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Press Release – For Immediate Release

**NINTH ANNUAL MIDWEST FOLK FESTIVAL COMES TO
WESTERN ILLINOIS**

The ninth annual Midwest Folk Festival returns to historic Bishop Hill, located in the state's western Henry County August 1-2, 2009. The Illinois Arts Council and Bishop Hill Heritage Association in conjunction with Company of Folk, the Iowa Arts Council and Wisconsin Arts Board proudly present this free outdoor event that celebrates diverse cultures and folk artists of the sponsoring states. The once bustling 19th century communal settlement of Bishop Hill preserves a cultural legacy and provides an exciting location for this event. The annual festival has drawn thousands of visitors in its various locations.

The festival will showcase the music and dance styles of a diverse group of ethnic and folk artists from the region. Work created by approximately a dozen artists and showcasing a variety of cultures represented in the Midwest will also be on display. A family area, led by participating festival artists, will offer hands-on activities for children of all ages.

For more information contact Susan Dickson, Director of Ethnic and Folk Arts, Illinois Arts Council by phone 312/814-6740 or email susan.dickson@illinois.gov. For more information on Bishop Hill, visit www.bishophill.com, www.visithenrycounty.com, or www.bishophillartscouncil.com

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