



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Historic Deerfield Announces Juneteenth Concert**

#### *Jubilee! A Juneteenth Concert of Early American New England Music*

(Deerfield, MA) — [Historic Deerfield](#) is bringing an all-star ensemble of early American musical performers to present a concert celebrating Juneteenth, titled [Jubilee! A Juneteenth Concert of Early American New England Music](#), featuring lively Abolitionist psalmody, spirituals, dance tunes, and chamber music from the repertoire of regional African American composers and band leaders. The concert will take place **Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Deerfield Community Center.

Juneteenth celebrates the day in 1865 when the last enslaved Americans in Texas learned of their emancipation under the law, if not always in practice. Over time it has become a national, even international, celebration of African American culture and history, and the drive to freedom.

The show will include performances of music by Greenfield's own John Putnam (c. 1817–1895), known as “the father of contradance music,” and a newly discovered manuscript of music by early Connecticut composer and fiddler Sawaney Freeman. The Ensemble will perform with period New England instruments and be joined by local “shapenote” singers led by Historic Deerfield musician in residence [Tim Eriksen](#). The performers are [Patrick Daily](#), countertenor, [Ben Hunter](#) playing the fiddle, [Loren Ludwig](#) performing New England viols, [David McCormick](#) using the baroque violin, and [Clay Zeller-Townson](#) on the bassoon and tenoroon.

“We are thrilled to present this concert,” says James Golden, Historic Deerfield’s Director of Interpretation. “This program offers a unique opportunity to explore the rich musical traditions associated with Juneteenth and abolitionism through the lens of early New England history. We’re excited to welcome this talented ensemble and celebrate Juneteenth with our community.”

Historic Deerfield’s first Juneteenth concert, held in 2022, was met with great enthusiasm from the community, selling out in advance of the show. Advance ticket purchase is encouraged.

Tickets are available through the Historic Deerfield [event page](#). The event is \$15 for adults, \$10 for Historic Deerfield members, and \$10 for youth (17 and under).

A full calendar of events for the remainder of Historic Deerfield's season can be found at [www.historic-deerfield.org/events](http://www.historic-deerfield.org/events).

To learn more about Historic Deerfield, visit the website, [historic-deerfield.org](http://historic-deerfield.org).

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**About Historic Deerfield.** Historic Deerfield is a museum of early American life situated in an authentic 18th-century New England village in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts. Its historic houses and world-famous collection of early American decorative arts open doors to new perspectives that inspire people to seek a deeper understanding of themselves, their communities, and the world.