



For more information contact
Shelley Johansson
Johnstown Area Heritage Association
P. O. Box 1889
Johnstown, PA 15907
814-539-1889 x 308
sjohansson@jaha.org
www.jaha.org

THE JOHNSTOWN FOLKFEST— A BRIEF OVERVIEW

(JOHNSTOWN, Pa.) – Produced by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA), the AmeriServ Financial Johnstown FolkFest brings nationally-known performers of traditional music to Johnstown, a western Pennsylvania city with a rich history of steelmaking and coal mining. The annual free festival is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-4, 2005.

The FolkFest, which has developed a national reputation for its quality, includes more than 20 musical acts, many of which perform more than one show, from a broad variety of genres. There are four main stages continually programmed over the course of the three-day event, and more than 60 food vendors offer a wide array of ethnic food.

“The festival is ,” said Donna Stromsdorfer, festival coordinator for JAHA. “The FolkFest even serves as an unofficial homecoming for many people who grew up in the area or have family here. But each year we attract a larger regional audience because of the quality of the programming.”

This year, the FolkFest will take place in Johnstown's new festival park for the second time. This park is being developed by JAHA as a permanent home for the Johnstown FolkFest and other festivals, and will hopefully inspire more such events throughout the warm-weather months. The park will also serve as a trailhead for the Johnstown urban greenway, which will connect with a regional trail network.

The park is located across the street from Point Stadium, beside the Cambria Iron National Historic Landmark. As such, it provides a beautiful view of downtown Johnstown, including the Inclined Plane and the Johnstown Flood Museum. The permanent festival park is bordered by the stone bridge made famous by the 1889 Johnstown flood, and stretches to the Johns Street bridge. The FolkFest will also encompass the area stretching up past the train station, all the way to the Walnut Street bridge. Directional signs will help festivalgoers find the site.

Headliners for this year's festival include Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings with special guest Lee Fields; Wanda Jackson; Rosie Flores; Lil' Brian & the Zydeco Travelers; and Jason Ringenberg.

Free parking and shuttle service will be available at the Hiram G. Andrews Center in Upper Yoder/Westmont and at the Woodvale lots near downtown. Shuttles will also be

available to provide free rides to festivalgoers who choose to park in one of the city-owned garages downtown. In addition, the Inclined Plane will be free during the festival.

The festival came to Johnstown in 1990 as the National Folk Festival, staying for two additional years before moving on to another American city. At that point, JAHA began to produce the event as the Johnstown FolkFest. AmeriServ Financial has served as the title sponsor for the years JAHA has produced the festival, and every year the festival has grown in attendance.

Major sponsors for the FolkFest include Dodge, Atlantic Broadband, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Conemaugh Health System. Additional sponsors include Johnstown Magazine, CBIZ, Concurrent Technologies Corporation, Cool 101.7, Forever Broadcasting, First Commonwealth, First Summit, Laurel Management, Met Life, Northwest Savings, RE/MAX Team Realtors, Somerset Trust, Slovenian Savings & Loan, Waste Management and WJAC Channel 6.

JAHA is a non-profit organization that exists to preserve and showcase Johnstown's nationally significant stories to the nation. In addition to the FolkFest, it operates two museums, the Johnstown Flood Museum and the Heritage Discovery Center, as well as a variety of other cultural programs held throughout the year. JAHA will soon open another museum, the Wagner-Ritter House and Garden, and a Children's Discovery Center is planned for 2006.

For complete descriptions of all FolkFest performers, as well as stage schedules, parking information and more, visit the Johnstown Area Heritage Association Web site at www.jaha.org, or www.johnstownfolkfest.org.

