

Festival Entertainment News

For Immediate Release

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Festival Song and Dance Fever Take Center Stage At The National Cherry Festival

Two Dance Events Suited for Every Move and ‘Cherry Idol’ Are Added To The Festival Roster of Events!

(Traverse City, MI) April 22, 2008 –The National Cherry Festival is pleased to announce THREE additions to its roster of interactive events.

Taking center stage first in the roster of additions is ***Dancin’ at The Dome***. Scheduled for **Monday, July 7** at **The Historic Park Place Hotel**, *Dancin’ at The Dome* will feature an evening of dancing, fun and live entertainment. This first time event will kickoff a summer dance series to be held the first Monday of each month at ‘The Dome’. The band ***Rojo Loco*** (Crazy Red) will bring the sounds of the Mambo and Cha Cha Cha to life. The Monday, July 7th evening dance event will include dance lessons, live music, cherry snacks, and a cash bar. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. with Mambo and Cha Cha Cha instruction beginning at 6 p.m., Live Latin Dance Band Rojo Loco will begin at 7 p.m., with more instruction given for festival-goers to perfect their moves at 8 p.m.

Advance tickets for *Dancin’ at The Dome* are **\$20** and available at the National Cherry office, at the Cherry Stop in downtown Traverse City, on line at www.cherryfestival.org, or by calling (231)947-4230. Tickets will be available at the door for **\$25**.

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Beginning Wednesday, July 9 at the Bay Side Entertainment Stag, 'Idol Want To Be's' can try their talent in the first ever '**Cherry Idol**'. With **qualifying rounds** beginning at **2 p.m.** each 'Idol' day, Wednesday, July 9; Thursday, July 10; and Friday, July 11, 'Cherry Idol' judges will narrow the field from the 135 participants (maximum participation) to just a hand full, slated to participate in the **final round** on the Bay Side Entertainment Stage in the Festival Open Space, **Saturday, July 12 at 2 p.m.**

Several age groups will perform: Youth, 9 to 12 years old; Teens, 13 to 17 years old; and Adult, 19 years old and up. Each participant **MUST** pre-register by completing the application available on-line at www.cherryfestival.org or by attaining one by calling the National Cherry Festival office at (231) 947-4230. Each applicant will be required to supply a CD of the song to be performed or a copy of the lyrics. The registration deadline is June 15, 2008.

Rounding out the Festival's 'Song and Dance Fever' roster of events is a high energy Swing Dance event presented by **Judy Harrison** and her '**Swing Shift**' band scheduled to perform Friday, July 11 at the historic **City Opera House** located in the heart of downtown Traverse City, Michigan. An evening of Swing to listen and learn to, Judy Harrison will please the novice or seasoned dance enthusiast. Doors to historic City Opera House will open at 6:30 p.m. with a cash bar and snacks, Swing Dance lessons beginning on the floor at 7:00 p.m., and a concert performed by 'Swing Shift' will begin at 8 p.m. 'Swing Shift' incorporates songs and sounds of both Swing and Big Band eras. A 'not to be

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missed? Festival event, the evening of Festival Swing will include both professional dance instruction and the concert.

“The City Opera House is thrilled to be partnering with the National Cherry Festival for this summer’s festivities. It is a natural, symbiotic relationship. This partnership will build on both organizations commitment to historic and fun economic development oriented entertainment in downtown Traverse City. The City Opera House, opened in 1892 and is one of Traverse City’s oldest venues. The National Cherry Festival is Traverse City’s most historic event. Together we are poised to create even more history in the upcoming years. Being downtown makes the City Opera House a natural fit for the mission of the National Cherry Festival to bring entertainment and family fun to the Grand Traverse area. We are honored to join with the National Cherry Festival!” stated, Sheryl Hayward, City Opera House Executive Director.

Tickets for the Swing event are available by visiting the City Opera House on line at www.cityoperahouse.org or by calling (231) 941-8082. Tickets will range from \$25 per person for general admission, \$35 per person for assigned seating, and \$50 per person for box seating.

For more information regarding the National Cherry Festival and the schedule of events visit www.cherryfestival.org