

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Chris Taylor
Executive Director
Atchison County Historical Society
913-367-6238
GoWest@atchisonhistory.org
www.atchisonhistory.org

Smithsonian Exhibit opens in Atchison County Historical Society Museum this Friday, Nov. 14th

Your chance to see and hear the music heritage of America, and Atchison County, begins this Friday as the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* opens here.

The exhibit, a joint venture of the Smithsonian and the Kansas Humanities Council, makes its last stop of its Kansas tour at the Atchison County Historical Society Museum in the Santa Fe Depot (200 S. 10th Street, Atchison). The exhibition, which explores the many styles of American music that have shaped the sounds we hear to this day, will be in Atchison through December 28th, 2008.

Friday evening the Historical Society will host a Gala Opening, and a Chamber After Hours to kickoff the six week run of the exhibit. Chris Taylor, executive director of the Atchison County Historical Society, said the opening night entertainment will touch on some of the central themes of the exhibit.

“The exhibit looks at the styles of music that are American at their core, the Blues, Sacred Music including Gospel, Bluegrass and Country and the many ethnic influences that came from other lands and blended and boiled to become the music of this land,” said Taylor. “One of the highlights of opening night will be Durell Anthony from right here in Atchison. His own style is to blend gospel and blues and R&B to make music that means something special to him, that is exactly what is at the heart of this exhibit...everyone who visits will find a connection to the music that means something to their life.”

The opening Gala begins at 5 p.m. with a Ribbon Cutting to formally open the exhibit at 5:30 p.m. The reception will feature Blues and Barbecue with the Blues from the music of Durell Anthony and the Barbecue from the famed Arthur Bryants of Kansas City. The evening is free and open to the public, although donations toward future events are encouraged, said Taylor.

New Harmonies is making its sixth and final stop on its tour through Kansas, the first state to host this new exhibit. Taylor said that getting this exhibit in Atchison County is a tribute to the musical heritage of our community. “One of the key things the Humanities Council looks at in choosing the community as a host is the background and the quality of companion exhibits and programs that will add the community’s flair to the expertise of the Smithsonian.”

“We have a long history of music right here from the very early days of Atchison County right through to the present day,” said Taylor. “There were community bands from the

early days of the Kansas Territory, the community brass band lead the parade from the Massasoit Hotel to the Methodist Church in 1859 when Lincoln spoke here on that cold December day 149 years ago. And then to this day we have talented people in the music business who began right here, such as Durell and Rory Feek who is making it big now as part of Joey + Rory in Country Music.”

Taylor noted that one of the key local exhibits to tie in is an expansion of the Jesse Stone exhibit in the Museum and a campaign which will kick off Friday night to get Jesse Stone inducted into the Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame.

“Not only did Jesse Stone write and arrange the early key recordings of ‘Shake, Rattle and Roll’ but he wrote over 400 songs, most in the rock era recorded by everyone from Ray Charles, Elvis, the Beatles, and the Grateful Dead,” said Taylor. “Many who are already in the Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame credit Stone with being the single largest force in creating the beat that became rock music and it started right here with his first band formed at the Ingalls High School and his first paying gig at the Atchison County Fair...and not only that he gave Atchison’s Veryl Tyler her first piano lesson – playing Wolverine Blues.”

The exhibit will be open daily at the Atchison County Historical Society Museum with a number of events related to the exhibition both in the museum and across the community, including a program by Chuck Haddix, the host of the Fish Fry on KCUR Radio, who will speak on Jesse Stone and the Atchison and Kansas City influences on Stone and the early Blues. Haddix will be in the Museum Monday, Nov. 17th for a program beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a special birthday celebration and cake for Jesse Stone (Nov. 16, 1901).

Taylor said one of the fun projects that will be part of the exhibit run will be a contest open to the whole community to write a new lyric to the Woody Guthrie classic “This Land is Your Land.” The contest is for students and adults and entries can be written lyrics and/or a recording of the author singing their own new tune. There will be prizes and a chance to showcase the best new interpretation of the Folk Music classic on a special morning on KAIR Radio. Details on the contest can be picked up at the museum, the Atchison Library, KAIR Radio or on the Historical Society website.

The Museum will be open daily 9-5, and will be open until 8 p.m. each Thursday (except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day), Saturday hours are from 10-4 and Sundays from noon-4. The Museum will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving and encourages family visiting to make a stop in the Museum for free coffee that weekend. The Museum will also offer free coffee each Wednesday and invites all of Atchison’s coffee clubs to take a change of pace and explore the soundtrack of America with free coffee during the exhibit run.

A full schedule of events and more details are available by picking up a schedule at the Museum, the Atchison Library or by visiting the Historical Society website at www.atchisonhistory.org. Details will also be announced through local media outlets. For more information, museum hours or to arrange a tour for a family or group contact the museum at 913-367-6238.

