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OFFICIAL SHOWCASE APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR FOLK ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL 2017 CONFERENCE

FORBIDDEN FOLK: conference theme celebrates activism in art and explores the roots and wings of folk music globally in social, political, economic, and environmental movements.

“Diverse and plentiful enough to satisfy any lover of good music”
(Americana Times)

(Kansas City, MO) Official showcase applications are open for the 29th annual **Folk Alliance International** conference during February 15-19, 2017, at the Westin Hotel Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

A platform for emerging talent, Folk Alliance International is the world’s largest gathering of the folk music industry. Official showcases offer artists from around the globe the opportunity to perform for over 300 presenters—bookers for festivals, venues, and concert series—50 agents, 100 managers, 200 media and hundreds of music industry representatives from 18 different countries.

Artists are invited to apply for one of 200 **official showcases** held during the annual conference. Applications are reviewed by an anonymous five-member jury of industry experts. Submission **deadline is October 3, 2016.**

The Forbidden Folk theme explores the philosophical roots of folk music and invites attendees to dig deeper into the pressing world issues of today. Drawing inspiration from folk music’s place in social and political movements, and celebrating the continued importance of activism in art, the 2017 conference calls for artists to “lift their voices” and to get intimate with forbidden, hidden, or often unsung subjects. In a naturally career-driven industry, this theme begs the question, “Where have all the folk singers gone?”

“Our increasingly globally connected society requires reflection on our shared experiences, and highlights the role of art as mirror and message,” states Aengus Finnan, Executive Director of FAI. “Many familiar folk songs of years past, like [Woody Guthrie’s “This Land Is Your Land,”](#) have eerie relevance to our present day, and there is as much need now for artists to continue singing songs that raise torches for justice, equality, and compassion”.

*There was a big high wall there, that tried to stop me,
Sign was painted, said Private Property,
But on the back side it didn't say nothin',
This land was made for you and me".*
Woody Guthrie

Annual showcases feature a diverse array of tour and export-ready artists ranging in styles including Blues, Bluegrass, Celtic, Cajun, Old-Time, Traditional, World, Global Roots, Singer-songwriter, and Spoken Word. Breakthrough artists from previous conferences include Lake Street Dive, Rhiannon Giddens, The Milk Carton Kids, Darlingside, The Stray Birds, Valerie June, John Fullbright, Dom Flemons, David Francey, The Wailin' Jennys, Mary Gauthier, Kaia Kater, The Waifs, and Nickel Creek.

Boasting a yearly attendance of 2,500 registrants, this unique, one-of-a-kind annual five-day conference features juried official showcases, exhibitors, panels, and workshops all held under one roof. Bringing together musicians, educators and music industry professionals from throughout the world. FAI's annual conference is known for its community atmosphere, business and networking opportunities, and as a hotspot for discovering new talent.

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About Folk Alliance International

Folk Alliance International (FAI) is a registered charity based in Kansas City, Missouri. Founded in 1989, with over 3000 members worldwide, FAI is an advocacy, professional development, and networking organization that produces the world's largest gathering of the folk music community and industry, and is one of the five largest music conferences in North America.

FAI serves a growing membership of artists, agents, managers, record companies, publishers, presenters, educators, music support services, manufacturers and community leaders who work in the folk music industry. FAI has five regional affiliates throughout North America that provide smaller conferences and services in their respective markets.

FAI's mission is to nurture, engage and empower the international Folk music community—traditional and contemporary, amateur and professional – through education, advocacy and performance.

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For more information about Folk Alliance International and the 2017 Conference, please contact Lellie Capwell at Lellie@lpc-media.com or media@folk.org / 818.384.1180