###



PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact
Shelley Johansson
Johnstown Area Heritage Association
P. O. Box 1889
Johnstown, PA 15907
888-222-1889 x 308
sjohansson@jaha.org
www.johnstownfolkfest.org

FOLKFEST 2005 PERFORMER LINE-UP

Each year, the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest hosts more than 20 national and regional musical acts from a broad variety of genres. This year's lineup features:

The Daptone super soul revue featuring Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings with special guest Lee Fields - Like most great soul singers, Sharon Jones began singing in church at a young age - and it wasn't long before she was performing with some of the top names in soul, including the Four Tops and The Drifters. Her smoky, sweet voice captivates audiences and brings them to the dance floor. Today, she's known as the Queen of Funk, or Soul Sister #1. She'll play at the FolkFest with the Dap-Kings and Lee Fields. Sponsored by CBIZ Insurance Services.

The Dap-Kings -Former members of The Soul Providers and The Mighty Imperials, the Dap-Kings deliver the kind of soul excitement not seen since the heyday of the Apollo Theatre. Though their recordings are unmatched for their hardness and sheer ability to make people dance, their live show is what makes them a phenomenon. When the Dap-Kings take to the stage with their dance steps and matching soul suits, it's as if someone lit the fuse on a keg of soul dynamite! They will back Sharon Jones and Lee Fields at the FolkFest. Sponsored by CBIZ Insurance Services.

Lee Fields -- Lee Fields has poured his grunts and screams over a legacy of funk and soul hits from the early seventies, including such 45 rpm classics as She's a Lovemaker, The Bull is Coming, and The Funky Screw, not to mention his Let's Talk It Over LP, which draws four-digit bids from collectors worldwide. Known as the king of contemporary funk music, Lee is famous internationally for his explosive live performances. At the FolkFest, he'll sing with Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings as part of the Daptone Super Soul Revue. Sponsored by CBIZ Insurance Services.

Wanda Jackson - Indisputably the First Lady of Rockabilly, Wanda Jackson has been recording since the 1950s, earning two Grammy nominations and a spot on the final ballot for the 2004 induction into the Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame. As once critic put it, "at the dawn of the rock'n'roll era, Jackson became one of the fledgling genre's first female stars, an energetic 18-year-old rockabilly queen who dated Elvis, made frequent stabs at the Top 40 and tore through the music industry like a Midwestern tornado." Today, she's "a well-dressed woman in her late 60s, with a raunchy voice and Southern manners" - and she puts on a great live show. A true legend, Jackson will play two

FolkFest sets backed by Rosie Flores and her band. Sponsored by Concurrent Technologies Corporation.

Rosie Flores -- Rosie Flores has been changing the landscape of Texas country for the past 30 years. She's one of the creators of the alternative country movement, and her career has outlasted many others in that fast-moving genre.. Born in San Antonio, TX and raised in Southern California, Flores is a brilliant singer, songwriter and guitar player Her music blends the best of rock, country and blues with the traditional sounds of her Mexican-American heritage. The result is a swinging rockabilly sound that transcends the genre. At the FolkFest, Flores and her band will play two sets on Saturday and Sunday, each followed by a set backing Wanda Jackson. Sponsored by Concurrent Technologies Corporation.

Brave Combo - Back in 1979, this Texas-based group was pegged as New Wave polka - and has developed into America's premier contemporary polka band. The band, which boasts two Grammy wins and many nominations, can also be described as a hot jazz quintet, a Tex-Mex conjunto, sizzling blues band, saucy cocktail combo, a Latin orchestra and a rollicking rock 'n' roll band. However you describe them, they're lots of fun and very danceable. They've been featured on All Things Considered, Fresh Air, and A Prairie Home Companion. Their music has also been included in several David Byrne movies, an episode of "The Simpsons" and more. Sponsored by Slovenian Savings & Loan.

Cephas & Wiggins-- Veterans of FolkFest 1999 and the 1990 National Folk Festival in Johnstown, John Cephas and Phil Wiggins are true Piedmont blues legends. Cephas' alternating thumb-and-finger picking style of guitar playing, combined with Wiggins' harmonica, produce an evocative blues sound. The melody and imagery may be Western, but the call and response of the instruments, vocals, complementary rhythms and "bent" notes are quintessentially African. Audiences and critics alike have taken notice. In fact, they are the only traditional artists to have won the W.C. Handy Award for "Blues Entertainer of the Year." Sponsored by Met Life.

