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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Date:** January 2019

**Subject:** *Central Ohio Folk Festival May 4 & 5, 2019* at Highbanks Metro Park, Lewis Center, OH

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# Central Ohio Folk Festival Celebrates Pete Seeger and Power of Folk Arts

On the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of iconic American folksinger and songwriter Pete Seeger, the Columbus Folk Music Society presents its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Central Ohio Folk Festival May 4 & 5.

The family-friendly two day event takes place at Highbanks Metro Park, 9466 Columbus Pike (North High Street/U.S. Route 23) in Southern Delaware County just north of Columbus.

Among the **free** aspects of the festival:

- A **giant 1960's-style sing-along** opening the festival, in honor of iconic folk legend Pete Seeger and featuring many of his songs AND free birthday cake;
- Hourly concerts in four performing tents featuring **local and regional artists** covering a **wide range of roots, acoustic genres** including folk, indie folk, traditional Irish, bluegrass, country/blues, Americana, and singer-songwriter forms. Daytime performers include Indiana-based Ted Yoder, described by Michael Johnathon (Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour) as the “Bela Fleck of the hammered dulcimer,” as well as Chicago-based Heather Styka, whose 2011 release *Lifeboats for Atlantis* brought her to national attention, hitting #3 on the FOLK-DJ charts. Other performances feature story-telling;

- An **extensive children's program** with performers leading kids' songs and telling tall tales; an "*instrument petting zoo*" allowing children to try their hand at playing various instruments; and a crafts area where they can make colorful headbands and drums;
- Festival mascot Darby Duck will be on hand for the young and young-at-heart;
- A **tent featuring on-going folk dancing** throughout the two days, representing various countries and cultures, plus square dancing, contra dancing, and clogging;
- A drum circle at each day's close where everyone, young and old alike, is invited to pound on a drum or other rhythm instrument to a mesmerizing beat;
- A **jam tent showcasing local jam groups representing various genre's** and instruments, including folk, Americana, Old-time, bluegrass, dulcimer, ukulele and more. Interested folks are welcome to join in.

Activities/events at the festival that involve a small fee or donation:

- **Cigar Box Guitar Making activity** with instruction how to play the instrument (12 and older);
- **More than 30 hour-long workshops** covering a broad range of levels, topics, instruments and styles of playing. Registration for the workshops is a total of \$10 for each day;
- **Saturday evening ticketed concert**, one of the weekend's most impressive highlights. For \$15 festival goers can enjoy two stellar groups, performing in a big tent under the stars. **The co-billed headlining performers** are: *Sugar and the Mint*, (Prescott, AZ) consisting of 5 musicians, all younger than 22, who have won acclaim in nationally known bluegrass contests, but their original songs span many genres and *The Small Glories* from Winnipeg, Canada. *The Small Glories* duo has links to the well-known folk trio, The Wailin' Jennys. Their "indie roots folk" has earned them nominations for two Canadian Folk Music Awards.

"The festival continues its tradition of providing great family entertainment with something for everyone" says director Diane Boston. "It is also a very rich learning opportunity for all ages; whether hearing a wide range of folk and acoustic roots music or trying out an instrument for the first time. Whether it is honing already existing musical skills or learning steps to a folk dance, it is bound to be a great experience for the whole family."

The festival is co-sponsored by the Columbus Folk Music Society, Metro Parks, and WCBE Radio.

For more information or to arrange interviews with festival planners, contact Bill Cohen at (614) 263-3851 or at [billcohen@columbus.rr.com](mailto:billcohen@columbus.rr.com) or Diane at [DBoston2@columbus.rr.com](mailto:DBoston2@columbus.rr.com).

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