



7/15/19

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LASM to Celebrate America's Music Heritage on the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock

On the night of August 17, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the iconic Woodstock music festival with an evening dedicated to music and color. The evening will include a lineup of special shows in the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium and a wine bar.

"Woodstock '69 is synonymous with American music and stands a symbol of diversity, creativity, and peace," said Museum President & Executive Director Serena Pandos. "Our lineup of planetarium shows for the evening pay homage to those same ideals and, as such, is fitting tributes to this beautiful moment in our history."

The planetarium lineup includes a trio of music-themed shows beginning with *America's Musical Journey* at 5:15 PM, then *Laser Beatles* at 6:15 PM, and the *Pink Floyd eXperience* showing at 7:15 PM.

Narrated by Academy Award-winner Morgan Freeman, *America's Musical Journey* is a newcomer to the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium and follows Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter Aloe Blacc as he traces the roots of American music. Following the footsteps of Louis Armstrong, Blacc visits New Orleans, Chicago, New York City, Nashville, Memphis, and Miami, exploring the cultural collisions that gave rise to jazz, the blues, country, rock and roll, hip-hop and more. As audiences join Blacc on this joyful, tune-filled tour, they'll experience uniquely American adventures such as steamboating up the Mississippi Delta, flash mob dancing in Chicago, and skydiving with Elvis impersonators over Memphis in scenes shot exclusively for the giant screen.

"America's music has its roots in the diverse cultures that came together from different parts of the world, culminating in a unique blend of sound, culture, and innovation unlike anywhere else in the world," said director Greg MacGillivray. "This creativity and trailblazing spirit are what makes American music such a treasured experience around the world. I hope people are inspired to explore their own creativity after seeing the film."

A traveling show, *Laser Beatles* will take you back to a different time in history to re-experience and remember the evolution of the musical phenomenon of The Beatles. The "Fab Four's" best years become the background for dazzling laser-art. All ages and backgrounds will appreciate this fantasy tribute of music and light to The Beatles, illuminating how they helped define a generation.

The ***Pink Floyd eXperience*** is an LASM original and has proven to be a crowd favorite. LASM staff polled their dedicated Pink Floyd fan base about their favorite songs and which songs they would like to see portrayed on the planetarium dome. Taking those suggestions, LASM developed an all-new Pink Floyd show containing not only the “greatest hits,” but also songs chosen by fans. See the music of Pink Floyd like never before with fulldome animation, cove lighting effects, and laser light choreography

Tickets for all three shows are available for \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. Two glasses of wine are included with purchase and seating is limited. For information on purchasing tickets in advance, visit lasm.org/events.

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Image: Pictured in this still from *America’s Musical Journey* is Juilliard graduate and bandleader for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, Jon Batiste (left), a New Orleans native. He celebrates his birthday with a jam session alongside New Orleans legend Dr. John (right), who passed away on June 6, 2019. *America’s Musical Journey* premiered in the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium on May 25 and will run throughout the summer. **This photo is courtesy of MacGillivray Freeman Films, Copyright VisitTheUSA.com.**

About the Louisiana Art & Science Museum

A nonprofit organization housed on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum enhances the understanding and appreciation of art and science for general audiences and students by presenting unique, educational and entertaining experiences that encourage discovery, inspire creativity, and foster the pursuit of knowledge. More information about the Art & Science Museum is available at lasm.org.

The Louisiana Art & Science Museum is supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council. Funding has also been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, Art Works.