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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Festival Director: Casey Jarman, 801-596-5000
casey.jarman@slcgov.com



2009 LIVING TRADITIONS FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

The Salt Lake City Arts Council presents the twenty-fourth annual Living Traditions Festival: A Celebration of Salt Lake's Folk and Ethnic Arts, **May 15, 16 and 17**, at the Salt Lake City & County Building in downtown Salt Lake.

The Festival celebrates the diversity of our community through the dance, music, foods and crafts of the many ethnic groups making up the Salt Lake Valley community. Admission is free. Festival hours are Friday, May 15, 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 16, noon to 10:00 p.m.; and Sunday, May 17, noon to 7:00 p.m.

Festival Main Stages feature more than 50 performances by local and national artists. Lebanese and Andean music and dance, Russian choral music, Peruvian and Latin dance bands, and the physical artform of Brazilian *capoeira* are some examples of the local music and dance groups at Living Traditions, schedule below.

- ANATOLIAN BAND**
- ANTON FAMILY BAND**
- BALLET FOLKLORICO CITLALI & SOL DE JALISCO MARIACHI BAND**
- BAZEEN**
- THE BEST OF CENTRAL AFRICAN DANCE**
- CORCOVADO BAND (NEW IN 2009)**
- CHRIS DOKOS BAND**
- DESERT WIND**
- DIONYSIUS GREEK DANCERS**
- FRATERNIDAD EL SALVADOR**
- GERMAN CHORUS HARMONIE AND GERMAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY (NEW IN 2009)**
- HUI O HAWAII O UTAH**
- INTERTRIBAL POW WOW DEMONSTRATION**
- KA LAMA MOHALA FOUNDATION DANCERS (NEW IN 2009)**
- KANAMU PRODUCTIONS**
- KAREN COMMUNITY OF UTAH (NEW IN 2009)**
- KATHAK DANCERS OF UTAH (NEW IN 2009)**
- KENSHIN TAIKO GROUP**
- KHEMERA CAMBODIAN DANCERS**
- KLEZBROS**
- KOLO BOSNIAN DANCERS**
- LAC VIET BAND**
- LATIN DANCE HERITAGE**
- LIBERIAN CULTURE TROUPE**
- LIKHA**
- LOS DEL SUR**
- OKINAWA KENJINKAI**
- NEW ZEALAND-AMERICAN SOCIETY**
- PAAU**
- POLEVIYAOMA HOPI GROUP**
- RASTKO SERBIAN DANCERS**
- RINCEORI DON SPRAOI**
- SALT LAKE CAPOEIRA.**

ART BARN
FINCH LANE GALLERY
54 FINCH LANE
SALT LAKE CITY
UTAH / 84102
TEL 801.596.5000
FAX 801.530.0547
www.slcgov.com/arts

SALT LAKE RUSSIAN PERFORMING GROUP
SALT LAKE SCOTS
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS
SWISS CHORUS EDELWEISS
TOCCATA
TONGAN SINGERS OF UTAH
UTAH HISPANIC DANCE ALLIANCE
UTAH `KO TRISKALARIAK
UTAH TIBETAN ASSOCIATION
VENEZUELA CANTANDO
VIENTOS DEL SUR
VIVA CHILE (NEW IN 2009)
WAT DHAMMAGUNARAN DANCERS (NEW IN 2009)
WESLEYAN TONGAN CHURCH OF AMERICA IN UTAH BRASS BAND

SPECIAL GUEST ARTSITS

This year's Living Traditions Festival welcomes special guests **The Pine Leaf Boys** performing on Friday, May 15; **ReBirth Brass Band** and **Lifesavas**, on Saturday evening, May 16; and **Mike Seeger** on Sunday, May 17.

The Pine Leaf Boys

The Pine Leaf Boys are Wilson Savoy, Courtney Granger, Jon Bertrand, Drew Simon, and Thomas David and have been immersed in music since childhood. Hailing from farms and villages in the Cajun country of Louisiana, the Pine Leaf Boys have been making a name for themselves as young musicians preserving the traditional Cajun sound while allowing it to breathe and stretch. They perform with twin fiddles, accordion, bass, and drum.

The Pine Leaf Boys

Friday, May 15

8:30 p.m., North Stage

The Rebirth Brass Band

The Rebirth Brass Band is a national musical institution. Formed in New Orleans in 1982, the band has graduated from "busking" on the city's streets to SRO performances at theaters and festivals around the world. Rebirth is committed to upholding the tradition of the brass band while incorporating modern traditions of funk, jazz, soul and hip hop.

The Rebirth Brass Band

Saturday, May 16

7:00 p.m., North Stage

Lifesavas

Lifesavas is a Portland, Oregon-based duo of MC [Vursatyl](#) and producer/MC [Jumbo the Garbage Man](#). The duo met while playing basketball and soon got hipped to each other's rapping talents. This year Living Traditions welcomes to the main stage its first hip hop performers. As hip hop music emerged in the 1970s, it was based on disc jockeys who created rhythmic beats by looping breaks on two turntables, and later accompanied by "rapping." With the music, an urban youth culture evolved with breakdancing, styles of dress and street art.

