



# National Council for the Traditional Arts

## 2018 Annual Report



Photo courtesy Remsberg Inc.



# Letter from the Chair

I think the appropriate response is “WOW!” – what a year for the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA)! Thanks to your support and thousands of others, we have much to celebrate. My deepest thanks to the entire keep the momentum going, and to continue to strengthen the vibrant living cultural heritage of our country.

This has been a year of major transition for our organization. Julia Olin ended her tenure as executive director in October to assume the role of artistic director; we pay tribute to her remarkable 28 years of service and leadership at NCTA. Under her vision and guidance, the organization’s impact and influence has never been greater. Julia is succeeded by Lora Bottinelli, an accomplished arts administrator and folk-arts advocate, who built the Ward Museum in Salisbury, Maryland, into a major regional cultural destination and resource.

This year marked the 78<sup>th</sup> annual National Folk Festival in our new host city, Salisbury, Maryland. Despite rainy weather, the festival attracted over 63,000 visitors to this thriving community in the heart of the Delmarva Peninsula. City officials and townsfolk alike were thrilled with the outcome, which leveraged community infrastructure improvements and promoted civic pride throughout the region. Salisbury fielded more than 1,000 festival volunteers, demonstrating an extraordinary level of grassroots engagement in year one of the National’s three-year residency.

NCTA supported several other successful festival partnerships throughout the country in 2018. An estimated 175,000 visitors attended the Montana Folk Festival in Butte, Montana. The Lowell Folk Festival in Lowell, Massachusetts, brought 150,000 visitors in July and the Richmond Folk Festival in Richmond, Virginia, attracted a crowd of more than 210,000 in October. Audience enthusiasm and donations were at their highest level ever.

We continued our work with the National Endowment for the Arts in support of the National Heritage Fellowships ceremonies and with Maryland Traditions and the Maryland Tradition Heritage Awards program. Our nearly 50-year affiliation with the National Park Service remains strong, and our collaboration with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress has made it possible to digitize hundreds of hours of recordings from our vast archival holdings.

We’re eager to build on the year’s successes to further advance NCTA’s mission in the year ahead, and the board and staff will be working hard to increase organizational capacity. As the preeminent national organization dedicated to folk and traditional arts, the NCTA fills a unique need in the cultural life of our nation. I hope you will join me continuing to support this organization for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Holt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chairman of the Board

# 2018 Season Highlights

690,000+  
Event attendees

1,600+  
Artists presented



Photo courtesy Remsberg Inc.



# 78<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival

September 7-9, 2018  
Salisbury, MD

*"We pulled off our community's largest event in history. We shone a bright light...on our city, as we hosted the first of our National Folk Festivals. That event alone brought \$20M in economic impact into our county, more than 25,000 out-of-towners, 63,000 revelers, and an unprecedented level of enthusiasm touching every corner of our community."*

Jake Day, Mayor - City of Salisbury



Photo courtesy Remsberg Inc.



# 32<sup>nd</sup> Lowell Folk Festival

July 27-29, 2018

Lowell, MA

*"I've had experience with lots of different festivals but this one I felt something special."*

Neuza De Pina, Cabo Verde singer/  
festival artist - Boston, MA



Photo courtesy Phil Lupsiewicz



# 14<sup>th</sup> Richmond Folk Festival

October 12-14, 2018  
Richmond, VA

*“Another record breaking year for us! Attendance topped 200,000 for the weekend, which included what appeared to be the largest audience for a single performance on Saturday to hear Mavis Staples.”*

Lisa Sims, executive director of  
Venture Richmond



Photo courtesy NCTA



# 11<sup>th</sup> Montana Folk Festival

July 13-15, 2018  
Butte, MT

*"It brings the world to us, it's everything!"*

Katie Wilson, festival attendee -  
Bozeman, MT



Photo courtesy Montana Folk Festival



# Masters of American Music

March 14, 2018  
The Hamilton  
Washington, D.C.

*"To have such exceptional artists gathered here tonight in support of the NCTA's work is both a profound honor and an affirmation of our mission – to create powerful, authentic experiences that inspire Americans to connect, to cultivate common ground, and to appreciate the richness and diversity of our nation's complex culture."*

Julia Olin, NCTA Artistic Director



Photo courtesy Michael A. Stewart



# National Heritage Fellowships

September 26-28, 2018  
Washington, D.C.

