



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **2008–2009 Making American Music Series at Strong National Museum of Play®**

***Eight exciting concerts at last year's great prices!***

Strong National Museum of Play® announces the lineup for its **2008–2009 Making American Music adult concert series**. The popular series serves up an eclectic menu of musical styles sure to please any palate—from big band and country tunes to jazz, classical, and Broadway favorites. All performances take place on Wednesday evenings in the museum's theater at 7:30 p.m.

**September 24, 2008—Big Band Lives On, featuring The Johnny Matt Big Band.** Are you “In the Mood” for a “Tribute to Basie”? Journey back to the days when Big Band was king with the Johnny Matt Big Band. Vocalist Kimberly Westcott swings the tunes of Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, and Louis Prima, and the band plays on....

**October 15, 2008—Home Grown in America, featuring John Rossbach and Andrew VanNorstrand.** The American Adventure comes alive through the music of veteran bluegrass artist John Rossbach and twenty-year-old virtuoso Andrew VanNorstrand. Combining folk, bluegrass, and old country tunes, the duo takes us back a spell as they sing about the railroads, freedom, and the immigrant experience.

**November 19, 2008—Jazz at the Museum, featuring The Earle Jerris Septet.** This intimate, small jazz combo salutes the legendary big bands of Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, and Benny Goodman, and gives a nod to Pat Metheny's music in the big band style. Enjoy a page from the Stan Kenton songbook and a tribute to famous female vocalists including June Christy and Chris Connor.

**January 21, 2009—Live at the Sands with Dean, Frank, and Friends featuring The Rochester Rat Pack.** Travel to the vintage Sands Hotel in Las Vegas and reminisce as Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, and friends sing the great songs of the Rat Pack era. Let “Luck Be a Lady” tonight and your gamble will pay off as Nik Entertainment's musically-talented

—more—

impersonators bring the Vegas atmosphere to Rochester with “Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime” and many other familiar tunes.

**February 25, 2009—Jigs and Reels featuring Tullamore Celtic Band and the Young School of Irish Dance.** Jigs and reels take center stage as Young School dancers perform dazzling traditional Irish step dancing—like Riverdance—in their colorful dress. Tullamore Celtic Band’s harmonies will shine through as they play “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling,” “McNamara’s Band,” and “Danny Boy” on fiddle, flute, guitar, whistles, Irish harp, and drum.

**March 18, 2009—Down Home Folk, featuring Simple Gifts.** Two women plus ten instruments equals one good time. Simple Gifts presents a wide variety of ethnic folk music, from exotic Balkan dance tunes and haunting Gypsy melodies, to hard-driving Klezmer freilachs (celebratory music) and down-home country reels. In addition to some of the more traditional instruments, you’ll see the bowed psaltery, baritone fiddle, banjolin, guitjo, and doumbek in action.

**April 15, 2009—A Night of Blues, featuring The White Hots.** Take a trip around the country and a journey back in time with The White Hots as they explore the unique regional sounds of the Mississippi Delta, Chicago, Texas, and Memphis. You’ll hear Duke Ellington’s “C Jam Blues,” “Can’t Be Satisfied” by Muddy Waters, and “Stormy Monday” by T-Bone Walker in this evening of blues from the 1930s to the 1960s.

**May 13, 2009—A Star Spangled Evening, featuring The Hotsie Totsies.** Celebrate the sounds of America the Beautiful with an old-fashioned tribute to our great nation. Performed in the style of the USO tours of the 1940s, this show includes popular songs, “commercials,” and comedy skits. Tap your toes to the anthems of the Air Force and Marines, “Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition,” “Kalamazoo,” “Blue Moon,” and many more.

Individual and series tickets are available at last season’s already great prices:  
**Full Series Tickets:** nonmember \$112; museum member \$88; senior (age 62 and older) or student \$96. **Mini-series tickets:** (for 4 to 7 concerts) nonmember \$15 per concert; museum member \$12 per concert; senior (age 62 and older) or student \$13 per concert. **Individual Tickets:** nonmember \$16; museum member \$13; senior (age 62 and older), or student \$14.

Bill Gray’s at the Skyliner Diner is open from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on concert evenings. Light refreshments are available for purchase during intermission. The museum’s facilities are wheelchair accessible. **For tickets, call 585-263-2700.**