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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU PRESENTS SPRING FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

CHARLESTON, IL.--In celebration of spring, Eastern Illinois University will present its annual "Celebration: A Festival of the Arts" on Friday-Sunday, April 29-30 and May 1.

The festival of the arts is held annually in April and includes a wide variety of events both indoors and in the quad area near Booth Library.

"Mr. Myers," a Caribbean rock band, will kick-off Celebration's featured artists from 2-4 p.m. Friday on the Library Quad Stage.

The band, sponsored by the University Board's Mainstage, features sounds from steel drums, a saxophone and rock guitar to produce a unique blend of calypso, Caribbean rock and reggae.

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CELEBRATION

"Mr. Myers" began performing in 1981 and has since become a favorite dance band in clubs and campuses throughout the Midwest having previously performed at EIU. They released their first full album in 1986 called "Go the Distance."

The band members are from DeKalb, Ill., and include Todd Donnelly, Damien Smith, Brian Budzik, Rodney Ledbetter and Bill Norton.

The University of Illinois Russian Folk Orchestra will also be featured on Friday at 7 p.m. in Dvorak Concert Hall.

The orchestra was founded in 1974 and is co-sponsored by the University of Illinois' Russian and Eastern European Center and the School of Music.

Directed by John Garvey, the Russian Folk Orchestra appears regularly throughout the Midwest with its program of Russian folk music and classical selections adapted for folk orchestra.

The group is outfitted in traditional Russian dress and plays balalaikas and domras, traditional Russian instruments.

The balalaika, with a distinctive triangular shape and a plaintive, rich sound is played with the index finger. The domra, similar to the balalaika, is circular shaped and played with a pic.

Featured soloist with the Russian Folk Orchestra is Frances Crawford, a soprano who performs opera, oratorio and recitals throughout the Midwest. She has been on the U of I faculty since 1969.

Celebration will also feature Eastern Illinois University's Jazz Ensemble at 7 p.m. Saturday in Dvorak Concert Hall. The Ensemble, directed by Allan Horney, recently received "Outstanding Performance" honors at the 30th annual Collegiate Jazz Festival held at Notre Dame.

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The Jazz Ensemble will present segments of the same program which will be performed on May 1 with Mel Torme at Sangamon State University. Both concerts are sponsored by Consolidated Communications Inc., Mattoon.

On Sunday at 7 p.m. in Dvorak Concert Hall, "Puttin' on the Hits" is back by popular acclaim. Eastern's talented faculty and civil service staff will join forces to provide a variety show of lip syncing and a few live performances.

The music to be performed ranges from U2 and George Michaels to Dueling Banjos. Among the participants from Eastern are Assistant Dean of Student Services James E. Johnson, Director of Percussion Studies John Lane, Journalism assistant professor James Saunders, Zoology professor Dr. William Ridgeway and Financial Aid counselor Elmer "Jack" Pullen, who will perform "Ol' Man River" by the Temptations.

John Coffey, academic adviser for EIU's Prescriptive Curriculum Admissions Program, is coordinating "Puttin' on the Hits," sponsored by the EIU Black Student Union. He will lip sync a segment of Bill Cosby's comedy routine. Coffey said he hopes to have his "stars" dress for the part.

Other activities planned during Celebration include children's theatre and art events, children's stories, crafts and food booths, workshops for all ages and art, music and history exhibits.

Admission to the festival is free. Tickets for featured events, including the Russian Folk Orchestra, EIU Show Choir (performing from 1-1:45 p.m. Saturday in Dvorak Concert Hall) and the EIU Jazz Ensemble, are \$3 for adults and \$1 for students and senior citizens. Tickets for children's activities and theatre events range from 25 cents to \$1.

Tickets for these events may be purchased at the Fine Arts Ticket Office the week of Monday, April 25, from 1-5 p.m., and on April 30 and May 1 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets for most events will also be available at the door prior to performance.