

## Foreword

The Festival of American Folklife is a living laboratory of American culture offering curricula appropriate to the study of man. The 1974 participants number 700 and represent 15 Indian tribes, nine participating organizations and unions, eight foreign nations and the State of Mississippi.

The Festival was prepared by more than 30 scholars, specialists and field researchers who have attempted to define who comprises America and, wherever possible, to establish connections with roots and traditions. In order to insure that the Festival is carefully planned in accordance with the current knowledge of scholars in the various fields of folklore, history, sociology, anthropology, labor studies, ethnology, ethnomusicology, and dance, the services of

several distinguished panels were secured. These panels laid down certain general principles, formulated in accordance with the findings of modern scholarship.

The selection of the participants is a matter of field research. What is current and urban and vital is sought, working against stereotypes of rural, regional, working, ethnic and Native American groups. Participants have been selected by field researchers traveling thousands of miles, interviewing thousands of candidates. We have tried to present the most skillful craftsmen, the most vital musicians, the most articulate spokesmen. Not the commercially successful, nor the carefully choreographed, but those recognized in the field as being passionately true to their origins.



We have had as resources the staff of the Smithsonian Institution, the American Folklore Society, the folklore departments of various universities, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Education Office of the AFL-CIO, USIA, the Department of State, the Department of Agriculture, the National Park Service and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. It is impossible to thank all who have helped in the cooperative project, but we are grateful and indebted to them all.

James R. Morris  
*Director, Division of Performing Arts*

Ralph Rinzler  
*Director, Festival of American Folklife*

**Cover photo:** *The Tribute to Tamburashi at the 1973 Festival of American Folklife marked the first participation by a foreign government, Yugoslavia, in the Old Ways in the New World area of the Festival. This year eight foreign governments are participating, by 1976, about 50 are expected to take part in the Bicentennial Festival. Photo by Susan Erskine/Lightworks.*

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