Lifesavas

Saturday, May 16

8:30 p.m., North Stage

Mike Seeger

Mike Seeger has devoted his life to singing and playing "Music from True Vine" — the home music made by American southerners before the media age. The music has grown out of hundreds of years of British traditions, blended in our country with equally ancient African traditions to produce songs and sounds that are unique to the southern United States. Mike Seeger has been

honored with six Grammy nominations, and received the Rex Foundation's Ralph J. Gleason Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995.

Mike Seeger
Sunday, May 17
5:30 p.m., North Stage

Crafts such as Tongan wood carving, Japanese bonsai and western blacksmithing will be demonstrated and displayed by local artisans. These unique and beautiful crafts can be purchased in the **Crafts Market**, located adjacent to the **Crafts Demonstration area**, details below.

AFRICAN CARTOON AND PAINTING TRADITIONS (New in 2009)

ARMENIAN NEEDLEWORK

ARMENIAN HAND KNOTTED CARPETS

BELARUS WOODCARVING

BOBBIN LACE

BRAIDED WOOL RUGS

CENTRAL AMERICAN FOLK JEWELRY

EUROPEAN-STYLE DECORATED EGGS

EUROPEAN DECORATIVE PAINTING

HAWAIIAN LEIS AND CRAFTS

JAPANESE BONSAI

JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY

JAPANESE ORIGAMI

MEXICAN PAPER FLOWERS

NAVAJO BASKET WEAVING (New in 2009)

ORNAMENTAL BLACKSMITHING

PERUVIAN RETABLOS

PUEBLO POTTERY

RAWHIDE BRAIDING

SCANDINAVIAN WEAVING (New in 2009)

SCOTTISH TARTAN WEAVING

SUDANESE CLAY BULLS

SUDANESE BEADWORK (New in 2009)

THAI ART OF CARVING AND PAINTING

TIBETAN RUGWEAVING

TONGAN WOOD & BONE CARVING

TURKISH CROCHETING

WOODWORKING

The **Living Traditions School Day Program** presented in partnership with the Utah State Office of Education, provides elementary students with the opportunity to experience a multitude of cultural expressions while learning to appreciate and respect the rich cultural heritage of our community.

Living Traditions Kids welcomes children 12 and younger to enjoy the experience of making traditional crafts taught by local craft artists. The activities are colorful and educational, resulting in handmade crafts the kids can take home.

Freshly prepared food is always a main attraction at the Living Traditions Festival. Featured are 20 **Food Booths**, operated by local nonprofit community groups and churches who prepare and sell delicious traditional ethnic foods such as spicy Thai noodles, falafel sandwiches and Sudanese kabobs, details below.

UTAH BASQUE CLUB

TONGAN SINGERS OF UTAH

BOLIVIAN ASSOCIATION IN UTAH

SALT LAKE LEBANESE COMMUNITY

**UTAH TIBETAN ASSOCIATION
KANAMU TAHITIAN DANCE COMPANY
SWISS CHORUS EDELWEISS
FRATERNIDAD SALVADORENA
UTAH SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION
PAKISTANI AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
THAI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
DINKA SUDANESE COMMUNITY OF SALT LAKE
INDIAN WALK-IN CENTER
CENTRO CIVICO MEXICANO
WAT LAO
ITALIAN-AMERICAN CIVIC LEAGUE
UTAH AFRICAN FAITH INITIATIVE
KOLO BOSNIAN DANCERS
VIETNAMESE VOLUNTEER YOUTH ASSOCIATION
HUI O HAWAII O UTAH**

The **Living Traditions Kitchen** offers a series of live cooking demonstrations featuring a variety of ethnic dishes prepared by local chefs and hosted by Audrey Maynard. Each demonstration provides the audience with illuminating techniques and authentic ingredients while the chef tells their personal connection to the recipe. Samples of the food prepared by each chef are distributed to the audience, and such cuisines as Salvadorian, Indian and Lebanese on the schedule.

The **Workshop Stage** at Living Traditions offers insight into cultural traditions on a more intimate scale. Lecture-demonstrations, discussions and interactive programs range from a forum on a series of Native American documentary films, an Irish sing-along, and an introduction to hip hop culture.

Friday, May 15

6:00 - 6:45 pm Kolam Rangoli: Hindu Threshold Paintings
7:00 - 7:45 pm Traditional Irish Sing Along

Saturday, May 16

1:00 - 1:45 pm Roots of Cajun Music
3:00 - 3:45 pm The Sounds of New Orleans
5:00 - 5:45 pm Hip Hop 101

Sunday, May 17

2:00 - 2:45 pm Music from the True Vine
5:30 - 6:15 pm We Shall Remain: Native American Issues and Culture

Friday, May 15

6:00- 6:45 pm Kolam Rangoli: Hindu Threshold Paintings

The delightful art of courtyard decoration is created by the artist's application of rice powder with her bare fingertips in a predetermined design. These designs are traditionally passed down from mother to daughter and resemble a beautiful carpet or sand painting. Indra Neelameggham from the India Cultural Center will demonstrate and instruct audience members in the creation of several *kolams*.

