



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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# **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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## **“New Harmonies” tour debuts March 12 in Alliance**

The Smithsonian Institution’s Traveling Exhibition “New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music” will make its Nebraska debut in March at the newly constructed Knight Museum and Sandhills Center in Alliance.

Presented in the state by the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC), the exhibition celebrates—through roots music—the quintessential American values of freedom, democracy, independence, diversity, and ingenuity. Roots music embraces folk, country, blues, gospel, jazz, bluegrass, rock and roll, rap, and more.

Museum Director Becci Thomas will showcase the new museum with a grand opening of the exhibition at 6 p.m. March 12, featuring Victorian parlor music presented by Robin Koozer. Among the displays and collections that the museum will highlight during the special exhibition are vintage sheet music, music cylinders, instruments, and a phonograph that plays metal records. Beginning in March, the museum will sponsor speakers, musicians and other special events each Monday, Thursday and Friday evening in conjunction with “New Harmonies,” which will be on display in Alliance through April 23.

Koozer, chair of the department of music at Hastings College, is serving as state scholar for the tour of “New Harmonies.” Working with many contributors, Koozer compiled “The Nebraska Companion” with a sampling of Nebraska’s musical history.

“The Nebraska Companion” explores such topics as the 80-year history of the Hastings Symphony, Nebraska’s rich heritage of jazz, the tradition of community and fraternal bands, the enduring qualities of Native American music, and the renaissance of Nebraska’s opera houses.

The 36-page “Nebraska Companion” is available at each of the six sites hosting “New Harmonies”—Alliance (March 13-April 23), Cambridge Museum (May 1-June 7), Platte County Historical Society Museum in Columbus (June 13-July 24), Kearney’s Trails & Rails Museum (Aug. 4-29), Cherry County Historical Society Museum in Valentine (Sept. 3-Oct. 11), and Loves Jazz & Arts Center in Omaha (Oct. 18-Dec. 31). To receive a copy of “The Nebraska Companion” by mail, send \$2 for postage and handling to NHC, 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330, Lincoln, NE 68508.

“New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music” is made possible in Nebraska with support from the Berman Music Foundation, The Nebraska Rural Radio Network—KRVN, KTIC, and KNEB, Brown Transfer Company, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and The “We the People” initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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