Jason Ringenberg - Jason Ringenberg's stage outfit hangs in the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville -- and for good reason. This alternative country legend is the original roots-punk barnstormer. As one critic put it, "no act has ever blended punk rock intensity with a country swagger better than Jason Ringenberg... he's the closest thing Nashville has to a rock'n'roll legend." According to the London Times, "Ringenberg has gained a reputation as one of the most dynamic live performers of his generation." Jason, a father of three, has also developed a special children's show as his alter-ego, "Farmer Jason." At the FolkFest, he'll play two Jason Ringenberg shows and two Farmer Jason shows. Sponsored by 96 Key, Froggy 95, Hot 99, Rocky 92, and News Talk 990.

Lil' Brian and the Zydeco Travelers - Drawing on contemporary urban black sounds while remaining true to their zydeco roots, Lil' Brian and the Zydeco Travelers have created an incredibly exciting, modern form of zydeco. It's rhythmically and lyrically sophisticated, just plain funky - so much so that the band has dubbed their music "Z-funk." According to one critic, Lil' Brian is "the freshest thing to come along in zydeco in decades. . . as tight as The Meters, as funky as the Neville's and as purely danceable as Clifton Chenier." Sponsored by Laurel Management.

Eddie From Ohio - According to Billboard magazine, Eddie from Ohio is "the darling of the East Coast singer/songwriter scene, employing instrumentation that crosses the musical spectrum, a superb flair for cliché-free melodies, and the stunning voice of Julie Murphy." This quartet has opened for acts as diverse as Los Lobos, Dar Williams, Collective Soul, and the Posies. Their sound, streams of music rushing over the common ground of folk and rock, is never stale, even after 13 years of playing together. The group is known for spectacular harmonies and crisp instrumental performances, and songs that range from thoughtful to joyful, to ridiculous and sublime. Sponsored by The Sargent's Group.

The Chandler Travis Philharmonic - A hit at FolkFest 2003, the Chandler Travis Philharmonic is an alternative Dixieland band that almost defies description. This eight-piece band creates an outlandish, kaleidoscopic sound that encompasses African rhythms, Dixieland jazz, pop, swing and practically every other form of music on the planet. Travis' sharp songwriting skills combine with the band's zany costumes and fine musicianship to create a uniquely intelligent, entertaining live show. Sponsored by Von's United Beverage.

Paul Cebar & the Milwaukeeans -- Inspired by soul, samba, calypso, second line, rock-steady and anything lilting, clacking or true, Paul Cebar is a 15-year veteran fronting a stellar lineup of musicians known as the Milwaukeeans. A New Orleans critic wrote, "His music owes much to the Big Easy's spirit of abandon and musical cross-pollination.... congas, saxophones, bass drums, lap steel and Cebar's guitar lines and vocals combine in a highly danceable medley, rendered with a skill and sense of fun that locals should recognize." Sponsored by Coast to Coast Cellular.

Red Elvises - "Kick-butt rock 'n' roll from Siberia" is how this talented group describes itself - yes, that's Siberia, Russia. "Strong musical influences include Elvis Presley and Priscilla, Chuck Berry, Spice Girls and speeches by Comrade Fidel Castro," the band claims, and humor is only one of the attributes that makes them such a crowd-pleaser. Known for fun music, a high energy level and great live performances, the band has released 11 CDs but retains their independent status, having turned down several major record deals. Sponsored by Spence, Custer, Saylor, Wolfe & Rose.

Redbird - Made up of three singer-songwriters, Kris Delmhorst, Peter Mulvey and Jeffrey Foucault, Redbird is a love letter to the body of American song. Traditional tunes, old jazz standards, country songs and contemporary originals are among their repertoire, attending to the musical past in order to live in the musical present. Redbird will play two shows as a group, and each of its members will also play a solo show. Sponsored by First Commonwealth Bank.

