

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: January 4, 2022

Contact: Mahogany Waldon, 757/728-5316
mahogany.waldon@hamptoncvb.com
Seamus McGrann, 757/727-6841
mmcgrann@hampton.gov

Film Screening, Chess, the Blues at Hampton History Museum in January

Hampton, VA – Gear up for a great year at the Hampton History Museum. As part of the Port Hampton Culture Series, museum attendees can enjoy a talk and showing of a captivating documentary on African American resilience on January 9. Additionally, the museum will host a thrilling concert and chess tournament extravaganza plus this month's Front Porch Series.

Port Hampton Culture Series

“Resilience, Recovery, and Rebirth: Sustaining Hope in Trying Times”

New date: Monday, January 9

Meet the director: 6:30 p.m.

Film screening: 7 p.m.

Museum members free, non-members \$5

Filmmaker Horace Scruggs will introduce his film focusing on Fluvanna County, Virginia. The film explores the area's African American history from slavery to the Civil Rights Movement through interviews with historians, storytellers, residents and activists. A central focus of the story is the Bremo Slave Chapel, built by enslaved labor at the directions of General John H. Cocke in 1835.

In 2021, Scruggs and his musical group, Odyssey of Soul, with the support of the Fluvanna Arts Council and the Fluvanna chapter of the NAACP, created the film to honor and celebrate those who labored in the building and the maintenance of this historic place.

“Benjamin Blundercheck's Rock ‘n Roll Chess Riot!”

A celebration of chess through music, tournament, twists and fun!

Saturday, January 14, 12-5 p.m.

\$10 entry fee, with cash prizes!

Free to the public to observe if not playing the tournament

Be among the first to experience a chess riot! Created and hosted by Benjamin Blundercheck (musician Matthew Benjamin Thomas), it's a concert and a tournament with a big interactive twist, and he guarantees that you've never experienced this tournament format before! Suitable for all ages and skill levels, be ready for a full afternoon of chess-themed entertainment!

“You'll be playing in a rock ‘n roll concert-type environment. We'll have live music in

between games and less distracting music during them to keep the energy level high,” Thomas said.

The Hampton History Museum is a co-sponsor of this event. For more information and to register, visit www.kingregistration.com/event/Blundercheck2

Front Porch Music Series

"Tracing the Blues from the Mississippi Delta to Early Rock & Roll"

Hard Times and Mark Morgan

Wednesday, January 18, 6-8 pm

Museum members free, non-members \$5

Join us for this special evening as the Hard Times Band and musicologist Mark Morgan take you on a journey from the earliest days of blues and jazz, through western swing, into pre-rock and jump jazz era, and up to the present. Morgan will shed light on how the blues is the stylistic glue that has bound popular music from its inception. Hard Times will perform era highlights illustrating the evolution of music over time. You'll hear songs from Jelly Roll Morton, Fats Waller, Louis Jordan, Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, and then into the electric guitar era.

Hard Times

Band members include Danny Fitzgerald, lead vocals and upright bass; Bob Dietz, guitars and vocals; and Jim Torrey, saxophone, clarinet, flute and vocals.

Mark Morgan

Morgan is a music educator who has designed and instructed popular music history and world music courses for Saint Leo University and the Lifelong Learning Society at Christopher Newport University for over 15 years.

Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Hampton History Museum. Admission is at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Hampton History Museum

The Hampton History Museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane in Downtown Hampton. There is free parking in the garage across the street from the museum. For more information call 757-727-1102 or visit www.hamptonhistorymuseum.org.

###

Editor's note: A more detailed release about the museum's new changing gallery will be available in the coming weeks

[Image Library](#)

HHM 1 Jan: Bremono Slave Dwelling, courtesy of Horace Scruggs

HHM 2 Jan: Hard Times Band, courtesy of Hard Times

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan

area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.