



The National Park Service, like the Smithsonian Institution, helps preserve our nation's heritage. By caring for the nation's historic sites, its trails, monuments, and memorials, we help the voices of the past speak to us today. This is important work if future generations are to benefit from the lessons learned, the knowledge gained, the skills developed, the artistry accomplished by our forebears.

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival shares in this work. The Festival celebrates not only monuments, buildings, museum-quality artifacts, historical facts, and valued performances, but the people who make them, hold them in esteem, and debate their meaning. The Festival represents a wonderful range and diversity of voices and human experiences.

This year's Festival features programs on the building arts, New York City, and Bermuda. The *Masters of the Building Arts* program brings together expert craftsmen in the building trades who use traditional arts to restore our monuments and historic sites. Among them you will find many of those artisans who've worked on the Washington Monument, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Acoma Pueblo, historic Charleston, and Native Hawaiian sites. It is these artisans that help the National Park Service and its state and local partners to preserve America's treasured heritage.

## THE FESTIVAL: SPEAKING OF HERITAGE

by Deny Galvin, Acting Director, National Park Service

The New York City program highlights the way in which that city has become the global village. Broadway, the fashion industry, the Apollo Theater, and Wall Street are all featured. So too is the vital cultural creativity that has come about as people from the world over have settled in New York. The Festival provides a contemporary look at immigration and its importance to our culture. The fact that so many people from every corner of the earth have come to our shores through New York in order to build their lives and our nation has inspired generations. The Statue of Liberty and the Ellis Island Immigration Station are part of the National Park System and part of New York's story.

Bermuda, though separated from the United States by hundreds of miles of ocean, has long played a role in our history. Bermuda was settled by colonists on their way to Jamestown, Virginia, where they rescued starving survivors of that colony. In the last century, Bermuda, always entrepreneurial and self-reliant, has developed tourism and financial industries in a symbiotic relationship with the United States. Bermudians foster strong community connections within their own island society, as well as those of commerce, culture, and cooperation with the people of nations whose shores touch the Atlantic Ocean.

The National Park Service has been a proud partner for some three decades in helping to provide a forum for those voices to be heard and those experiences to be conveyed. We understand that there is perhaps no more powerful place for the American people and those who've come from other nations to gather and speak to each other than on the National Mall of the United States. As stewards of America's front lawn, we welcome you to the Festival.