Peter Mulvey - A hit at FolkFest 2003, Peter Mulvey will play two FolkFest shows as a part of Redbird as well as a solo show. A singer-songwriter and skilled guitarist, his acoustic music ranges from full-throated rockers to deceptively plain-spoken musings. As a live performer, this maverick learned his craft by years spent performing in subways for commuters - and he's developed a natural command of the stage with his intelligent, engaging music. Sponsored by First Commonwealth Bank.

Kris Delmhorst - One critic writes of this singer-songwriter, "There's one thing I just don't understand about Kris Delmhorst - why isn't she a star?" A multi-talented musician, Delmhorst plays cello, guitar and fiddle, and is a top-notch vocalist. She effortlessly mixes folk, singer-songwriter pop, gospel, and country styles, with warm,

memorable vocals that are accessible to a wide range of audiences. She's garnered much praise for her songwriting skills, too. The Boston Globe writes, "Delmhorst combines alluring, rootsy melodies with the intimacy of the urban songwriter, Delmhorst is a significant new folk-pop voice." At FolkFest, Delmhorst will play one show solo, and two shows as a part of Redbird. Sponsored by First Commonwealth Bank.

Jeffrey Foucault - The Boston Globe describes this young singer-songwriter as "an atmospheric Midwestern poet-troubadour, a charming presence and a splendid guitarist." Equal parts folk, old country, and roots Americana, Foucault's songs express complex emotions in a compelling way. At FolkFest, Foucault will play a solo show and two shows as a part of Redbird. Sponsored by First Commonwealth Bank..

The Kissers - One critic wrote, "The Kissers aren't what you would expect out of Madison, Wisconsin. Heck, you wouldn't even expect them out of Dublin, Ireland." This young Celtic band has a sharp sense of humor, a cult following and a well-earned reputation as an exciting live act. Part Pogues tribute, part Johnny Cash cover band, the seven-piece ensemble keeps audiences entertained with its wild repertoire, feisty performances and superb musicianship. Sponsored by 1st Summit Bank.

The Greyhounds -- The Greyhounds combine raw grooves and fresh melodies with elements of classic funk, old-school blues and straight-up soul. One critic wrote, "Playing a fusion of musical styles, Greyhounds marinades the audience with groove sauce, sautes 'em with soul, then deep fries 'em in funk. And everybody's comin' back for seconds." The group enjoys what they're doing, and it's more than evident when they play live. As tight breakdowns and relentless vibes ricochet into the audience, both wallflowers and groove connoisseurs alike will find themselves heading towards the floor to get their boogie on. Sponsored by Thrifty Car Rental of Johnstown.

The Gospel Lights -- The members of this group are from the Pittsburgh area. A perennial FolkFest favorite, they last appeared with us in 2004. The group, which originally formed in 1952, has traveled throughout the country performing with some of the great gospel artists of our time. Sponsored by Somerset Trust.

Sodajerk -- What sets Sodajerk apart is their ignorance of convention in songwriting, by combining the best of rock and country to produce a revved up, high octane blast of fun, energy and attitude. One critic wrote of this Pittsburgh-based band, "they just might be some sort of musical supergroup from an alternative universe.... the band's music is filled by a blazing, hell-bent intensity few bands seem to muster anymore." Sponsored by Waste Management Corporation.

Tim Dabbs -- One critic wrote of Tim Dabbs, "His powerful tenor tremolo invests his music with a narrative folk authority." Tom May, host of the national radio show River City Folk describes Tim as "a very talented songwriter writing in the tradition of Stan Rogers and Gordon Lightfoot, and people who actually write about real events and real places." Indeed, Tim is a musical storyteller, who will take you on a journey across our great country, and introduce you to a variety of people and places along the way. . .many from our own backyard. FolkFest 2005 will mark the third appearance for this Johnstown native, who was inspired to return to the area after his appearance at the festival in 2000. Sponsored by Somerset Trust.

