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## **Seattle to Celebrate Seeger's 90<sup>th</sup>** ***Admiral Theater throws a 'Hootenanny' for Icon***

**SEATTLE**, Wash. (April 3, 2009) — Joining in the national celebration for Pete Seeger's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, **The Historic Admiral Theater** will host an evocative, multimedia, hootenanny to honor the career and influence of this legendary humanitarian often called the "father of folk-music."

The May 3 event — entitled "**For Pete's Sake: Sing!**" — takes place at West Seattle's landmark theater on Sunday afternoon and evening and includes a film documentary followed by a hootenanny of Seeger and Seeger-related songs. Anchoring the concert will be the nine-piece Seattle band, **Tom Colwell & The Southbound Odyssey**. Seattle author and historian **Clay Eals** will serve as emcee for the event.

Seeger popularized the word "hootenanny" after he visited Seattle in the late 1930s while travelling with fellow folk songster Woody Guthrie.

A portion of the proceeds from the May 3 show will benefit the **Northwest Folklife Festival**, for which Seeger performed in 1997.

"Northwest Folklife is proud to join the efforts of the Admiral Theater, Clay Eals and Tom Colwell in celebrating Pete Seeger's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday," says Robert Townsend, executive director of Northwest Folklife. "The Northwest has been one of the centers of the folk music revival, and Pete's visit to the Northwest Folklife Festival in 1997 inspired another generation of community music-makers."



The May 3 event features the award-winning 2007 documentary, "Pete Seeger: The Power of Song," which screens at 4 p.m. The concert will follow at 7 p.m.

Seattle's Seeger event takes place the same day as dozens of other Seeger tribute concerts all over the country. The most prominent such show is scheduled at New York City's Madison Square Garden and features a stellar lineup of headliners, including Bruce Springsteen, Arlo Guthrie, Emmylou Harris, Joan Baez, Judy Collins, Kris Kristofferson, Roger McGuinn, Buffy Sainte-Marie and Tom Paxton, along with Seeger himself.

"Our goal is to pay tribute to Seeger by being a part of this national collaboration," says **Dinah Brein-McClellan**, director of entertainment for the Admiral Theater. "The documentary is a stunning summary of Pete Seeger's long and inspiring life, and the hootenanny that follows will be a perfect way to carry on the Seeger tradition."

Colwell, a gifted singer and guitarist with a wide repertoire of Seeger and Seeger-related songs, was a fixture of the Seattle folk scene and toured nationally in the 1970s. In the 1980s and 1990s, he continued his music-making for retreats and other large gatherings and reconstituted a band in recent years to provide musical support for events to promote the award-winning 2007 biography "Steve Goodman: Facing the Music."

Eals, a longtime journalist, is the author of the Goodman biography, which sold out its first printing of 5,000 copies and is in its second printing. In his eight years of research for the Goodman book, Eals twice interviewed Seeger, along with more than 1,080 sources including many of the same musicians who are performing at the Seeger event in New York City. He will bring his knowledge of the folk scene to the Admiral Theater event in weaving stories with the music.

In true Seeger-esque fashion, Brein-McClellan, Colwell and Eals are seeking to broaden the participation in Seeger's 90<sup>th</sup> to involve selected musicians who may want to join them onstage for a song or two at this once-in-a-lifetime event. Those interested in joining the May 3 slate should e-mail their interest, a word (brief) about their association with or memory of Seeger and what song(s) they might like to bring to the hootenanny to Tom Colwell at [SouthboundOdyssey@tomcolwell.com](mailto:SouthboundOdyssey@tomcolwell.com), Dinah Brein-McClellan at [Dinah@AdmiralEntertainment.com](mailto:Dinah@AdmiralEntertainment.com), or Clay Eals at [ceals@comcast.net](mailto:ceals@comcast.net).

The event will feature other unique elements, including the screening of never-before-seen footage of Seeger's 1997 Northwest Folklife Festival performance.

Admission for the film only is \$8. The hootenanny is \$10. A special discounted \$15 ticket covers both events.

Tickets can be purchased through Brown Paper Tickets in advance or on May 3 at the theater.

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