

Revived Radio Program Celebrates Iowa's Diverse Cultural Heritage**Date:** Friday, February 5, 2010**Category:** Press Release

February 5, 2010 (Des Moines, IA) -- Iowa Public Radio announces the revival of an Iowa classic, Iowa Roots, beginning Saturday, February 6. The program will feature stories, music and talk with traditional artists from a variety of ethnic, geographic, occupational and religious groups found in Iowa. Iowa Roots will air statewide Saturdays and Sundays on Iowa Public Radio stations.

Iowa Roots tells the stories of Iowans, from Native American wood carvers to traditional quilters, from blues musicians to butchers. State folklorist Riki Saltzman of the Iowa Arts Council travels the state to interview people who carry on the cultural traditions, the arts, skills and knowledge that make us who we are. Then Iowa Public Radio host Julie Englander edits and broadcasts the stories Saturdays at 7:54 p.m. after Vinyl Café and Sundays at 5:30 p.m. during the "Best of IPR Talk" segment on Iowa Public Radio stations WSUI, WOI-AM, KTPR (Fort Dodge), KWOI (Carroll) and KOWI (Lamoni).

"Iowa Public Radio is pleased to collaborate on the revival of this WOI legacy program," says Mary Grace Herrington, Chief Executive Officer at Iowa Public Radio. Iowa Roots originally aired on WOI Radio in Ames and central Iowa. Herrington continues, "Now we are able to broadcast this local gem to listeners across the state."

The program is part of Iowa Public Radio's commitment to reflecting and enhancing Iowa's sense of place. Iowa Public Radio News Director, Jonathan Ahl, says, "Many people think that news reporting is just about headlines and politics, but part of our commitment to Iowa's communities is also reporting on the rich cultural heritage of our state."

"My job is to document Iowa's folkways and folk artists," Saltzman says. "I love to learn why and how people do what they do—why a century farm family keeps farming, how a gospel quartet sings harmonies, or how an Iraqi 'ud player teaches traditional tunes to his son. What we think of as everyday stuff is important—it's what connects us to each other. I'm delighted that Iowa Roots makes it possible for people from across the state to share a few moments with their neighbors.

Iowa Public Radio informs, enriches and engages Iowans through radio programming and other media. IPR enhances civic and cultural connections across the state, strengthening communities and reflecting Iowa's sense of place. For more information about this or any of Iowa Public Radio's programming, contact us at 515-725-1700.

The Iowa Arts Council enriches the quality of life for Iowans through support of the arts. For more information about Iowa Roots or any of the Iowa Arts Council's other programs, call Riki Saltzman at riki.saltz.man@iowa.gov or (515) 242-6195.