Jazz In Your Face --This Johnstown-based jazz ensemble has 17 members, and they've been a hit at several previous FolkFests. Organized in 1988, they've been

entertaining audiences with big-band jazz ever since. Sponsored by Slovenian Savings & Loan.

Angelo M -- Angelo Melasecca spent decades working in the steel mills. Laid off in 2003, he put down his hard hat for the last time and picked up his guitar full-time. One critic wrote, "His performances have evolved into multitasking enterprises; he breathes hurricanes into his harmonica, plays the devil out of his guitar, kicks a tambourine propped against his chair and sings when it's convenient." An accomplished dobro and mandolin player as well, Angelo brings to life some of the earthy blues and folk that some call Americana. Sponsored by Northwest Savings Bank.

Russell Lauf Band -- One critic wrote, "What's country? With a hundred vested interests and a musical spectrum as wide as America, who knows for sure. All Johnstown's Russell Lauf knows is that they're the same personal story songs whether they're backed by twangy pedal steel, delicate six string, wailing urban sax or electric guitar." The Russell Lauf Band specializes in bringing personal songs to life. A Johnstown native and gifted songwriter, Lauf is backed by a 7-piece band with a country rock twist that reminds many of the Eagles and Jackson Browne. His second CD, titled "Johnstown," will be released over the Labor Day weekend. Sponsored by Cool 101.7.

The Rhinelanders -- The Rhinelanders are a traditional German polka band. Bronco Toter, the band's leader, spent 6 years of his youth in Germany and Austria, and had noticed that there were several Slovenian and Polish polka bands in the Johnstown area, but none that played traditional German music. He was asked to form a band for a one-time event, and before he knew it started receiving calls to play at various clubs and festivals. Today, the Rhinelanders play not only in the Johnstown area but also Altoona, Pittsburgh, and northern Pennsylvania. Sponsored by Easy Grade Auto Wash.

###

The AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest is a 3-day music festival held annually over Labor Day weekend in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Four mainstages are continually programmed over the course of the festival, and admission is free. The FolkFest is produced by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. In 2005, the festival will be held on September 2, 3, and 4. Major sponsors include Dodge, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Atlantic Broadband, and Conemaugh Health System. For more information, visit www.jaha.org.



PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact
 Shelley Johansson
 Johnstown Area Heritage Association
 P. O. Box 1889
 Johnstown, PA 15907
 888-222-1889 x 308
sjohansson@jaha.org
www.johnstownfolkfest.org

**FOLKFEST PERFORMERS AT A
 GLANCE**

PERFORMER NAME

GENRE

The Daptone Soul Review: Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings featuring Lee Fields	Soul
Wanda Jackson	Rockabilly
Rosie Flores	Rockabilly
Brave Combo	Contemporary Polka
Cephas & Wiggins	Piedmont Blues
Jason Ringenberg	Alternative Country
"Farmer Jason" Ringenberg	Children's Show
Lil' Brian & the Zydeco Travelers	Contemporary Zydeco
Eddie From Ohio	Folk Rock
Chandler Travis Philharmonic	Alternative Dixieland
Paul Cebar & the Milwaukeeans	Acoustic Rock
Red Elvises	Rock
Redbird	Folk
Peter Mulvey	Singer/Songwriter
Kris Delmhorst	Singer/Songwriter
Jeffrey Foucault	Singer/Songwriter
The Kissers	Celtic Rock
The Greyhounds	Funk
The Gospel Lights	Gospel
Soda Jerk	Rock

Tim Dabbs	Folk
Jazz in Your Face	Big-BandJazz
Angelo M	Singer/Songwriter
Russell Lauf Band	Country Rock
The Rhinelanders	German Polka

The AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest is a 3-day music festival held annually over Labor Day weekend in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Four mainstages are continually programmed over the course of the festival, and admission is free. The FolkFest is produced by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. In 2005, the festival will be held on September 2, 3, and 4. Major sponsors include Dodge, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Atlantic Broadband, and Conemaugh Health System. For more information, visit www.jaha.org.



PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact
Shelley Johansson
Johnstown Area Heritage Association
P. O. Box 1889
Johnstown, PA 15907
888-222-1889 x 308
sjohansson@jaha.org
www.jaha.org

JOHNSTOWN FOLKFEST SHUTTLE SYSTEM AND FESTIVAL PARKING

Free shuttles

Festivalgoers are encouraged to take an official FolkFest shuttle to the festival grounds. Each bus will be clearly marked as a FolkFest shuttle and will display the location it serves, and all shuttles are handicapped accessible. **Free parking is available at all shuttle stops.**

Shuttle pick-up locations, along with free parking, will be available at the following areas. Signage will direct you.

- **Upper Yoder/Westmont:** The Hiram G. Andrews Center (on Goucher Street, just off Route 271). Note: this is the shuttle that provides transportation from the festival to the Log Cabin Arts Festival. **The Inclined Plane will be free during FolkFest, and riders of this shuttle will be dropped off at the Inclined Plane.** From the bottom of the Inclined Plane, festivalgoers can board another shuttle at the corner of Vine and Union, or simply walk three blocks to the festival park. The free Inclined Plane rides are made possible by Somerset Trust.
- **Downtown:** The Freight Car America parking lots on Route 271 (Maple Avenue) in Woodvale.

In addition, the downtown shuttles will provide free rides to festivalgoers who choose to park downtown. Look for signs that read "FolkFest Shuttle Stop" at downtown intersections, particularly along Main and Washington Streets.

Dropoff and pickup points:

All riders will be dropped off and picked up at the main entrance to the new festival park, at the corner of Washington and Johns Streets.

Shuttle schedule

Shuttles will be available on an ongoing basis beginning one hour before the scheduled opening of the festival. Shuttle service will end one hour after the scheduled closing of the festival, as follows:

- **Friday, September 2: 5:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.**
- **Saturday, September 3: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 a.m.**
- **Sunday, September 4: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 a.m.**

Parking at the 2005 FolkFest

Festivalgoers are encouraged to take advantage of **free** parking at one of the shuttle stops described above.

Downtown Parking

A limited amount of free street parking is available downtown. Parking is available downtown in city-owned garages, and the city may charge \$5 to park in these garages. To locate these garages from the downtown area, look for special FolkFest signage or the permanent blue wayfinding signs posted throughout downtown.

The open city-owned garages are as follows:

Lincoln Street garage

Transit Center garage, also called the "Main Street garage"

Intermodal Transportation Center on Vine & Walnut

Shuttles will provide a free ride to anyone who parks downtown and prefers not to walk to the park—look for “FolkFest Shuttle Stop” signs at downtown intersections, particularly along Main and Washington Streets.

Note that there will be no vehicular access through Minersville via Iron Street.

VIP Parking

The VIP parking lot will be located along Washington Street between Walnut and Johns Streets. For a \$60 contribution to JAHA, VIP parkers may park in this special lot close to the festival grounds, and also receive a coupon good for a free beverage at any of the festival pubs. To purchase your VIP parking pass, contact JAHA at 814-539-1889 x301.

Handicap parking

Handicap parking spaces are available in city-owned garages downtown, and all shuttles are handicapped accessible.

The AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest is a 3-day music festival held annually over Labor Day weekend in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Four mainstages are continually programmed over the course of the festival, and admission is free. The FolkFest is produced by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. In 2005, the festival will be held on September 2, 3, and 4. Major sponsors include Dodge, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Atlantic Broadband, and Conemaugh Health System. For more information, visit www.jaha.org.



PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact
Shelley Johansson
Johnstown Area Heritage Association
P. O. Box 1889
Johnstown, PA 15907
888-222-1889 x308
sjohansson@jaha.org
www.johnstownfolkfest.org

DIRECTIONS TO FOLKFEST

The FolkFest will be held at Johnstown's new festival park in downtown Johnstown. Directional signs will help festivalgoers find the site—but if you can find Johnstown, you can find the new park. The highly visible site is located across the street from Point Stadium and adjacent to the Cambria Iron Works National Historic Landmark.

