

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gays Mills Folk Festival of Music and Dance Celebrates 30 Years of Preserving Folk Traditions: The Little Festival with the Big Heart

Gays Mills, Wisconsin - April 17, 2024 - Spring is here and the Gays Mills Folk Festival proudly announces its 30th anniversary of bringing traditional live music and dancing to the community. Join in the celebration with fun activities for all ages on Mother's Day Weekend, May 10, 11, and 12 at the Community Commerce Building at 16381 Highway 131, Gays Mills.

"This year's festival holds a special significance, commemorating thirty years of singing, playing, dancing, listening, and laughing together," said Jane Keeley, one of the organizers of the festival, "We invite everyone to join us to celebrate the beauty of spring and music and community!"

The Festival kicks off Friday evening at 7 pm with a square, contra and old timey dance to live music. All dances are taught, no experience or partner needed, and all ages are welcome.

Saturday activities for the whole family start at noon and include May crown making, May pole dance, open jams and an open stage (bring your talent), swing dance lessons, instrumental workshops conducted by evening performers, and the ever-popular fiddle bee. The Saturday evening concert begins at 7 pm and attendees can look forward to a talented lineup featuring Miss Myra and The Moonshiners, Lonesome Dan Kase, and The West Fork Gals.

[Miss Myra and The Moonshiners](#) from Minneapolis, Minnesota, bring an infectious blend of hot jazz and swing that will have audiences tapping their toes. Their powerful vocals, a smoking horn section, and sweet rhythm are guaranteed to lift spirits and fill the dance floor.

Also hailing from the Twin Cities is [Lonesome Dan Kase](#), a blues troubadour whose raw, emotive performances evoke the timeless spirit of the Mississippi Delta. Lonesome Dan's heartfelt lyrics and haunting melodies transport listeners to a bygone era of smoky juke joints and moonlit crossroads.

The West Fork Gals are a five-member-strong all-female string band who are emerging as local favorites. They say, "We started as a square dance band, and that was certainly fun. Then we started singing together and that was super fun. We love the old songs and making harmonies, we love traditional music and also have some originals. And we love sharing it!" Don't miss this chance to see them step up to the stage!

Folk Fest winds down with a good old fashioned Gospel Sing on Sunday at 11:00 am. Be sure to check out all the concurrent Gays Mills Spring Festival events, including an antique tractor pull, little britches rodeo, Sunday pancake breakfast, and more at www.gaysmills.org.

Ticket prices for the Gays Mills Folk Festival are as follows: Freewill donation for the Friday

night dance, \$15 for the Saturday night concert (\$5 children). Saturday afternoon activities are by free will donation, as is the Sunday morning Gospel Sing. More information may be obtained by calling 608-632-2720 or visiting the festival website at www.gaysmillsfolkfest.org.
The Gays Mills Folk Festival is a project of the Kickapoo Cultural Exchange.

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About Gays Mills Folk Festival:

The Gays Mills Folk Festival is an annual celebration of music and dance held in Gays Mills, Wisconsin. Founded on the principles of community, heritage, and artistic expression, the festival aims to preserve and promote folk traditions while providing a platform for both established and emerging artists to showcase their talents.

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