## 2018 National Heritage Fellows

- Feryal Abbasi-Ghnaim, Milwaukie, OR
- Eddie Bond, Fries, VA
- Kelly Church, Allegan, MI
- Marion Coleman, Castro Valley, CA
- Manuel Cuevas, Nashville, TN
- Ofelia Esparza, Los Angeles, CA
- Barbara Lynn, Beaumont, TX
- Don & Cindy Roy, Gorham, ME
- Ethel Raim, New York, NY



Photo courtesy Tom Pich



# Maryland Traditions Heritage Awards

December 1, 2018  
University of Maryland Baltimore County  
Baltimore, MD

2018 Honorees:

People: The Sensational Royal Lights

Place: Curtis' Coney Island Famous Weiners

Tradition: Stuffed Ham



Photo courtesy Remsberg Inc.



# National Park Service



Partnerships throughout the country, including:

- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Richmond National Battlefield Park
- Lowell National Historical Park
- New Orleans Jazz National Heritage Park
- Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
- Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Park



Photo by Keith Pantankar  
Courtesy of Pretty Instant



# NCTA Archives

The NCTA's archive of original audio recordings dates from the 1930s, with a concentration of recordings from the 1960s to the present. The significance of the collection lies in its coverage of a broad range of traditional arts in music, dance, and narrative forms.

The NCTA continues to document its many current programs, the audio archive is growing at a rapid rate, with hundreds of hours of new recordings added each year.

In 2001, the NCTA entered into an agreement with the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress to acquire its rare and endangered archive of audio/video recordings, known as "The National Council for the Traditional Arts Collection."



Photo courtesy NCTA



# The NCTA Team

## *Board of Directors*

George Holt, Chairman  
Raleigh, North Carolina

David Morrison, President  
McLean, Virginia

Diana Parker, Vice President  
Bethesda, Maryland

John Holum, Secretary  
Annapolis, Maryland

Nathan (Bill) Pearson, Jr.,  
Treasurer  
Rye, New York

Robert Baruch  
Ellicott City, Maryland

Barry Bergey  
Bethesda, Maryland

Margaret (Peggy) Bulger  
Fernandina Beach, Florida

Michael Doucet  
Lafayette, Louisiana

Jerry Douglas  
Nashville, Tennessee

Daniel Herrera  
Washington, D.C.

Scott Lilly  
Arlington, Virginia

Laura Littlefield  
Arlington, Washington

Rick Massumi  
Washington, D.C.

Mark Mioduski  
Falls Church, Virginia

John Moe  
Worthington, Ohio

Brian Morrison  
Falls Church, Virginia

Barry Lee Pearson  
Hyattsville, Maryland

Kathy Sawyer  
Washington, D.C.

Timothy Scully, Jr.  
Falls Church, Virginia

Charlie Seemann  
Elko, Nevada

Daniel Sheehy  
Falls Church, Virginia

Dena Stoner  
Alexandria, Virginia

Chris Strachwitz  
El Cerrito, California

Andy Wallace  
Thomaston, Maine

Phil Wiggins  
Takoma Park, Maryland

Dwain Winters  
Bethesda, Maryland

## *Organization Staff*

Lora Bottinelli, Executive  
Director

Julia Olin, Artistic Director,  
Director of Special Projects &  
Initiatives

Madeleine Remez, Senior  
Associate Director

Blaine Waide, Associate  
Director

James Lightner, Accounting  
& Finance

Amy Mills, Production  
Manager

Colleen Holroyd,  
Programming Coordinator

Dudley Connell, Audio  
Archivist

Ben Tunland, Production  
Coordinator

Wendy Wang, Logistics  
Associate

Maia Daniel, Production  
Assistant



# Mission

The National Council for the Traditional Arts is the oldest folk arts organization in the nation, and the only one committed to producing live, multicultural traditional arts events and programs throughout the entire country. Since 1933, the NCTA has celebrated diversity and tradition-based creativity in American society through programs that provide powerful, authentic cultural experiences—inspiring people to connect, to cultivate common ground, and to appreciate the richness and diversity of our nation’s complex culture.

To learn more about our work, please visit [Ncta-usa.org](http://Ncta-usa.org)





# Save the Dates

Maryland Heritage Awards  
June 7, 2019

Montana Folk Festival  
July 12-14, 2019

Lowell Folk Festival  
July 26-28, 2019

National Folk Festival  
September 6-8, 2019

National Heritage Fellowships  
September 2019

Richmond Folk Festival  
October 11-13, 2019



2018 Richmond Folk Fest  
Dave Parrish Photography