The Nebraska tour of “New Harmonies” will begin in March 2009 with a grand opening at the Knight Museum and Sandhills Center in Alliance. It travels next to the Cambridge Museum for a stay through early June. The next stop will be the Platte County Historical Society Museum in Columbus through July, followed by an August visit to Kearney’s Trails & Rails Museum. The Cherry County Historical Society Museum in Valentine will house the exhibition through early October, and the Nebraska tour will conclude at the end of the year at Loves Jazz & Arts Center in Omaha.

The exhibition examines the growth of American music, which is as rich and eclectic as the country itself. American music reveals distinct cultural identities and records the histories of peoples from Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas. “New Harmonies” explores how our country’s ongoing cultural process has made America the birthplace of great music—from the blues and country western to folk and gospel.

The NHC cooperates with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and the Federation of State Humanities Councils to bring Museum on Main Street (MOMS) to Nebraska. Nebraska museums receive the exhibition free of charge with a stipend from the NHC to help with educational programming and publicity.

Each host community develops public humanities programming related to the theme of the exhibition. These programs include lectures, local exhibits and school tours. With “New Harmonies,” local communities will be encouraged to explore their own musical heritage.

The NHC has sponsored five previous MOMS tours in Nebraska: “Between Fences” in 2007-08, “Key Ingredients: America By Food” in 2005-06, “Yesterday’s Tomorrows” in 2003, “Barn Again!” in 2001-02, and “Produce for Victory” in 1996.

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