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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Fourth Stage Added as 80th National Folk Festival Announces the Maryland Traditions Family Folklife Area Program**

SALISBURY, Md. (July 20, 2021) – Today, the 80<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival announced the **Maryland Traditions Family Folklife Area** program, sharing details about the performers, craftspeople, and demonstrators who will be featured in this special area of the festival in 2021. Additionally, festival organizers revealed the addition of a fourth stage at this year's festival, the **Maryland Traditions Family Folklife Stage**. The National Folk Festival is returning to Downtown Salisbury, September 10 – 12, 2021, the third year of the National's residency in Salisbury.

Supported by Maryland Traditions, the traditional arts program of the Maryland State Arts Council, the Maryland Traditions Family Folklife Area & Stage at the 80<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival celebrates and showcases the rich, living traditions of Maryland—from its Atlantic beaches to the Appalachian Mountains. The area shines a spotlight on the distinctive music, rituals, crafts, occupations, foodways, and other traditions at the heart of Maryland heritage, expressing both the state's deep history and its evolving character. Performances, demonstrations, displays, exhibits, and narrative presentations by Maryland master artisans and performers explore a wide range of cultural traditions, including those of its First Peoples, the cultural legacies of European settlers, and the expressions of the newest Maryland residents whose cultural roots come from around the globe.

"Maryland Traditions is proud to have the platform of the National Folk Festival to share a glimpse of the vibrant spectrum of living traditions practiced throughout Maryland," said Chad Buterbaugh, state folklorist and director of the Maryland Traditions program at the Maryland State Arts Council. "From our Indigenous tradition bearers with the Pocomoke Indian Nation, to the Cumberland Marbles Program and the distinctive dance traditions of Puerto Rican diaspora, as well as emerging immigrant communities that are new to the Eastern Shore and dance expressions that thrive in urban centers, the Maryland Traditions Family Folklife Area & Stage reflects the richness of the state's cultural expressions."

"We are excited to bring the Maryland Traditions Family Folklife Area & Stage to the upcoming 80th National Folk Festival," added National Council for the Traditional Arts Executive Director Lora Bottinelli. "The traditions brought together for the weekend, each in their own right, are held by Maryland's diverse and

multigenerational lineage of tradition bearers. Those who join us will be able to enjoy and meet their neighbors near and far during a special weekend of celebration, in this once-in-a-moment gathering of cultural heritage practitioners from across the state.”

The Maryland Traditions Family Folklife Area & Stage is produced in partnership with Maryland Traditions, the traditional arts program of the Maryland State Arts Council. This area will be open Saturday, September 11, and Sunday, September 12, from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The following demonstrators, craftspeople, and performers will be featured at the Maryland Traditions Family Folklife Area & Stage, with additional performances featuring several of these artists presented on other festival stages throughout the weekend:

[The Barnstormers & the RockCandy Cloggers](#) of Emmitsburg demonstrating and performing the old-time music and dance traditions they are known for at community barn dances in western Maryland.

[Blacksmith Guild of Western Maryland](#) of Boonsboro, represented by founder **Wallace “Wally” Yater** and fellow blacksmith **Erin Aylor**, sharing the expertise at shaping hot metal.

[Cumberland Marbles Program](#), a unique and decades-old partnership between volunteers, local government, and public schools in Cumberland, demonstrating competitive marble playing.

[Janice & Anna Marshall](#) of Crisfield demonstrating how to make the famous Smith Island cake, a delicious, multilayered cake that is the state dessert of Maryland, and telling stories about the Smith Island way of life.

[Los Hijo ‘e Plena](#) of Howard County performing and demonstrating *bomba y plena*, closely related, percussion-driven music and dance traditions that are a touchstone for Puerto Rican identity.

[Pocomoke Indian Nation](#) of Eden, an indigenous tribal organization of the Eastern Shore, demonstrating and interpreting varied Pocomoke traditions, including coiled pottery, flint knapping (shaping), and corncob darts.

[Salisbury area Filipino community](#) sharing cultural traditions closely associated with annual fiestas celebrated in their community, such as the Festival of Santo Niño de Cebú.

[Sylvia Stephens](#) of Hyattsville sharing traditional quilting techniques passed down through six generations of her family.

