

Celebrate Traditions at Festival & Institute

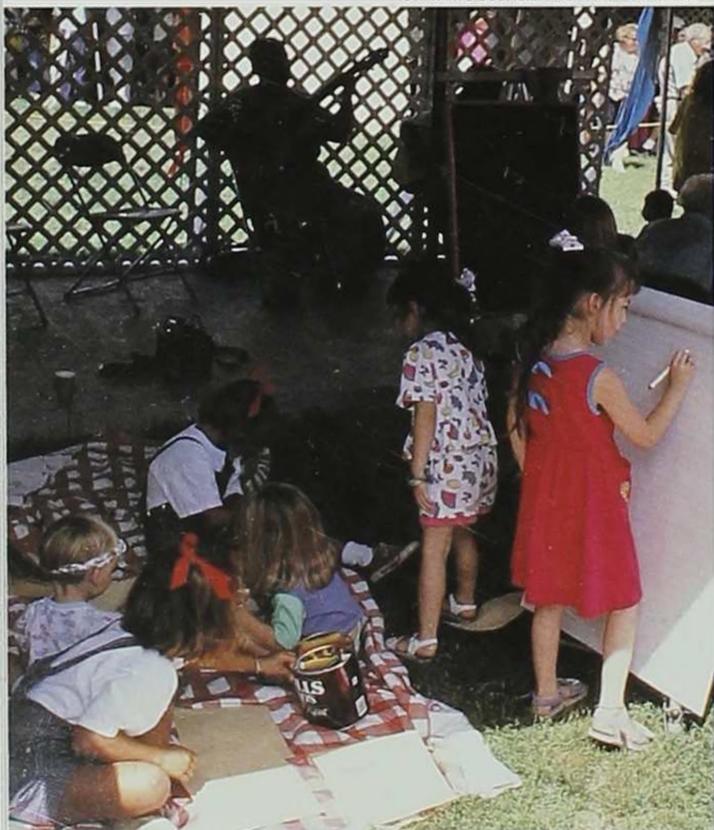
For a hearty helping of Iowa's cultural heritage, don't miss the Festival of Iowa Folklife, June 15-17, in Waterloo, Iowa. Folk artists from Iowa's refugee and immigrant communities, as well as many of those from the Sesquicentennial Festival of Iowa Folklife, will share traditional music, dance, food, crafts, stories, and more.

Festival visitors will be treated to free performances by Bosnian dancers, Nuer drummers, Lao dancers, Iraqi *oud* players, Mexican guitarists, blues bands, African American gospel quartets and choirs, Old Time bands, folklorico dancers, Scandinavian musicians, and mariachi bands. Traditional craft demonstrators will include Indian *mehndi* artists, Mexican paper flower and piñata makers, Tai Dam silversmiths, Hmong *paj ntaub* artists, Lao weavers, quilters, Bosnian crocheters and *cilim* weavers, and Nuer beadworkers and hairbraiders.

- Teachers, librarians, and museum educators will be interested in the annual Iowa Folklife and Prairie Voices Institute (June 14-16), a special opportunity for an in-depth learning experience. The festival is the institute's field school.

- Ready for more music? Headlining this tri-annual multi-

cultural festival will be artists from "Global Sounds, Heartland Beats," a touring project of Arts Midwest and seven states of the region. Listen to the flying fingers of Irish accordianist Paddy O'Brien and Chulrua from Minneapolis, the fast-paced Croatian *tamburitzas* of Vatra from Milwaukee, and the hard-driving Detroit blues harmonica of Little Sonny Willis. Also showcased will be the romantic



Young festival-goers practice their own arts while listening to musicians at the Sesquicentennial Festival of Iowa Folklife in 1996.



IOWA ARTS COUNCIL: PHOTO BY KENN SHRAEDER

At the 1996 Festival of Iowa Folklife, Amana tinsmith Bill Metz uses traditional hand tools and presses to bend sheets of tin into pails, candle holders, and whistles. A retired metalworker, Metz follows traditional Amana forms.

canciones of Des Moines's Las Guitarras de Mexico, and soulful blues and jazz of Iowa City's Kevin Burt and the Instigators.

- Hungry? Visit the sales booths and demonstrations of food from Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Vietnam, Laos, Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq, and the Sudan as well as Dutch, Swedish, Norwegian, German, Amana, Jewish, Danish, Italian, and African American foods.

- Eager to shop? Count on browsing a wide variety of crafts from Iowa traditional artists, tapes, CDs, books, t-shirts, and Iowa tourism items.

The Grout Museum and the Waterloo Center for the Arts will open two exhibits as companion pieces to the festival. *Patterns of Culture* and *Celebrating Traditions: Ethnic Arts in Iowa* explore how Iowa's textile traditions and holiday celebrations have changed over time and as a result of contact among different culture groups in our state.

The festival is produced by the Iowa Folklife Program of the Iowa Arts Council (Department of Cultural Affairs), in collaboration with local organizations. The Iowa Folklife Program documents, preserves, and promotes the traditional culture of all of our state's residents through its programs and services. Its purpose is to reaffirm folk art's value to its bearers and their communities as well as to other Iowans, to identify traditions that can provide income for folk artists, and to introduce those traditions to Iowa students to foster understanding of the transitions all new Americans must undergo.

For more on programs and services, and for festival and institute details, contact the Iowa Arts Council at the State Historical Building, 600 East Locust, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Phone Riki Saltzman, 515-242-6195; or Karen Heege, 515-281-6911. www.culturalaffairs.org/iac/folklife/2001/festivalandinstitutes.htm

—by Rachele H. Saltzman
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