

**The Smithsonian Institution at Mars Hill College**  
*New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*  
***Docent Application***

**Contents of this Packet:**

About the Experience  
Expectations and Responsibilities  
Contact Information and Application

**Questions?**

Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies at Mars Hill College

Karen Paar

Director and Archivist

(828) 689-1262; [kpaar@mhc.edu](mailto:kpaar@mhc.edu)

Amy Carraux

Program Coordinator

(828) 689-1571; [acarraux@mhc.edu](mailto:acarraux@mhc.edu)

**Visit:** [www.mhc.edu/newharmonies](http://www.mhc.edu/newharmonies) and [www.museumonmainstreet.org/newharmonies/index.htm](http://www.museumonmainstreet.org/newharmonies/index.htm)

*New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* has been made possible in Mars Hill by the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

*New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* is a part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

## About the Experience

*Listen to America's music and hear the story of freedom. It's the story of people in a New World, places they have left behind, and ideas they have brought with them. It is the story of people who were already here, but whose world was remade. The distinct cultural identities of all these people are carried in song- both sacred and secular. Their music tracks the unique history of many peoples reshaping each other into one incredibly diverse and complex people – Americans. Their music is the roots of American music.*

*New Harmonies*, a first-rate Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition, tells the American musical story through the use of photographs, instruments, lyrics, and artist profiles. The exhibition features interactive kiosks devoted to American music genres such as, but not limited to, blues, country, folk, spirituals, and gospel music. A listening station provides an opportunity to experience the music firsthand. The Ramsey Center for Regional Studies will develop its own permanent corresponding exhibit showcasing the history and heritage of Madison County music. This exhibition will highlight Bascom Lamar Lunsford's lifework as the "Minstrel of Appalachia."

Docents will be an integral component to the success of *New Harmonies* at Mars Hill College, and we are so thankful for your interest. Docents will be the greeters and the helpers, the ones to inspire conversation and to answer questions. Docents will make the exhibition and the experience come alive. Don't worry, though, you don't have to be expert on roots music! We'll do everything in our power to make sure you have all the information you'll need, and we will always be open to suggestions.

### ***New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* at Mars Hill College**

**Dates:** September 25 – November 6, 2010

**Location:** Weizenblatt Gallery  
Moore Auditorium, Mars Hill College  
79 Cascade Street  
Mars Hill, NC 28754

**Hours:** *By Appointment OR*  
Tuesday – Friday, 11am – 5pm  
Wednesday until 7pm  
Saturday and Sunday, 12pm – 4pm  
Closed Monday

## Docent Responsibilities and Expectations

### Responsibilities:

- To create a warm and inviting atmosphere for *New Harmonies*
- To make the exhibition “come alive” for participants of all ages through thoughtful dialogue and questions
- To maintain security and oversight of the exhibition and possible monies at all times
- To share your talents and connections, to have fun, and to learn from this great experience
- To expose your friends, family and community members to this unique opportunity

### Expectations:

- We kindly ask all docents to sign up for at least one shift for the duration of the exhibition. For example, a docent would work every Tuesday 11am-2pm from September 25 – November 6, 2010.
- The exhibition needs to be staffed at all times during open hours. You are welcome to take breaks as needed; however, please make sure your break time is covered.
- If you are unable to cover your shift, please give Ramsey Center staff at least 24 hours notice.
- Please arrive for your shift at least 15 minutes early.

### Docent Shifts:

Tuesday (Shift One):	11am – 2pm
Tuesday (Shift Two):	2pm – 5pm
Wednesday (Shift One):	11am – 2pm
Wednesday (Shift Two):	2pm – 5pm
Wednesday (Shift Three):	5pm – 7pm
Thursday (Shift One):	11am – 2pm
Thursday (Shift Two):	2pm – 5pm
Friday (Shift One):	11am – 2pm
Friday (Shift Two):	2pm – 5pm
Saturday:	12pm – 4pm
Sunday:	12pm – 4pm

We kindly ask that docents sign up for at least one shift for the duration of the exhibition. We feel this will provide a more organized exhibition, but also a more fulfilling experience for you as a docent. If you are interested in being a docent, but the aforementioned times do not fit your schedule, please contact us. There is a degree of flexibility during this early planning period. Please don't feel limited to one slot. Again, many thanks.

**Docent Application**

Please return this form to Amy Carraux, Ramsey Center Program Coordinator

[acarraux@mhc.edu](mailto:acarraux@mhc.edu) or (828) 689-1571

P.O. Box 6706, Mars Hill, NC 28754

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Music Genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Treat:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Docent Shifts:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**No experience is necessary to serve as a docent, but we would like to know your skills, experiences and passions. Please tell us a bit about yourself.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about New Harmonies, and what made you want to serve as a docent?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What do you hope to gain from this experience? How could we help you be most successful?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_