

Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY

32/3: Summer 2011

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Membership Update & Donations

New Harmonies will be showing at the NYA History Center August 6 through September 17th. The NYA History Center is located in the old library.

"New Harmonies"
opens August 6th at
the Willkommen
Heritage and
Preservation Center



Listen to America's music and hear the story of freedom. It's the story of people in a New World, places they have left behind, and ideas they have brought with them. It is the story of people who were already here, but whose world is remade. The distinct cultural identities of all of these people are carried in song — both sacred and secular. Their music tracks the unique history of many peoples reshaping each other into one incredibly diverse and complex people — Americans. Their music is the roots of American music.

The music that emerges is known by names like blues, country western, folk ballads, and gospel. The sounds are as sweet as mountain air, and as sultry as a summer night in Mississippi delta country. The instruments vary from fiddle to banjo to accordion to guitar to drum. But a drum in the hands of an African sounds different than one in the hands of a European. And neither is the drumbeat of an American Indian. Yet all the rhythms merge, as do the melodies and harmonies, producing completely new sounds — new music. The musics merge because this is America. New waves of music ride ashore in the hearts and heads of new immigrants and they create still new sounds from what they have brought with them and what they find here. And nothing expresses the tensions — or the triumphs — of this journey into democracy quite like the music that it spawns.

The main beat of the exhibition is the on-going cultural process that has made America the birthplace of more music than any place on earth. The exhibition provides a fascinating, inspiring, and toe-tapping listen to the American story of multi-cultural exchange. The story is full of surprises about familiar songs, histories of instruments, the roles of religion and technology, and the continuity of musical roots from "Yankee Doodle Dandy" to the latest hip hop CD.

Museum on

MAIN ST.



Smithsonian
Institution



This work is funded with money for the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund that was created with the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4th, 2008.

MINNESOTA
Humanities Center

SNIPPETS

Why become a member?

Wendy Petersen Biorn

What are the benefits of membership?

Everyone feels the pinch these days. The State of Minnesota is shut down and struggling with how to balance the budget. We are fully aware that the money spent on a membership could easily be spent somewhere else. The membership fee you pay to the CCHS is greatly appreciated. That is why we have found ways to make the membership fee more valuable to you.

Effective immediately, CCHS members have the option of opting into becoming a member with the Arts Consortium of Carver County (ACCC) — for free. This is a \$50 value! The opt in option is also available to members of our affiliate organizations — Chanhasen Historical, Chaska Historical and the Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of NYA. As of today, the Watertown Historical Society has voted to become an affiliate but the paperwork is not yet complete, so members of this organization will have to wait another month or two.

If you do not wish to join ACCC do nothing. If you wish to exercise your free option, fill out the enclosed form and send it to us. We will sign off on it (this validates you are a CCHS member) and forward it to ACCC. This is for members of CCHS and its affiliates only.

Another new benefit is our new relationship with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhasen. CCHS members receive a dollar off admission when they present the coupon below and their CCHS membership card at the gate. More coupons are available to print from our web site. If you are a member of an affiliate group or have lost your CCHS membership card please contact Linda Nelson at our office and she will send you a new one.

Another benefit of membership and our new partnerships is the ability to offer free events. August 18th the CCHS, the ACCC and the NYA History Center will be presenting a free evening of picnicking, music, silent auction, and viewing of the Smithsonian exhibit, *New Harmonies*. The event will be held at the NYA Pavilion on Thursday, August 18th between 5:00 and 9:00 PM. The music is be provided by ACCC and the CCHS. *New Harmonies* will be on display at the new NYA History Center located in the old library building. Pie, donated by Fresh Seasons, will be available for purchase. Bring your own picnic basket and join us for an old fashioned community event. This event is open to the public — bring all your friends for a relaxing fun evening.

If you haven't yet noticed, the Barn Quilts of Carver County project is coming along nicely. The project is funded by a Metropolitan Regional Arts Council grant written by Naomi Russell and Suzanne Thiesfeld. If you have ever visited Iowa and seen the wonderful quilt blocks mounted on barns, you have an idea of what the project is all about. The selection of the first group of barns to receive the blocks has been made and is listed on page 7. Look for a small "log cabin" block to be mounted on our log granary at the fair.

Your membership and support is greatly appreciated by everyone here at the CCHS and also by other members. It is through your support that we can remain a viable and active organization.



MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

The Arboretum features more than 1,100 acres of magnificent gardens, model landscapes, and natural areas—from woodlands and wetlands to prairie—with extensive collections of northern-hardy plants. Tour the Arboretum on 12.5 miles of garden paths and hiking trails. Walk the close gardens and bike, walk or drive Three-Mile Drive to see more gardens and collections.

www.arboretum.umn.edu

\$1 OFF GENERAL ADMISSION

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CARVER COUNTY
Historical Society

Present card and coupon at GateHouse.

Valid through July 31, 2012

Not valid with other offers. One per person.



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM

3605 Arboretum Drive
Chaska, MN 55318
952.443.1800

News from Around the County

Chanhasen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Wilkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Historical Society



Dealing with Disasters: Chaska's Response to Challenges

Floods. Fires. A tornado. More floods. Our forbears stayed in Chaska despite the hardships that kept coming. Reclaiming the wet basement. Eliminating the charred debris and re-building. Re-roofing the house—or the courthouse. Hauling out more muck from the basement.

Chaska's challenges may seem minor compared to other cities' disasters—but for the people involved, it meant starting over. And true to their pioneer roots, Chaskans did.

The 2011 River City Display focuses on these Chaska challenges—and looks at how the citizens of this small town dealt with difficult times. Join us at the history center to explore the flood scrapbooks, see pictures of the devastation of the 1925 tornado, and share the stories of floods and fires in Chaska.

Now Showing at the Chaska History Center

Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 9am-5pm

Watertown Historical Society

During Watertown's Rails to Trails celebration, The Watertown Area Historical Society will commemorate two significant events in the city's history, the Civil War Sesquicentennial and the Watertown School Centennial. The Society will host two exhibits at the Community Center on Friday, July 22, from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, July 23, from noon to 4:00 p.m.

The Civil War Soldiers Tribute will feature the 100 men from the Watertown area who served in the Union Army. Photographs, soldiers' stories, diary accounts and copies of letters written home will be on display. The exhibit will include a presentation at 3:00 p.m. on both days by a descendant of a Watertown pioneer who served under General Sherman. Light refreshments will be served.

The Watertown School Centennial exhibit will feature 100 facts about the school's 100 years of existence. Photographs, yearbooks, and other memorabilia will be on display.

CARVER COUNTY

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Museum & Library Hours

Mon.-Fri., 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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**CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEW MEMBER FORM**

- Senior Citizen \$15.00
- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$30.00
- Sustaining \$55.00
- Please send a gift membership to the name below.
I understand a letter will be sent to the recipient
announcing my gift.
- Please accept my donation of _____ toward your
annual fund drive.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Gift Membership to: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

The Carver County Historical Society is a nonprofit organization supported by memberships and contributions from county residents, business, and government. All members receive *Transcending Time*, this newsletter.