From the East:

Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike west to the Bedford Exit (#11). Take 220/99 North and take the first exit (Fishertown/Cessna). Take 56 West (approximately 30 miles) to 219 North. Take the 56 West Exit (The Johnstown Expressway) and follow it through until you reach the city.

From Pittsburgh:

Take Route 22 East. Exit at Route 403 South and follow this approximately 8 miles into the City of Johnstown.

From Washington, D.C./ Baltimore MD:

Take Interstate 70 West to Breezewood, PA. Enter the Pennsylvania Turnpike West and take to Bedford Exit (#11). Take 220/99 North to the first exit (Fishertown/Cessna). Take 56 West (approximately 30 miles) to 219 North. Take the 56 West Exit (The Johnstown Expressway) and follow it into the city.

From Route 80 and Points North:

Take Route 80 West to Route 220 South. Exit 220 South to Route 22 West outside of Altoona. At Ebensburg, take 219 South to Route 56 West (Johnstown Expressway). Take the 56 West Exit (The Johnstown Expressway) and follow it into the city.

From Ohio and Points West:

Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike East to Somerset Exit (#10). Travel to Route 219 North. Exit 219 North at Route 56 West, the Johnstown Expressway. Take the 56 West Exit (The Johnstown Expressway) and follow it into the city.



PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact
Shelley Johansson
Johnstown Area Heritage Association
P. O. Box 1889
Johnstown, PA 15907
888-222-1889 x 308
sjohansson@jaha.org
www.jaha.org

FOOD AT FOLKFEST 2005

As always, the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest features great food from a variety of vendors serving everything from festival favorites like funnel cakes to ethnic treats like pierogies and halupki. Asian food, crabcakes, gyros, roasted almonds, kettle korn, chocolate-covered strawberries, and bruschetta are just a few of the choices! At FolkFest information booths festivalgoers can pick up a sheet detailing each vendor's menu and location. All food and beverages must be paid for using festival scrip, which can be purchased at a variety of locations throughout the festival grounds.

Community Kitchen

As in 2004, the festival has made free booth space available to any area church or non-profit to come and vend food and drinks during the festival. JAHA encourages festivalgoers to support these fine organizations. The list of Community Kitchen participants is still being finalized, but as of early August included:

- **Beulah United Methodist Church** – hot fudge ice-cream sundaes.
- **Crossroads Community Church** – soft-serve ice cream, cookies.
- **Harvest of Hope** – corn on the cob
- **Moxham United Methodist Ministries** -- a returning participant from FolkFest 2004, serving apple dumplings with ice cream.
- **Pennsylvania Highlands Community College** -- a returning participant from FolkFest 2004, serving gobs.
- **The Walnut Grove Church of the Brethren** – a returning participant from FolkFest 2004, serving halupki, halushki and pierogies.

The AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest is a 3-day music festival held annually over Labor Day weekend in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Four mainstages are continually programmed over the course of the festival, and admission is free. The FolkFest is produced by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. In 2005, the festival will be held on September 2, 3, and 4. Major sponsors include Dodge, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Atlantic Broadband, and Conemaugh Health System. For more information, visit www.jaha.org.



PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact
Shelley Johansson
Johnstown Area Heritage Association
P. O. Box 1889
Johnstown, PA 15907
888-222-1889 x 308
sjohansson@jaha.org
www.jaha.org

FOLKFEST 2005 “BY THE NUMBERS”

