



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT: Caroline O'Hare, National Folk Festival Local Manager / cohare@salisbury.md

The 79th National Folk Festival Welcomes a Major League Sponsor

SALISBURY, MD (May 23, 2019) – The National Folk Festival is excited to welcome the Baltimore Orioles as a 2019 stage sponsor for the 79th National Folk Festival, which returns to downtown Salisbury, September 6 – 8.

“The City of Salisbury is overwhelmed with excitement to welcome the Baltimore Orioles as a major sponsor of the National Folk Festival,” said Jake Day, the mayor of Salisbury. “We invite our community to join us in celebrating during an event at Oriole Park at Camden Yards this June.”

The 79th National Folk Festival in 2019 marks the second year of the event’s three-year residency in Salisbury. Over 350 artists—musicians, dancers, storytellers, and craftspeople—will take part in the National Folk Festival, with more than 35 different musical groups performing on seven outdoor stages throughout downtown Salisbury.

“This winning partnership brings America’s national pastime, layered in its own right with tradition, ritual and community celebration, together with the National Folk Festival for shared experiences that will inspire and connect our fans. Thank you to the Angelos family for their support of the longest-running celebration of traditional arts and culture in the United States,” said Lora Bottinelli, executive director of the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA).

As part of the Orioles’ sponsorship, the organization will host a combination of events in support of the National Folk Festival at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on June 26, 2019.

10:30 a.m. – Announcement of the Maryland Folklife Program at the 79th National Folk Festival

Members of the press and the general public are invited to the official announcement of the Maryland Folklife Area & Stage program. Festival organizers will share details about the performers, craftspeople and demonstrators who will be featured in this special area of the National Folk Festival in 2019, which is produced in partnership with the Maryland Traditions program of the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). The press conference will take place at Orioles Legends Park at Oriole Park at Camden Yards (Camden and Eutaw Streets). Several masters of Maryland folklife who will be among those featured in the festival’s 2019 folklife program will be on hand to perform and demonstrate their traditional art forms, and be available for interview. Leadership from the National Folk Festival and the MSAC will also be available for interview.

1:00 p.m. – An All-Star Event at Oriole Park: A Fundraiser to Benefit the National Folk Festival

Starting with a behind the scenes tour of Oriole Park, sponsors will enjoy VIP Access to a pregame musical performance, refreshments in a private suite, and an exciting vantage point to watch the ball game. Sponsor tickets are available at nationalfolkfestival.com/oriolepark.

2:00 p.m. – National Folk Festival Pregame Performance

Orioles fans will enjoy a live performance from the Budweiser Roof Deck in center field in support of the National Folk Festival approximately one hour prior to game time. This special performance features the music of Baltimore’s own Billy McComiskey, a National Heritage Fellow and master of the Irish button accordion. Billy will be joined by friends from Charm City’s distinguished Irish traditional music community.

2:50 p.m. – Mayor Jake Day to Throw Out First Pitch

Mayor Jake Day of Salisbury will throw out the ceremonial first pitch when the Baltimore Orioles face the San Diego Padres at 3:05 p.m.

3:05 p.m.— San Diego Padres vs. Baltimore Orioles

Orioles and National Folk Festival fans are invited to come out to the park and cheer on the home team from National Folk Festival Fan Section 388 at this exciting summer game. General admission tickets can be purchased at orioles.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 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/>