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News Release
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Music Festival preserves history of the West through song and dance.

On Saturday, October 6 the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon will feature an all day event on music interpreting frontier heritage and the pioneer dream. Usually the Center offers exhibits, lectures, and films to teach history of the American West, but the Oregon Trail Music Festival offers another avenue to learn how the historic pioneer journey became part of our national identity.

Programs throughout the day will feature folk songs carried through generations, traditional American roots music, and contemporary tunes about western life. Programs start at 9:30 with a lecture and slide presentation "Music on the Oregon Trail" by Center Director Sarah LeCompte. At 10:30, a demonstration of figure dancing and country dances by costumed dancers accompanied by traditional acoustic music in the lobby will introduce audiences to this important custom of prairie society. Visitors can observe or join in the dancing.

At noon in the Leo Adler Theater, versatile musician Al MacLeod of Summerville, Oregon performs historic western songs with contemporary compositions about life in the west. Folksinger Hank Cramer begins a 45 minute set at 1:00 pm with original, traditional, and contemporary folk songs about people and places in the west. The family band "Kilts Askew" from Spokane takes the stage at 2:00 pm to explore the Celtic-Appalachian roots of traditional frontier music.

At 3:00 Al MacLeod will lead a sing along and open stage invitation to any musicians who wish to share a song or instrumental piece. Traditionally this has been an opportunity for talented local musicians to show off their skills on fiddle, banjo or voice with an appreciative audience. In addition to programs in the theater, musicians will also be playing in the lobby and on the front porch throughout the day. The Oregon Trail Shop will feature an array of CDs, gifts, and books for music lovers. Music based activities for children will be available in the Wagon Box Theater.

Visitors may take advantage of the great fall weather by bringing a picnic or planning a walk on the trails at the Interpretive Center. The Oregon Trail Music Festival is co-sponsored by Trail Tenders.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is 5 miles east of Baker City on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I – 84. For more information, call (541) 523-1843 or visit oregontrail.blm.gov. The Interpretive Center is operated by the Bureau of Land Management and is a federal fee site. Children 15 or under are free. Federal passes are accepted.

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