

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 4th, 2008
EVENT DATE: AUGUST 7th-10th, 2008
Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival

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For Detailed Up-to-Date Festival Information, Visit www.DanEmmettFestival.org

Woodward Opera House Open for Tours

MOUNT VERNON - The Woodward Development Corporation will be hosting tours through the Woodward Opera House, America's oldest authentic 19th century theater, during the 2008 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival, held August 7th through the 10th.

Guides will be available to explain the progress of the project to date and explain the mission and objectives of the organizations promoting the restoration project.

Situated at the corner of South Main and Vine Street in the heart of downtown Mount Vernon, the Woodward Opera House (built in 1850-51) occupies the third and fourth floor of the old style historic commercial building. Mount Vernon's own Dan Emmett was one of the many performers who graced the theater stage during its time.

With funds provided by local donors, the City of Mount Vernon, the State of Ohio, and the Save America's Treasures grant administered by the National Park Service, a team of architects and historians has been at work completing the schematic design for the performing arts facility. The project has been divided into 8 phases. Phase 1, 2 and now 3 are complete, as the exterior renovation was finished at the beginning of July 2007. The Woodward exterior now has its original look back. Phase 4 will begin as soon as the balance of funds are raised to move forward with that portion of the project. Approximately \$2 million towards the \$6.6 million needed for Phase 4 has been raised.

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Come see the results of the recent work. Visit during the Festival and you will (1) learn what the team has learned about the 1884 layout of the theater, lobby and entranceways; (2) see the preliminary plans for restoring the Theater to its 19th century appearance and for enabling its use with twenty-first century requirements and amenities; (3) see plans for renovation of the rest of the Woodward and Annex buildings for them to become a leading cultural and performing arts venue in central Ohio; (4) witness the completed restoration of three downtown Woodward building store interiors; and (5) get a complete explanation of the recent completion of the exterior restoration work.

The Woodward Opera House will be open to the public two days during the Festival: Saturday - August 9th from Noon to 7:00 p.m. , and Sunday - August 10th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you have questions concerning the Woodward, you can visit the historic site during the Festival. For additional information on the Woodward, call 740-392-6142 or visit their web site at www.TheWoodward.org.

Highlights of the Festival this year include performances by Micky Dolenz of The Monkees, Phil Dirt and The Dozers, the All-Ohio State Fair Band, Knox Idol, and a wide variety of other local musicians and performers. A juried fine arts and crafts fair, a homemades and trades show, a flower show, a quilt show, a motorcycle show, and an antique & classic car show are also scheduled as part of the four day Festival.

The 2008 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival runs August 7th-10th in Downtown Mount Vernon with various activities each day. For detailed scheduling information, visit the Festival website at www.DanEmmettFestival.org. The 2008 Festival is made possible through the contributions of Ariel, First-Knox National Bank, Time Warner Cable, WMVO, WQIO, WNZR, I-Conn Video Productions, Mount Vernon News, and the Knox County Convention & Visitors Bureau. For additional information, contact the Festival at (740) 392-FEST (3378).

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