



## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **Chautauqua to host "The Lomax Project", a celebration of the renowned Alan Lomax archive**

*Weeklong event features workshops and concerts with Grammy-winner Tim O'Brien and others*

BOULDER, Colo. (Mar. 26, 2013) – The archives of famed American folklorist Alan Lomax are a treasure trove of musical inspiration. From May 9 to May 15, 2013, the Colorado Chautauqua Association will transform into a creative hub to explore the treasures of roots music while hosting “The Lomax Project: A Weeklong Exploration of the Field Recording Archive of Alan Lomax.” Six nationally touring musicians will gather to revive, recycle and re-imagine traditional music from around the world and share their process through public lectures, workshops and classes, all culminating in a final concert highlighting their newly created, original work. This project is the first of its kind in Boulder and at Chautauqua and is made possible in part by generous grants from [Colorado Creative Industries](#) and [Boulder Arts Commission](#).

Under the artistic direction of banjo innovator [Jayme Stone](#), “The Lomax Project” brings together the talents of pioneering acoustic musicians [Tim O'Brien](#) (voice, mandolin, fiddle), [Margaret Glaspy](#) (voice, guitar), [Moira Smiley](#) (voice, accordion), [Ron Miles](#) (trumpet) and [Greg Garrison](#) (bass). The artists, renowned for their unique contribution to the American folk tradition, will use their distinctive skills to both create new musical works while preserving and reimagining Lomax’s recorded legacy.



Alan Lomax (1915-2002) was a folklorist, ethnomusicologist, archivist, writer, scholar, political activist, oral historian and filmmaker. Lomax is famous for his work in the penitentiaries, plantations, and lonely farms of the American South, where he returned no less than seven times between 1933 and 1983 to listen, observe, fraternize and record night after night, year after year. He repeated this feat with astounding results in hundreds of obscure places in the U.S., the Caribbean,

Europe and North Africa. Jelly Roll Morton, Woody Guthrie, Lead Belly, and Muddy Waters were only a few of the many geniuses, famous and obscure, who shared the true story of the country over Lomax’s microphone.

The audio collection amassed by Alan Lomax over the course of his six-decade career is part of the Library of Congress’ American Folklife Center. The Association for Cultural Equity (ACE), founded by Lomax in 1983, is the custodian of the 17,000 tape recordings he made between 1946 and 1991. The ACE freely distributes these recordings, as well as Lomax’s photographs and

video footage, through its [website](#) and various [social networking outlets](#), and in partnership with institutional and educational partners.

### **“The Lomax Project” Schedule of Events**

All events take place in the Chautauqua Community House unless otherwise noted.

#### **Thursday, May 9 - Friday, May 10: Artist Collaboration and Work with Archive**

**10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed to the public.**

Musicians will explore material from the Lomax archive, which is presented online by the Association for Cultural Equity. Musicians will search for source material to represent a wide spectrum of American folk music, learn songs, transcribe lyrics and melodies from the field recordings, collaborate on new arrangements of traditional repertoire and compose original songs inspired by their discoveries.

#### **Saturday, May 11: The Music Tree of the Lomax Archives**

**10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Tickets: \$10 (CCA members: \$5).**

This workshop will open the doors on the creative process of working with field recordings from the Lomax collection. The musicians will present their source material, discuss their approach to collaboration, share stories, play songs and answer questions about the project.

#### **Saturday, May 11: Musician Workshops**

**2 - 4 p.m. Tickets: \$40 (CCA members: \$35). Capacity: Each class limited to 25 students.**

Choose from five instructional classes taught by musicians Tim O'Brien, Jayme Stone, Margaret Glaspy, Greg Garrison and Moira Smiley. From instructional instrument and voice workshops to tips on the creative process of songwriting or developing new harmonies, this afternoon will be inspirational.