Atchison, Kansas
“New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music”
Events & Program Calender

Nov. 14- Dec. 28, 2008 – New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music
exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution – sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council
at the Atchison County Historical Society Museum in the Santa Fe Depot, 200 S. 10th Street
M-F 9 – 5, Sat. 10-4, Sun. noon-4 – special events and Thursday evenings until 8 p.m.
Companion exhibits on Jesse Stone, the Rivermen & other Atchison musicians,
old time musical instruments & 70 Years of Music in the Air - Radio in Atchison

Nov. 14, 2008 – Friday 5 p.m. – Opening Reception
Chamber After Hours & Ribbon Cutting
Entertainment – Durrell Anthony Band (gospel, blues, r&b)

Nov. 14-16 & 21-23, 2008 Fridays & Saturdays 8 p.m. Sundays 2 p.m.
Little Women – on stage at Theatre Atchison, 401 Santa Fe – tickets- 367-1647

Nov. 17 2008 – Sunday – Jesse Stone’s Birthday party 6pm– come pick up a postcard
to encourage this Atchison native’s induction into the Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame
Entertainment

Nov. 17 2008 – Monday 6:30 pm – Jesse Stone – the Atchison & KC Connection - Blues & Jazz Era
Chuck Haddix – Host of The Fish Fry on KCUR – Marr Sound Archives at UMKC

Nov. 18, 2008 – Tuesday – 7 p.m. ACHS Museum – Santa Fe Depot
Steven Kite – exhibit scholar – Woody Guthrie’s “This Land Is Your Land” the man, the legend, the song. The evolution of Folk Music from across the Atlantic to America’s shores.

Nov. 20, 2008 – Thursday – Youth Program - Pioneer Club & Preteenology 4 pm
Scott Klamm at Library Interactive Music & Instruments for 3rd-7th grades
7 pm – Adult program – Scott Klamm at Museum

Nov. 21, 2008 – Friday 6 pm– Patty Boldridge – Jazz History

Nov. 23, 2008 – Sunday – 3 p.m.
Benedictine College / Atchison Community Orchestra concert
O’Mally/McCallister Auditorium, Benedictine College

Nov. 27, 2008 – Thanksgiving Day – closed

Nov. 28-30, 2008 - See the Museum decked out for the Holiday's & our Music Themed Christmas Tree and Christmas Character Singing display

Free Coffee Days & special Player Piano entertainment
each day as we kick off the Holiday Season with New Harmonies

Dec. 4, 2008 Thursday 7 pm – until the last picker leaves at the Museum in the Santa Fe Depot

The Smithsonian Jam – come join in the fun in the museum as Atchison area musicians (your friends and neighbors) play together, trade tricks of the trade and stories – musicians of any playing level welcome and those who just like to listen as well!

Dec. 5-6, 2008 Fri-Sat. Homes for the Holidays – 7th Annual Tour featuring Historic Homes – Ticket Required

Dec. 5, 2008 – Friday – Music at the Muchnic Gallery, 704 N. 4th Street – Local choral groups performing in Victorian era mansion decked out for the Christmas season.

Dec. 6, 2008 – Saturday 10 am – 2 pm – in the Museum

Musical Instrument Petting Zoo – come in and learn about, try out and listen to musical instruments of all types – Demonstrations by members of the Benedictine Celtic Music Club and the Atchison Community Orchestra from 11-noon

Dec. 7, 2008 – Sunday 4 p.m. Peacemakers Annual Christmas Concert at First Christian Church

Dec. 11, 2008 – Thursday – 6:30 p.m. – Jim Hoy – Home on the Range Kansas Music and Folklore – in the Museum – songs and details on what makes Kansas unique.

Dec. 10, 2008 – Youth Program – Pioneer Club & Preteenology 5:30 p.m. in the Museum
Build your own instrument day

Dec. 18, 2008 – 3-5 p.m. – Guitar Hero Contest w prizes – Young Adult Atchison Library

Dec. 21, 2008 – Sunday – 4 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

joint choirs of First Christian, United Methodist, Trinity Episcopal and the Peacemakers
at Trinity Episcopal Church – lead by Jennifer Stammers

Dec. 24, 2008 – Christmas Eve – closing at noon

Dec. 25, 2008 – Christmas Day – museum closed

Dec. 26 – 28, 2008 – Friday – Sunday – LAST WEEKEND for New Harmonies

special free coffee days – piano entertainment each day – player piano & live

Check back for program updates – we are still trying to line up a couple more programs.
If your church or organization have a music related program – including Christmas and Holiday Season events you would like to have listed please call Chris Taylor at the Museum to be included and have your event mentioned in our promotions and advertising.

Museum open late – until 8 p.m. Thursday nights

Nov. 20th
Closed Thanksgiving
Dec. 4th – The Smithsonian Jam Night
Dec. 11th
Dec. 18th
Closed Xmas Day

Wednesday – Free Coffee Club Days – 9 a.m. – noon

Nov. 19th
Nov. 26th
Dec. 3rd
Dec. 10th
Dec. 17th
Closed Xmas Eve

KAIR Radio – music minute specials throughout the event – History minutes from KVAC to KAIR – and winning contest entries from This Land is Your Land – final contest date TBA