



2017 Benefit Concert
The Andrew Jackson Hall
TPAC, Nashville, TN
<http://www.thefolkmusichalloffame.com>

The Folk Music Hall of Fame & Museum®

Presents:

“WAYFARING STRANGERS – THE JOURNEY OF AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC”

The Andrew Jackson Performance Hall, TPAC, Nashville TN

Shoot Date: March 4th, 2017

**A 2 HOUR MULTI-ARTIST PERFORMANCE TELEVISION SPECIAL - A MUSICAL AND VISUAL JOURNEY THROUGH
THREE CENTURIES OF AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC**

**THE MUSIC THAT GAVE US: BLUEGRASS, THE BLUES, GOSPEL MUSIC, COUNTRY MUSIC, CHRISTIAN MUSIC,
WESTERN SWING, JAZZ AND ROCK & ROLL**

THE GREATEST MUSIC AND CROSS-CULTURE STORY NEVER TOLD

The Wayfaring Strangers broadcast television production traces the evolution of American Folk Music as the voice and conscience of the American people from the first settling of the continent through to the 21st century. The production traces the music styles of almost three centuries as dispossessed immigrant communities interacted and blended – mostly by circumstance and chance

The contributions of both our African American and Irish ancestors are highlighted as the primary threads of the American Folk Music fabric as they repeatedly intertwine throughout their own American experience to produce different but clearly related musical genres including folk, blues, gospel, country, bluegrass, western swing, outlaw rock, soul, rhythm & blues and eventually, rock & roll.

When the fiddle met the banjo American music culture changed forever, and these two instruments became the everlasting tonal foundation for American Folk Music and, with the guitar, the tonal base for a new music culture that was indelibly influenced by the evolution of American Folk Music across more than two centuries.

The production also includes and acknowledges the presence and contributions of our indigenous Native American people whose influence was most certainly there. Nevertheless, their influence was overlooked and forgotten until the emergence of talented young Native Americans and a re-discovery of their cultural contributions in the Folk Music revival of the late 20th Century.

Furthermore, the production would not be possible without the immense contribution of the Jewish communities to American Folk Music in the late 19th and through the 20th centuries. From a creative/performance standpoint and an entrepreneurial perspective, this third dispossessed and oppressed immigrant nation combined with the earlier Irish and African brothers and sisters to expand American Folk Music into the commercial and creative success it represented throughout the 20th and into the 21st centuries.

Three oppressed dispossessed and abused immigrant communities combining, regardless and against all odds, to create the heartbeat of American music culture over more than 200 years and giving the world American Folk Music.

The broadcast TV special enlists 15 celebrated and award winning folk artists drawn from the living legends of the past 6 decades to the genius of the new millennials. Through brilliant talent we will track this great story in 25 stirring performances capturing the highlights of three centuries of American Folk Music evolution. Driven by Executive Music Director and 15 x Multi-Grammy winning musician, Jerry Douglas, we will connect the musical styles of each period with contemporary songwriting and hit performance. To date, the invitees have 120 Grammy Awards between them:

Act One of the production sets the stage as all arrivals to the new world came replete with cultural and musical heritage, while also recognizing that the Native American communities had their own established musical heritage in both voice and instrumentation. The show progression traces, by contemporary performance, the “by chance” interactions of diverse communities as they develop a musical connection that is uniquely American in style and substance.

Act Two honors the musical influences that accompanied the industrial revolution across this great land, as songs of conflict, songs of the road, the railways, the mines and prohibition reflected contemporary experiences of life in the growing nation. We look to the contributing giants of 20th century American Folk Music, including the Carter Family, Lead Belly, Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger as 2nd Act unfolds.

The Finale reflects on Folk/Rock, Woodstock and the 21st Century and gives a glimpse of the future of Folk Music through the performances of outstanding contemporary Folk artists; songs that represent the Folk Music of today to the generations yet to come, yet their chart success reaches across generations.

Set to be filmed at the historic Andrew Jackson Theater, the diamond in the family of Tennessee Performing Arts theaters in the cultural heart of Nashville’s celebrated downtown music and theater center, this production is also the genesis of a modern Folk Music journey as the producers announce the launch of the 1st annual Folk Music Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Gala. The inaugural televised Awards Gala is set for Q4, 2017.

For Information:

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The FMHF & Museum Founders / “Wayfaring Strangers” Executive Producers

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