



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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The Dixie Hummingbirds Entertain Audiences at Happy Days Lodge

Brecksville, Ohio - On Saturday, January 31, *The Dixie Hummingbirds* perform at Happy Days Lodge in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

The concert begins at 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. The Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series presented by the National Park Service and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association (CVNPA), celebrates the cultural legacy of the Cuyahoga Valley. This series is supported by the Akron Area Arts Alliance, Cable 9, Residence Inn by Marriott, Windstream Yellow Pages, and WKSU 89.7 FM. Admission: \$15 adults, \$10 CVNPA members, and \$5 children 3 - 12. General seating. Advance ticket sales are available by calling (330) 657-2909 or by stopping in at Park Place in Peninsula store. You can create your own subscription series—enjoy three great concerts for one low price: \$40 adults, \$25 CVNPA members, \$15 children ages 3 - 12.

The Dixie Hummingbirds are an institution. While remaining deeply rooted in the gospel tradition, their influence has made itself known far-and-wide in American popular music. Perhaps Isaac Hayes has put it most eloquently: "In the beginning, after the word, and before there was rap, hip-hop, disco, punk, funk, metal, soul, Motown, rock-a-billy, before bebop, doo-wop, and the big band swing there was *The Dixie Hummingbirds*."

The group began their remarkable journey as one of the longest-lasting groups in gospel music in 1920s South Carolina, and in 1939, they began recording on the prestigious Decca label. By the 1940s, *The Dixie Hummingbirds* were wowing audiences at New York's first integrated nightclub and in the 1950s, they routinely brought down the house at the Apollo Theater.

After their 70th Anniversary, all but one member, Ira Tucker, retired. After singing 69 years with the "*Birds*", Tucker chose an elite group of young men to help carry on the legacy of *The Dixie Hummingbirds*. In late 2008, Ira Tucker passed away. Current band members, William Bright, baritone singer; Lyndon Baines Jones, lead guitarist; Willie Coleman, bass guitarist; Torrey Nettles, tenor singer and drummer; and bass singer Cornell McKnight honor his musical influence and memory by continuing to share the music of his life and career.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



A digital image of *The Dixie Hummingbirds* is online at www.nps.gov/cuva/parknews/newsreleases.htm.

Upcoming Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series Concerts:

Saturday, February 14

Tannahill Weavers

Tannahill Weavers is one of Scotland's premier traditional bands. Their diverse repertoire spans the centuries with fire-driven instrumentals, topical songs, and original ballads and lullabies. Their music demonstrates to old and young alike the rich musical heritage of the Celtic people. These versatile musicians have received worldwide accolades over the years for their exuberant performances and outstanding recording efforts that seemingly can't get better ... yet continue to do just that.

Friday, February 27

Slide

Slide was formed when three Dublin-based musicians were invited to sessions by a local festival organizer. The weekend was a meeting of musical minds, approach, and style. Add new members and accolades such as "The Best Newcomers" award by Irish Music Magazine in 2001 and "Young Musicwide Award 2006," and it's easy to see why this band is often called the future of Irish music. These stellar musicians showcase their expertise on fiddle, bouzouki, bodhran, and guitar.

Happy Days Lodge, located at 500 West Streetsboro Road (State Route 303) in Peninsula, 1 mile west of State Route 8, is a restored Civilian Conservation Corps structure that provides a rustic ambiance for folk and traditional concerts, theater, lectures, and special event rentals. For more information on rentals, call CVNPA at (330) 657-2909, ext. 119.

CVNPA is a nonprofit organization created to engage public support for the park and provide services to enhance public use and enjoyment of the park. For more information about CVNPA and its membership program, visit www.cvnpa.org or call (330) 657-2909.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information about the park, visit www.nps.gov/cuva/ or www.dayinthevalley.com/ or call (216) 524-1497 or (800) 445-9667.

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