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Tom Chapin Kicks Off Celebration Sundays Outdoor Musical Performance Series at Stepping Stones on July 26

Norwalk, CT, July 15, 2009 – Stepping Stones Museum for Children will kick off a four-part musical performance series beginning with Tom Chapin on July 26 in the museum's enhanced Gullquist Family Celebration Courtyard. The family-oriented line-up will feature an array of Folk, Motown, Pop/Rock and Latin artists. Celebration Sundays performances will begin at 5 pm and will feature the following artists:

July 26 – Tom Chapin *The Clean Machine Tour*

For more than 30 years, Tom Chapin has entertained, amused and enlightened audiences of all ages with life-affirming original songs. Five of his family recordings have received Grammy nominations for Best Musical Album for Children and *Billboard* magazine calls Chapin "the best family artist around." Chapin's live performances engage the hearts, minds and imaginations of children and adults alike.

August 16 – Souled Out *Motown and More*

Souled Out is a musical ensemble that specializes in the great Motown and soul sounds. Not only is Souled Out a sensational listening and dancing experience, it is an awesome visual one as well! Bringing the biggest and most memorable hits from beloved Motown and soul legends, they entertain in a way that both wows audiences and captures the hearts of all ages.

September 13 – The Jimmies *Gimme Jimmies*

The Jimmies are described as a "band for the shorter set." The Jimmies have received rave reviews and the general consensus is that they are one seriously talented bunch of musicians who choose to walk the silly side of the line and create music that talks to kids on their level. The Jimmies play fun power pop, rock, swing and dance with cute, funny, and refreshing kid-friendly lyrics that will make both children and adults smile.

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October 11 – Sol y Canto *El Doble De Amigos: Twice as Many Friends*

Sol y Canto is an award-winning Pan-Latin ensemble led by Puerto Rican/Argentine singer and bongo player Rosi Amador and New Mexican guitarist and composer Brian Amador. Sol y Canto family concerts are completely interactive and highlight rhythms like calypso, reggae, plena, son and more. Their performance features songs from their Parents' Choice Award-winning children's album, *Twice as Many Friends/El doble de amigos* that immerses families in the joys of a bilingual musical experience.

“Celebration Sundays is a great way for families to spend time together, be entertained and learn about different types of music in a spectacular outdoor setting,” said Rhonda Kiest, executive director of Stepping Stones Museum for Children. “We know this is just the beginning of many great events and programs for the community to enjoy.”

The enhanced Gullquist Family Celebration Courtyard was officially opened at a community event on June 19 and will feature year-round programming. It is the first phase of a \$17 million environmentally-focused expansion project which will include the addition of 22,000 square feet and is scheduled for completion by late 2010.

Sponsors for the Celebration Sundays events include: WEBE 108, *The Advocate/Greenwich Time*, AT&T, Stanley M. Seligson Properties and Whole Foods Market.

Tickets and Reservation Information

Tickets for each performance are \$15 per person, and children under one are free. To reserve a space, visit steppingstonesmuseum.org or call 203 899 0606. Ice cream will be available for purchase at the show. Museum galleries will be closed.

Stepping Stones Museum for Children, a 501(c)(3) private non-profit organization, is an award-winning children's museum committed to broadening and enriching the lives of children. Museum exhibits, educational programs and special events complement efforts in schools, childcare centers and homes. With four main galleries, a toddlers-only gallery and more than 100 hands-on activities, Stepping Stones offers children ten and under plenty to explore and discover. To learn more, visit steppingstonesmuseum.org.

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