- **Number of mainstages – 4**
- **Performing groups – 22**
- **Hours of free music – More than 75**
- **Number of tents used – 25**
- **Number of FolkFest volunteers – more than 500**
- **Number of man-hours needed to set up and tear down the festival – 1,500**
- **Number of businesses and organizations that sponsor FolkFest 2005 – 37;**
many, many more in-kind sponsors
- **Number of people who rode the Inclined Plane for free at FolkFest 2004 –**
almost 15,000
- **Amount of extension cords used – 15,000 feet**
- **Visitors to the FolkFest section of www.jaha.org --** From the period of May 1 through August 4, 2005, there have been 12,552 page visits to the FolkFest section of the site, and this number is increasing rapidly as the festival gets closer!
- **Years the Johnstown Area Heritage Association has produced the FolkFest**
-- Depends on how you count it! The FolkFest began in 1990 when JAHA, along with other community organizations, got the National Folk Festival to come to Johnstown and participated in the production of the festival. The National Folk Festival stayed for two more years before moving on to another American city, and at that point JAHA began producing the festival on its own, and has continued for every year since.

###



PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact
Shelley Johansson
Johnstown Area Heritage Association
P. O. Box 1889
Johnstown, PA 15907
888-222-1889 x 308
sjohansson@jaha.org
www.jaha.org

ABOUT JAHA— PRODUCERS OF THE FOLKFEST

Who is JAHA?

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA) has produced the FolkFest for 15 or 12 years—depending on how you count it. JAHA was involved in the production of the festival in 1990, when it came to Johnstown as the National Folk Festival, staying for two additional years before moving on to another American city. At that point, JAHA picked up the reigns and renamed the event, and the Johnstown FolkFest came into being.

Continuing to produce the Johnstown FolkFest makes sense for JAHA, a non-profit that exists to preserve and showcase Johnstown's nationally significant stories to the nation. To do that, JAHA provides high-quality educational, cultural and recreational experiences in the area's unique historic settings. We operate two museums, the Johnstown Flood Museum and the Heritage Discovery Center, and will soon open the Wagner-Ritter House & Garden, and a Children's Discovery Center is planned for 2006. We also offer a broad variety of other programs, including 1889 flood commemoration activities, a Spring Lecture Series and more, held throughout the year. In this way, we support the local economy by bringing positive national attention and visitors to our area. The FolkFest is a wonderful program that helps JAHA provide a great experience for local residents, focus national attention here and bring people to visit. Along the way, everyone has a terrific time.

Past performers

Past performers at the Johnstown FolkFest read like a "who's who" in traditional music. The festival brings a broad variety of musical genres to the area, allowing festivalgoers to see artists who might never play here otherwise. The festival has developed a national reputation for its high-quality programming, and best of all, it's still free.

-more-

Support the FolkFest

Producing the FolkFest costs about \$300,000 – but through the support of our sponsors and commission from festival scrip, JAHA is able to keep the festival free. However, there are a number of ways festivalgoers can support the FolkFest:

- **Become a FolkFest sponsor.** Businesses or individuals can sponsor performers, stages or areas of the FolkFest site -- a number of sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact Donna Stromsdorfer, festival coordinator for JAHA, at 814-539-1889 ext. 306. Planning will begin for FolkFest 2006 immediately!
- **Become a member of JAHA.** Depending on the level of membership you choose, you'll get a wide range of membership benefits -- including FREE admission to all our museums year-round. Information on JAHA membership and benefits, including a downloadable membership form, is available on JAHA's Web site at www.jaha.org.
- **Make a donation to the FolkFest Endowment Fund.** This fund is administered by the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and is designed to help fund the festival forever; call the foundation at 888-280-7741 for details, or stop by the Homecoming Station (located in the train station on festival grounds) during FolkFest.
- **Become a FolkFest volunteer.** Hundreds of volunteers are needed before, during and after the festival -- it simply couldn't happen without them. More information on volunteering is available on the FolkFest Web site at www.johnstownfolkfest.org, or call us at 888-222-1889 to sign up.

The AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest is a 3-day music festival held annually over Labor Day weekend in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Four mainstages are continually programmed over the course of the festival, and admission is free. The FolkFest is produced by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. In 2005, the festival will be held on September 2, 3, and 4. Major sponsors include Dodge, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Atlantic Broadband, and Conemaugh Health System. For more information, visit www.jaha.org.