



Erie Art Museum

Be moved.

For Immediate Release

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**Erie Art Museum Invites the Community to a
World Music CD-Release Party for Families!**

August 19, 2016, Erie, PA- The Erie Art Museum invites the community to a world music party for families. Old Songs New Opportunities (OSNO) has trained 64 immigrants and refugees from Puerto Rico, Ukraine, Russia, Africa, the Middle East and Bhutan to work in Erie's childcares. We've collected their joyous traditional children's songs and translated them into English. Thirty-six of these charming songs are featured on a brand new CD, *Simba La La: World Music for Children*.

Celebrate the amazing cultures and world music flourishing in Erie at the *Simba La La: World Music for Children* CD Release Party.

Event Details:

***Simba La La: World Music for Children* CD Release Party**

September 11 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FREE admission

Erie is the new home for over 12,000 people who were forced out of their native countries due to civil war, religious, or ethnic persecution. They are economically poor but culturally rich. Unlike many Americans, they still have a living tradition of singing to their children. OSNO helps them use their culture as an asset. We have worked with 62 women and two men from Bhutan, Ukraine, Bosnia, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Congo, Burundi, and Puerto Rico. They take a 4-month training course that teaches them childcare rules and regulations, child development theory, and best teaching practices. Participants share their traditional children's songs; we create English versions and mentor the men and women as they use their songs while they intern in local childcares. Over half have found good employment with children as a result!

We've now collected almost 100 wonderful songs! Many of them have become favorites in classrooms across our region. This collection will be a treasure to

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anyone who works with young children; the songs are catchy, encourage physical coordination, strengthen improvisation skills, teach co-operation, and bring real celebration to any classroom or living room. The CD is also wonderful for anyone who works with newcomer communities or is interested in world music. We will produce liner notes for the CD that will include lyrics in the native language and English, information about the song, the singers and the culture it comes from.

Come to a world music party for families! Meet talented musicians from Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Middle East that now call Erie home and learn their songs, games, dances and try on clothing from around the world! The event is free with CDs available for purchase.

About Second Sundays

Second Sundays is a free program for families that takes place each month at the Museum. Explore the Museum galleries, make meaningful connections to the artwork and build cool creations to take home. Each month we can become sculptors, filmmakers, photographers, animators, dancers and more with projects that are cool enough for kids and still intriguing for older ages.

The Museum offers free admission from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., with guided tours and art-making activities from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Erie Arts and Culture grant funds and the PA Cyber Charter School support second Sundays at the Erie Art Museum.

[Website: Second Sundays](#)

About Old Songs New Opportunities

Old Songs New Opportunities (OSNO) is an innovative program run by the Erie Art Museum. It trains former refugees who now live in Erie to work in early learning centers and to use their traditional children's songs on the job. Thanks to a major federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Service, OSNO has also coached hundreds of American teachers to use the OSNO repertoire in their classrooms and document it with videos.

[Website: Old Songs New Opportunities](#)

[YouTube: Old Songs New Opportunities](#)

[Facebook: Old Songs New Opportunities](#)

About the Erie Art Museum

The Erie Art Museum anchors downtown Erie's cultural and economic revitalization, occupying a group of restored mid-19th century commercial buildings and a modern, 'Green,' 10,500 square foot expansion. The newly expanded Museum

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marks the first LEED-certified building in the region, soon to be complete with a planted rooftop.

The Museum maintains an ambitious program of changing exhibitions annually, embracing a wide range of subjects, both historical and contemporary and including folk art, contemporary craft, multi-disciplinary installations, community-based work, as well as traditional media.

The Erie Art Museum also holds a collection of over 8,000 objects, which includes significant works in American ceramics, Tibetan painting, Indian bronzes, contemporary baskets, and a variety of other categories.

The Museum offers a wide range of education programs and artists' services including interdisciplinary and interactive school tours and a wide variety of classes for the community. Performing arts are showcased in the 25-year-old Contemporary Music Series, which represents national and international performers of serious music with an emphasis on composer/performers, and a popular annual two-day Blues & Jazz Festival.

The Erie Art Museum, café, and gift shop is open Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. For additional visitor information, visit online at www.erieartmuseum.org or call 814-459-5477.

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