

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEEPING NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES ALIVE:

**LIZ HILL PUBLIC RELATIONS, LTD., IS PROUD TO PROMOTE THE
TALENT OF THE ONEIDA HYMN SINGERS OF WISCONSIN IN ADVANCE
OF THEIR SEPT. 19 PERFORMANCE**

AT THE MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE, NORTH BETHESDA, MD.

(WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 26, 2008) Liz Hill is proud to announce that she is working with the Oneida Hymn Singers of Wisconsin to attract media and public interest for their performance at the National Heritage Fellowship Awards Concert at the Music Center at Strathmore (5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, Md.) on Friday, Sept. 19 at 7:30 p.m. The group is a recipient of a 2008 National Endowment of the Arts National Folk Fellowship, the highest honor that the nation bestows upon its folk and traditional artists.

Each year, 10 to 13 “national living treasures” from across the nation are chosen to receive this one-time-only fellowship in recognition of lifetime achievement, artistic excellence and contributions to the nation’s heritage. The Oneida Hymn Singers’ members are all citizens of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

“I am thrilled to be representing the Oneida Singers during this important time,” says Hill. “Everyone who knows me knows of my personal and heartfelt passion in promoting the importance of indigenous language preservation and revitalization.”

“It is a great honor for me to be working with the Oneida Singers -- their history is one that people need to know,” says Hill. “It is vitally important to the passing along of our languages to future generations of Native young people.”

The singing of Christian hymns in the Oneida language has a long history, beginning as early as 1795 when it was noted by both the Episcopal Church of England and Society of Friends visitors to the Oneida people’s original homeland in New York State. In the 1820s, Oneida people began migrating west, settling at their present-day home in the area of Green Bay, Wisconsin. New churches were established and as early as 1835 a hymnal in the Mohawk language -- a language related to the Oneida language and easily understood by Oneida people -- was published.

The Singers, in addition to their many honors, are included on a 2004 National Museum of the American Indian/Smithsonian Folkways Recording titled, “Beautiful Beyond: Christian Songs in Native Languages.” Hill was a member of the CD project’s Native Advisory Board.

“Being involved in this way and getting to know the Oneida Singers’ music has been a source of great joy in my life,” says Hill. “I am honored to be letting America know about these fine singers and their long standing tradition.”

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