7:00 - 7:45 pm Traditional Irish Sing Along

The Hibernian Society of Utah promotes the culture and history of Ireland and Irish Americans throughout the state by hosting regular music and dance celebrations, festivals, lectures and readings. As organizers of the Utah St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Salt Lake City, the

Hibernian Society has been adding to the cultural color and flavor of Utah for years. Grab a pint and join members for a rousing sing-a-long, with song sheets provided.

Saturday, May 16

1:00 - 1:45 pm Roots of Cajun Music

With youthful energy and gusto, the Pine Leaf Boys revive the songs of past masters, breathing new life into the music of southwest Louisiana. They present the music of their Cajun heritage in a way that both enhances and preserves it, for all generations to enjoy.

3:00 - 3:45 pm The Sounds of New Orleans

Rebirth Brass Band takes the tradition of the second line to a new level and will demonstrate this New Orleans musical tradition so integral to Mardi Gras and funeral celebrations.

5:00 - 5:45 pm Hip Hop 101

For many people, hip hop is a way of life and MC Vursatyl of Lifesavas, conversant in over 30 years of history, brings his passion to the workshop stage with the interactive presentation, Hip Hop 101. He will get the audience moving, dancing and even breakin' beats of their own. His group, Lifesavas, hails from Portland, Oregon and is committed to preserving hip hop culture through lyrical integrity and signature beats.

Sunday, May 17

2:00 - 2:45 pm Music from the True Vine

Join legendary musician and folklorist Mike Seeger for an intimate look at the roots and history of American folk music. Mike Seeger is an award winning singer and player of the autoharp, banjo, fiddle, dulcimer, guitar, mouth harp, mandolin, and dobro. He will be joined on stage by workshop moderator Hal Cannon.

5:30-6:15 pm We Shall Remain: Native American Issues and Culture

Moderated by Ken Verdoia, this discussion will address the challenges, changes, and issues facing Native Americans today, based on the film project, *We Shall Remain: The Utah Voices*. Panelists will include several of the filmmakers, members of the tribes featured in the film, and Forrest Cuch, Director of the Utah Division of Indian Affairs.

Another component of the Living Traditions experience is **Living Traditions Films**. In partnership with the Salt Lake City Public Library, KUED Channel 7 and the SLC Film Center, a series of films on topics related to cultural expression and diversity are screened in the auditorium of the Main Library, just east of the festival grounds.

WE SHALL REMAIN

"We Shall Remain" is a powerful five-part series produced by KUED in collaboration with the award-winning PBS series "American Experience". It is a provocative, multi-media project that establishes Native American history as essential to the history of the United States. These unprecedented collaborations between Native and non-Native filmmakers focus on five American Indian Tribes of the Great Basin region we call Utah.

Films are screened in the auditorium at the Downtown Salt Lake City Library. Each program explores the history, culture, language and challenges of the tribe through the voices of tribe members.

We Shall Remain: The Utah Voices

Films will be screened Sunday, May 17 without a break in between.

12 noon

We Shall Remain: The Paiute (27 minutes). *A profile of the Paiute tribal communities of Southern Utah.*

12:30PM

We Shall Remain: The Ute (27 minutes). *A profile of the Ute tribal communities of Utah.*

1:00 PM

We Shall Remain: The Navajo (27 minutes). *A profile of the Navajo tribal community of the Four Corners region.*

1:30 PM

We Shall Remain: The Goshute (27 minutes). *A profile of the Goshute tribal communities based in the Great Basin region.*

2:00 PM

We Shall Remain: The Northwestern Shoshone (27 minutes). *A profile of the Shoshone tribal community traditionally rooted in Utah.*

A panel discussion on this project is scheduled at the Living Traditions Workshop stage.

Sunday, May 17

5:30-6:15 p.m. We Shall Remain: Native American Issues and Culture

The International Film Series presented by the Salt Lake City Film Center and Salt Lake City Public Library will also be screening films in the auditorium of the Main Library.

Umberto D.

Saturday, May 16 -1:00 pm

Directed by Vittorio De Sica

Not Rated- Mature Audiences

Italian with English Subtitles

89 minutes, 1952

Pandora's Box (1930)

Saturday, May 16 -3:00 pm

Directed by Georg Wilhelm Pabst

Not Rated- Mature Audiences

Silent with English Subtitles

109 minutes, 1930

Other components of the Festival are a **Native American Pow-Wow, lawn performance,** and **Bocce Ball Courts** to be enjoyed by the whole family.

The Living Traditions Festival is presented by the Salt Lake City Arts Council in partnership with the Utah Arts Council Folk Arts Program.

Volunteers for the 2009 Living Traditions Festival: The Living Traditions Festival is looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of the festival operations. Volunteers provide an invaluable service to the operation of this Festival and contribute to the spirit of Living Traditions. Volunteers are scheduled for three-hour shifts and are needed to help with traffic control, grounds maintenance, soft drinks sales and with setting up and taking down the festival. Interested volunteers can contact us at 801-596-5000.