#### ***Folk Song as Template, with Tim O'Brien***

Stuck for new song ideas? Look at old songs, rewrite them, turn them inside out, recycle them and make something new in the process. *All singers, songwriters and instrumentalists are welcome.*

#### ***Getting and Staying Inspired — Songwriting Workshop, with Margaret Glaspy***

Learn how to find ways to get excited about writing songs in this workshop that looks at music ranging from Bob Dylan to Björk and celebrates the different approaches that artists have taken to gain perspective on the process. *All levels of experience are welcome.*

#### ***Song and Stomp! Our Voices as Instruments, with Moira Smiley***

Moira will instruct through songs, games and musical structures to find what it means to use the singing voice as an instrument of discovering, honoring and reinventing folk songs. The workshop will feature building a singing/composing toolkit using playful percussive movement and the many colors in voices and powerful folk songs. *All levels of experience are welcome.*

#### ***Reharmonizing Traditional Tunes with Greg Garrison***

This workshop will look at simple folk melodies and explore new harmonic possibilities. It is designed for instrumentalists and songwriters wanting to expand their harmonic palette and turn theory into inventive music. *All singers, songwriters and instrumentalists are welcome.*

***Ways of the World — Banjo Workshop with Jayme Stone***

This workshop will focus on how to both highlight the banjo's natural strengths and reinvent techniques to suit a particular style. Trails blazed by Earl Scruggs and Béla Fleck will be explored, as well as musical ideas from around the world. *This workshop is appropriate for conservatory, high school and university-level music students, as well as professional musicians. Bring your banjo.*

**Sunday, May 12: Artist Collaboration**

**Closed to the public.**

**Monday, May 13: [School Workshops] Exploring the Origins of Folk Music**

**Middle School Workshop: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. High School Workshop: 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

Middle and high school students are invited to participate and learn about the traditional repertoire from the Lomax archives, experience different performance practices, sing, dance and clap in community, and be introduced to different folk instruments.

*Space is limited. Schools, please contact tom.hart@chautauqua.com to learn how to participate.*

**Tuesday, May 14: Exploring the Origins of Folk Music**

**7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.**

**Space is limited. Pre-registration required at [tickets.chautauqua.com](https://tickets.chautauqua.com).**

This free workshop will discuss the “The Lomax Project”, the archives, and the collaborative process of music and song creation. Get a firsthand look at the creative process and a sneak peek at the music for the final concert. *No musical experience is necessary.*

**Wednesday, May 15: The Lomax Project Concert**

**7:30 p.m. Chautauqua Auditorium Tickets: \$25 (CCA members: \$20).**

Opening the Chautauqua Auditorium's 115th summer season, musicians Tim O'Brien (mandolin, fiddle), Greg Garrison (bass), Ron Miles (trumpet), Jayme Stone (banjo), Margaret Glaspy (guitar) and Moira Smiley (vocals) will premier their newly developed music, created collaboratively over the prior week at Chautauqua, all inspired by the field recordings of Alan Lomax.

**TICKET INFORMATION:**

- Purchase tickets online now at [www.chautauqua.com](https://www.chautauqua.com).
- Chautauqua members receive a \$5 discount on select events.
  - The public is welcome to join as members at any time to take advantage of discounts.

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*The Colorado Chautauqua Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that preserves, perpetuates and improves the site and spirit of the historic Chautauqua, enhancing its community and values through cultural, educational, social and recreational experiences. The chautauqua experience is based on lifelong learning, love of nature, voluntary simplicity, and music, oration and the arts. Historic significance, traditions, cultural relevance, respite and enrichment are among the community benefits provided by the Colorado Chautauqua. The CCA serves as the steward of historic Chautauqua. It leases from the City of Boulder and has full responsibility for preservation and use of 26 acres of Chautauqua Park, home to many public buildings, gardens and 99 cottages, 57 of which are available for rental through the Association. The Colorado Chautauqua was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006. The Colorado Chautauqua Association is a Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) Tier II*

organization. For more information about the Colorado Chautauqua and the CCA visit [www.chautauqua.com](http://www.chautauqua.com) or [www.facebook.com/coloradochautauqua](https://www.facebook.com/coloradochautauqua).

For access to historic or event photos, or to arrange interviews with executive director Susan Connelly, contact Jen Marshall at 303-449-2108, ext. 18.