



News Release
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**The Storyweavers Kickoff Return to Live Music Series
at the Hampton History Museum July 21**

Hampton, VA—The Storyweavers return to the Hampton History Museum on July 21, 6:00 -8:00 pm for the first live and in-person Front Porch Music series concert since the group last performed there in February 2020.

In response to the pandemic, the museum halted in-person events, including its monthly Port Hampton Lecture Series and Front Porch Music Series in spring 2020. The museum quickly adapted to offering these events, and a host of educational and interpretive presentations, virtually on Facebook, YouTube and their website. The videos have received nearly 570,000 views on Facebook alone.

“Having The Storyweavers perform the first live performance for the series is especially meaningful since they were the last concert that we had before shutdown,” says Museum promotions director Seamus McGrann, “It brings things full circle.”

In addition to the monthly third Wednesday concerts, the museum will begin presenting its Port Hampton Lecture Series on the first Monday of each month (unless it is a holiday) starting on July 12. The lecture series will be announced at a later date. With the return to live programming, series events will no longer be streamed on Facebook Live, but will be videotaped to later upload onto Facebook, YouTube and the museum’s website hamptonhistorymuseum.org

Front Porch Music Series Lineup for 2021:

The Storyweavers
Wednesday, July 21

This talented group, whose beautifully crafted songs connect to the audience, debuted their CD "Fallen Sparrow" at the museum in August 2018. Band members Sheela Fortner, Shari Strader, Beth Whyte and Jennifer McLaughlin blend Americana, folk, blues and funk into an original soulful sound with music inspired by their life stories.

American Sign Language performance artist Jennifer McLaughlin ensures that the message of The Storyweavers can be enjoyed by all, and ASL interpreter Annie James assists in moving between the two languages.

Bobby Blackhat Band
Wednesday, August 18

A harmonica player for over 40 years, Bobby BlackHat blends the influences of Chicago, Memphis, Piedmont, and Delta style blues along with a little Gospel into a toe tappin', finger poppin', hip shakin' blues experience.

Bobby BlackHat Band is Bobby "BlackHat" Walters, on harmonica and vocals; Tom Euler on guitar and vocals; Brian Eubanks on bass; Michael Behlmar on drums; and Lucy Lawrence Kilpatrick on keyboards.

Brackish Water Jamboree
Wednesday, September 15

Known for an eclectic mix of foot-stomping bluegrass, old-time folk and classic Americana featuring Dobro, fiddle, clawhammer banjo, upright bass, and even a washboard, Brackish Water Jamboree performs all original music (and a few staple standards) that echo classic country, upbeat Appalachian fiddle tunes, ragtime blues, the Bakersfield sound, and more.

MSG Acoustic Blues Trio
Wednesday, October 20

An M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio concert is not just a performance; it is a complete emotional journey from joy to tears. It's an event where everyone can participate and share in the celebration of life.

M.S.G. is a roots-infused, Piedmont-steeped, yet thoroughly up-to-date group of widely and deeply talented musicians: Jackie Merritt, harmonica, guitar and bones; Miles Spicer, guitar; and Resa Gibbs, lead vocalist and percussionist. Their repertoire includes originals, traditional blues, gospel and ragtime tunes, as well as a number of surprising covers.

Jacob Vanko
Wednesday, November 17

Singer/songwriter Jacob Vanko will released his first full-length album, "Ten Years," with his band at the Hampton History Museum in September 2019. In describing his writing, Vanko says, "The songs are all derived from personal life stories, people who have been a big part of my life and people I briefly crossed paths with. These songs are like chapters of one book out of a 10 book series. Some are just written from the perspective of a third party fly on the wall watching a small slice of middle class life unfold. Some are built from feelings of redemption and ambition. Others poured out in the middle of a quiet, lonely night."

Tornado Bait Christmas Spectacular
Wednesday, December 15

Back for their fourth year presenting a seasonal offering of mirth and merriment, the alt country "grunge-grass" elves of Tornado Bait are cooking up a musical treat featuring guest musicians and other entertainment.

Hampton History Museum

Held in the museum's Great Hall on the third Wednesday of each month, the "Front Porch" Music Series presents different genres of music that have shaped the American soundscape and influenced talent in Hampton Roads' vibrant music scene. Admission is free to museum members, \$5 for non-members. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Hampton History Museum

The Hampton History Museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane in Downtown Hampton. There is plenty of free parking in the garage across the street from the museum. For more information, call 757-727-1102 or visit hamptonhistorymuseum.org

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Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.