



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Frederick Law Olmsted
National Historic Site

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Frederick Law Olmsted NHS Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Olmsted Park Hosts New Family-Oriented Festival of Music and Landscape on Saturday, June 7

On **Saturday, June 7**, several Brookline and Boston organizations are presenting a new outdoor family festival celebrating music and landscape. The **Sounds and Scenes Festival** takes place from **10:00 am to 1:00 pm** on the **Brookline side of Leverett Pond** in the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed **Olmsted Park** along the famed "emerald necklace" park system. The festival is **free**, open to the public, and will feature concerts and a variety of participatory activities geared primarily to younger children **ages 3 to 10**. All activities will directly or indirectly involve music, sound, or some connection to the outdoor landscape and nature. For further information on the Sounds and Scenes Festival, contact Brookline Adult & Community Education at **617-730-2700**, or go to www.brooklineadulted.org.

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WHO: National Park Service/Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline Adult & Community Education, Town of Brookline Parks and Open Space Division, Emerald Necklace Conservancy present

WHAT: **Sounds and Scenes Festival**, a **free** outdoor family festival celebrating music and landscape for younger children.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Family concerts **Maria Sangiolo** (10:00 am), **Brookline Music School faculty and students** (11:00 am), **Lorraine and Bennett Hammond** (12:00 pm)

Participatory activities for children ages three (3) to ten (10) offered by local community, cultural, and educational organizations, plus a pre-festival guided birding by ear walk (9:00 am) and a landscape walk for adults (1:00 pm).

Picnicking is encouraged.

WHERE: Allerton Overlook (intersection of Allerton Street and Pond Avenue), **Brookline side of Leverett Pond in Olmsted Park**

WHEN: **Saturday, June 7, 2008** - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

HOW: MBTA Green Line "D" line Brookline Village stop and "E" line Riverway stop, and Bus Numbers 39, 60, 65, 66

For further information: 617-730-2700,

www.brooklineadulted.org

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The Sounds and Scenes Festival will present 45-minute children's concerts at 10:00 am, 11:00 am, and 12:00 pm in the grass oval below Allerton Overlook at the intersection of Pond Avenue and Allerton Street, Brookline. Festival-goers are welcome to bring blankets and enjoy a picnic on the landscape.

Connecticut-based singer-songwriter **Maria Sangiolo**, winner of the 2007 Parents Choice Award for her 2007 CD *Under the Mystic Sea*, will perform at 10:00. Originally from the Boston area and a graduate of Simmons College and the local coffee house circuit, Maria has performed at venues and festivals around the United States.

A group of **faculty and students from the Brookline Music School** take the stage at 11:00. Founded in 1924, the Brookline Music School offers comprehensive music instruction to people of all ages and backgrounds in the local community and sponsors a full schedule of concerts and performances throughout the year.

At 12:00, nationally recognized folksingers and educators **Lorraine and Bennett Hammond** of Brookline will perform a lively set. Lorraine Hammond is an accomplished Celtic harp and five-string banjo player and is perhaps the nation's foremost exponent of the Appalachian dulcimer. Bennett Hammond, a talented acoustic guitar player and teacher, has toured around the U.S. with his wife Lorraine since 1986.

For further information on the performers, go to www.mariasangiolo.com (Maria Sangiolo), www.bmsmusic.org (Brookline Music School), and www.greatacoustics.org (Lorraine and Bennett Hammond).

In addition to these concerts, a number of local community, cultural, and educational organizations are presenting hands-on activities that connect both young people and adults to landscape and nature, primarily through the media of music or sound. These activities will be in the vicinity of the concert area, on the Brookline side of Leverett Pond. Food vendors will also be on-hand nearby with lunch items, snacks, and beverages.

Two local youth choruses will invite children and accompanying adults to join them in musical activities. The Boston City Singers will lead a participatory group sing on the themes of landscape and nature. PALS Children's Chorus fourth graders will be performing choreography of selections from Camille St.-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals."

Sociedad Latina of Boston's Mission Hill will conduct a rhythm-making activity using natural elements such as sticks, stones, and leaves. Another Boston-based group, La Pinata youth folkloric performance group of Jamaica Plain, will invite the public to make musical

instruments from recycled materials. Massachusetts College of Art and Design will have a table nearby for decorating these instruments.

The Friends of Fairsted, a non-profit supporting the mission of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, will present a "Meet Mr. Olmsted" question and answer session with Jamaica Plain activist Gerry Wright as Frederick Law Olmsted. Other activities will be offered by the High Street Hill Association, the Friends of Leverett Pond, the Brookline Recreation Department, the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, the Emerald Necklace Bird Club, the morning's performers, and others. In addition, the Emerald Necklace Bird Club will offer a beginner's birding by ear walk immediately preceding the festival at 9:00 am, and Hugh Mattison of the Friends of Leverett Pond will lead a one-hour walk through Olmsted Park for adults immediately after, starting at 1:00 pm.

The primary groups organizing the Sounds and Scenes Festival are the National Park Service/Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (www.nps.gov/frla), Brookline Adult & Community Education (www.brooklineadulted.org), Brookline's Parks and Open Space Division (<http://www.townofbrooklinemass.com/Parks/aboutus/index.shtml>), and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy (www.emeraldnecklace.org). The official media sponsor is the Boston Parents' Paper (www.parenthood.com).

According to Mark Swartz, National Park Service ranger at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, this festival is the latest in a series of programs his site has organized over the years in partnership with Brookline Adult & Community Education. These two Brookline-based organizations have used various arts and humanities as a "hook" for educating the community through public programming about the legacy of renowned park designer Frederick Law Olmsted and the value of landscape generally. Last year's collaboration was a well-received panel discussion and performance on connections between landscape and music ("From Beethoven to Ballads"). The success of that

event led the two organizations to further tap this theme through a family-oriented program.

Brookline's Division of Parks and Open Space and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy came on board this year to help organize a larger event at Olmsted Park along the Olmsted-designed "emerald necklace" park system. In addition, the High Street Hill Association (www.highstreethill.org), whose members have devoted the past 27 years to maintaining and restoring their neighborhood park "jewel," has provided important financial and advisory support.

This event is funded by a grant from the Brookline Community Foundation. Brookline Community Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote a strong, engaged and inclusive community by identifying and raising public awareness of community needs, inspiring philanthropy and volunteerism, advocating for equal access to community resources, and supporting local non-profit organizations. Additional financial support has been provided by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.