



NORTHWEST FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL: MORE IMPORTANT TODAY THAN EVER

For 34 years, the Northwest Folklife Festival has been a celebration of the strength, hope and resolve that people and communities derive from their cultural diversity. The 2005 Cultural Focus, entitled *Generation to Generation: Passing on Our Traditions*, provides a unique opportunity to highlight our diverse traditions, our common desire to pass on traditions, art and cultural pride on to future generations and our capacity to share these traditions and a spirit of understanding with other communities.

In a world dominated by opposites—love and hatred, wealth and poverty, hope and despair—the music, dance and other art forms parents, teachers and tradition bearers share with us bring perspective, insight and answers to our most vexing challenges.

Generation to Generation: Passing on Our Traditions will feature artists of the Pacific Northwest who are actively passing on traditional practices to apprentices. The Saturday Benefit Concert will feature the Savoy Family Band. The Sunday showcase concert will feature performances by National Heritage Fellows who ensure the continuity of their musical traditions by teaching and performing with their children, including Texas swing fiddler, Johnny Gimble, and family band; Swedish fiddler, Paul Dahlin, and band, Akta Spelman; and Von and Ben Walden, a father-and-son duo from Moscow, Idaho.

Throughout the 4-day Festival, master artists who are exemplary bearers of tradition will be highlighted in performances, demonstrations, lectures and panel discussions. The cultures and traditions will include cowboy poetry and Gros Ventre tipi design from Montana, traditional corona making for Mexican quinceañeras and Basque-style accordion playing from Idaho, Wasco twining and Mexican Purepecha woodworking from Oregon, and Cambodian dance and Makah carving from Washington.

The Festival will also involve local trade unions and the Washington State Culinary Apprenticeship Program, which use the apprenticeship model to teach skills.

Since 1972, Northwest Folklife's celebration of the music, dance, visual arts and other traditions of the people of the Pacific Northwest has become a festival hallmark. Sometimes the communities sharing at the festival consist of people of the same ethnic or folk backgrounds. In other instances, the community is a family group or is made up of people who share the same line of work.

Generation to Generation will exhibit a wide array of ethnic, occupational, religious and artistic traditions and will deepen the audience's understanding of the breadth of cultures and artistic expressions in the Pacific Northwest. The Festival is an interactive event in which every visitor is a participant. While investigating the fundamental theme of the mentor-apprentice relationship, every participant at the 2005 Northwest Folklife Festival will become an apprentice to the folk traditions of the Pacific Northwest.