



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Diego Public Library to Offer Film/Discussion Series on Popular Music *Six-Part Program will be Held at the Central Library from October 16 to November 21*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library will host a six-week program series featuring documentary film screenings about twentieth-century American popular music, with discussions led by San Diego State University (SDSU) professor Dr. Eric Smigel, School of Music and Dance.

The series “America’s Music: A Film History of Our Popular Music from Blues to Bluegrass to Broadway” is intended to enlighten audiences about uniquely American musical genres including blues and gospel, Broadway, jazz, bluegrass and country, rock ‘n’ roll, mambo, and hip hop. San Diego Public Library is one of fifty sites nationwide selected to host this program series. “America’s Music” is a project by the Tribeca Film Institute in collaboration with the American Library Association, Tribeca Flashpoint, and the Society for American Music. “America’s Music” has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor.

“America’s Music,” designed for a general audience, will introduce genres of twentieth-century American popular music that are deeply connected to the history, culture, and geography of the United States. Older and younger Americans alike will have the chance to recognize how the cultural landscape that they take for granted today has been influenced by the development of the popular musical forms discussed in this series. Each of the six programs in the America’s Music series will examine an important American musical genre in the context of key social and historical developments, with events in American music history acting as a catalyst for that examination.

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Additional events will be held by the San Diego Public Library and its partnering institutions in this venture, San Diego State University’s School of Music and Dance, and KSDS Jazz 88.3, San Diego’s premier jazz radio station, affiliated with San Diego City College.

The San Diego Public Library was chosen for the program by Tribeca Film Institute, in partnership with the American Library Association. The National Endowment for the Humanities provides support for “America’s Music.” A total of 50 nonprofit institutions were selected to participate. Each one has received materials and resources (films, written materials, publicity materials, access to an electronic discussion list and project Web site), inclusion in a training workshop, and a cash grant of \$2,500.

Calendar of Events October and November 2013

The San Diego Public Library will present “America’s Music: A Film History of Our Popular Music from Blues to Bluegrass to Broadway,” a six-part initiative featuring curated viewing and discussion programs, with additional programming. These events will be accompanied by a selection of compelling documentary films, essays written by eminent scholars, and an extensive resource guide for additional reading, websites, videos and DVDs. Each program will last about two hours, including a 15-to-20 minute introductory presentation, one hour of viewing, and a 30-minute discussion. Programs will be moderated by Professor Eric Smigel, SDSU School of Music and Dance. Viewings and discussions will be held at the Shiley Special Events Suite, 9th floor of the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common, located at 330 Park Boulevard in downtown San Diego’s East Village, near Petco Park. Locations of additional events are indicated below. All events are open to the public, and admission is free. For more information, contact the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common at 619-236-5800.

- **Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Shiley Special Events Suite)**
America's Music, Session 1: The Blues and Gospel Music
Screening and discussion
Martin Scorsese Presents the Blues, Episode 1: Feel Like Going Home
Say Amen, Somebody
- **Thursday, October 17, 2013, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium)**
America's Music, Session 1: The Blues and Gospel Music
Live performance -- KSDS Jazz 88 All-Stars. They will play styles from all six parts of the series, interspersed with narration by Claudia Russell, KSDS Program Manager.

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- **Wednesday, October 23, 2013, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Shiley Special Events Suite)**
America's Music: Session 2: Broadway and Tin Pan Alley
Screening and discussion
Broadway, the American Musical, Episode 2: Syncopated City (1919-1933)
- **Thursday, October 24, 2013, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (Auditorium)**
America's Music: Session 2: Broadway and Tin Pan Alley
Live performance - Broadway solos and duets performed by Nancy Snow Carr, soprano;
Geno Carr, baritone; Terry O'Donnell, piano.
- **Wednesday, October 30, 2013, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Shiley Special Events Suite)**
America's Music, Session 3: Swing Jazz
Screening and discussion
Ken Burns Jazz, Episode 6: Swing: The Velocity of Celebration
The International Sweethearts of Rhythm
- **Thursday, October 31, 2013, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (9th floor Qualcomm Dome Terrace– Rooftop Jazz!)**
America's Music, Session 3: Swing Jazz
Live performance – KSDS Jazz 88 All-Stars Trio
- **Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Shiley Special Events Suite)**
America's Music, Session 4: Country and Bluegrass
Screening and discussion
- **Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Shiley Special Events Suite)**
America's Music, Session 5: Rock
Screening and discussion
- **Monday, November 18, 2013, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Special Events Suite)**
America's Music, Session 6: Latin Rhythms from Mambo to Hip Hop
Screening and discussion
- Live performance events for November dates TBA.

Inspiring lifelong learning through connections to knowledge and each other.

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