

## Worcester Art Museum to host full day of down-home, toe-tapping fun

*Folk Music Festival Community Day on Saturday, July 18 held in conjunction with  
American folk art exhibition*

Worcester, MA – June 19, 2015 – The Worcester Art Museum celebrates summer and its new American folk art exhibition with a kick-up-your-heels **Folk Music Festival Community Day on Saturday, July 18, 2015 from 10am to 5pm.**

“The Worcester Art Museum is excited to host this Community Day with a Folk Music Festival theme,” said Katrina Stacy, WAM Associate Curator of Education. “It’s an all-day, family-friendly event that celebrates and showcases talented folk musicians. It’s open to visitors of all ages from the Worcester community, and we encourage people to bring a picnic and spend the whole day here.”

The festival includes a full medley of activities centered on folk music and the Museum’s latest exhibit, [American Folk Art, Lovingly Collected](#).

The festivities begin with the Museum’s popular Art + Market, which includes art, crafts, music, and locally grown and produced food from 10am to 1pm on Lancaster Street and in the Museum’s Lancaster Lobby.

Throughout the day, several folk musicians will perform live in the Stoddard Garden Courtyard, featuring headliner, Bow Thayer and String Trio. Other scheduled performers are Mark Mandeville & Rianne Richards + Fiddle, Cider Jug Stompers, Cannibal Ramblers, Iza Jane, Lydia & Phil & the Rounders, and Andy Cohen.

In addition, there will be a children’s folk music sing-along with Big Jon Short in McDonough Court and contra dance performances—a type of folk line dancing—in the Renaissance Court. For folk music devotees, there will be an American Folk Music Survey with musicologist Sam Breene and art historian Dan Greenberg who trace folk music origins from the 17th century to the folk revival in the 1950s and 1960s.

The festival also offers folk-art themed tours, touch-friendly Art Carts in the galleries, a make your own folk instrument art activity, and a studio workshop where you can paint your own band box (\$10 fee; registration required. Call 508-793-4333 or visit [worcester.org/education](#)).

Food is available for purchase at the Museum’s Sip food cart from 11am to 3pm, with an expanded menu, a picnic lunch, and watermelon slices! A courtyard bar will serve cold beer and soda. Wooberry and The Dog Father food trucks also will be parked on Lancaster Street from 11am to 3pm to provide sustenance.

This Community Day is held in conjunction with *American Folk Art, Lovingly Collected*, an exhibition that showcases more than 40 works from an important private collection based in central Massachusetts and recognized as one of the best of its kind in existence. The exhibit opens on July 15 and runs through November 29, 2015.

The Folk Music Festival Community Day is free with Museum admission. WAM members may bring a friend for free. The Folk Music Festival is generously sponsored by Reliant Medical Group. Media partner is Worcester Magazine.

**ABOUT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM:**

Founded in 1898, the Worcester Art Museum serves Worcester and the broader region. The Museum houses an encyclopedic collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings, and new media. WAM's collection has historically been strongest in European Renaissance paintings, but with recent acquisitions and donations, like Veronese's Venus Disarming Cupid and the integration of the collection from the Higgins Armory Museum, it continues to diversify and expand its curatorial and programmatic offerings. Symbolized by the opening of the Salisbury Street doors in 2012, the Museum continues toward its goal of accessibility for all visitors.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, Mass., is open Wednesday through Friday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm; Saturday from 10am to 5pm; and every third Thursday from 11am to 8pm. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$12 for seniors 65+, \$12 for college students with ID. Members and children under 4 are free. Parking is free.

**Public Information for the Folk Music Festival Community Day:** Visit [worcesterart.org](http://worcesterart.org) or call 508.799.4406.

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