[Urban Artistry](#) of Silver Spring, a collective of artists dedicated to art forms inspired by the urban experience, demonstrating the basics of popping, a dance tradition characterized by robot-like, mechanical movements.

[Washington Samulnori](#) of Kensington performing *samulnori*, an age-old percussion tradition that serves as a beacon of Korean culture.

More Maryland artists will be announced on the National Folk Festival’s website as they are confirmed.

The National Folk Festival debuted in Salisbury in 2018, and the city’s tenure as host city was scheduled to conclude in 2020, until the 80th National was postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus.

For more information on the Maryland Traditions Family Folklife Area & Stage program, visit [NationalFolkFestival.com/maryland-folklife/](https://www.nationalfolkfestival.com/maryland-folklife/).

Interested in volunteering at the Maryland Traditions Family Folklife Area & Stage? Information is available at <https://bit.ly/2VHXIS2>.

For more information on the 80<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival, visit [NationalFolkFestival.com](https://www.nationalfolkfestival.com).

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### **About the National Folk Festival**

Since it was first presented in St. Louis in 1934, the National Folk Festival, the NCTA's flagship event, has celebrated the roots, richness, and variety of American culture. Championed in its early years by Eleanor Roosevelt, it was the first event of national stature to present the arts of many nations, races, and languages on equal footing. It was also the first to present to the public musical forms such as the blues, Cajun music, polka, Tex-Mex conjunto, Peking Opera, and many others. Today, the National is an exuberant traveling festival, produced by the NCTA in partnership with communities around the country, that embraces the diverse cultural expressions that define us as a people in the 21st century.

<https://www.nationalfolkfestival.com/>

### **About the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA)**

A leading non-profit in the field, the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) is dedicated to the presentation and documentation of folk and traditional arts in the U.S. Stressing excellence and authenticity, the NCTA presents the nation's finest traditional artists in major festivals, tours, concerts, workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions, media productions, school programs, cross-cultural exchanges, and other activities. It works in partnership with American communities to establish new, sustainable traditional arts events that deliver lasting social, cultural, and economic benefits. Over 7,000 hours of the NCTA's archival audio recordings dating from the 1930s are permanently housed at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The NCTA champions the interests of folk and traditional artists and organizations in the arena of public policy. <http://ncta-usa.org/>

### **About Maryland State Arts Council and Maryland Traditions**

Founded in 1967, the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is an agency of the State of Maryland Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts, and encourages and invests in the advancement of the arts for all Marylanders. Its grants and programs support artists and arts organizations in their pursuit of artistic excellence, ensure the accessibility of the arts to all citizens, and promote statewide awareness of arts resources and opportunities. MSAC awards grants to not-for-profit, tax-exempt organizations and individual artists, and provides technical and advisory assistance to individuals and groups. The agency is funded by an annual appropriation from the State of Maryland and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. MSAC may also receive contributions from private, non-governmental sources. Maryland Traditions is the traditional arts program of the Maryland State Arts Council. Since 1974, state-employed folklorists have worked to identify, document, support, and present Maryland folklife through grants, awards, festivals, and other programming. For more information about Maryland Traditions, go to [www.msac.org/programs/maryland-traditions](http://www.msac.org/programs/maryland-traditions).

### **About the City of Salisbury, Maryland**

Founded in 1732, Salisbury is the county seat of Wicomico County, a place where John Smith touched land in 1608 during his exploration of the Chesapeake Bay. Situated on Maryland's historic Eastern Shore at the crossroads of the Delmarva Peninsula, Salisbury is now one of the region's largest cities, and serves as the capital of the Eastern Shore, a rural area defined by its agricultural and maritime traditions, landscapes, and industries. The Chesapeake Bay is central to this distinctive identity. Though a relatively small city, Salisbury is the geographic and economic hub of one of the nation's fastest-growing Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Led by a dynamic mayor, the City of Salisbury is working to build its reputation as an arts and culture destination, and is aligning its downtown development and revitalization efforts with the arts. Salisbury believes hosting the National Folk Festival is the perfect catalyst to further a cultural renaissance and urban renewal.

<https://salisbury.md/>