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**TRADE
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ART**



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USC-Lancaster - Native American

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explores how rituals and gatherings of religious communities create a complex soundtrack of religions in America that teaches how people behave, how they're different, and how they're alike.

Sounds of Religion was organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in cooperation with the American Religious Sounds Project of The Ohio State University and Michigan State University and made possible through the generous support of The Henry Luce Foundation.

Through the 12 posters, the exhibition examines what religious sound is, how it can define a community, and where it can be found - from houses of worship and the home to public spaces and in acts of protest. The exhibit also looks at how the sound of religion can be affected by events like COVID-19.

Viewers are invited to listen for sounds that have religious content, religious context, or can be heard in religious communities, and to think about how religion permeates the everyday experiences of American life.

Since 2014, students and faculty in Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and elsewhere have worked together to document the sounds of local religious life. The poster exhibition features recordings and images collected during their work. Through QR codes on the posters, viewers can listen to eight contemporary recordings that serve as an audio portrait of the rich and dynamic differences that make religious life in the US unique.

Americans practice a lot of different religions - Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Wicca, Native American traditions, New Age traditions, and many more. Every tradition creates its own unique blend of music, prayer, voices, and silence, which together help define the beliefs and practices shared by the members of churches, synagogues,



Blowing a shofar during an outdoor Rosh Hashanah ceremony in Bexley, Ohio. Photo by Lauren Pond.

mosques, temples, and other places of spiritual devotion. The sounds of faith make some feel they belong, yet they may cause others to feel excluded. The American Religious Sounds Project suggests that listening for the sound of religions in America can help people understand the country more deeply and provides insight into religion itself.

Housed in a 15,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility, with 6,500 square-feet of exhibit and gallery space bringing together art, archaeology, Archives, folklore, history, and language, the Native American Studies Center is a comprehensive site for the study of South Carolina's Native American peoples, their histories, and their cultures. The Center regularly hosts exhibits and programs highlighting the traditions of South Carolina's Indigenous peoples, including annual art and craft festivals, Artist-in-Residence programs, and the monthly W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series. Center admission and programming are free and open to the public.

Sounds of Religion is distributed at no cost to schools, libraries, museums, and community organizations. It is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in cooperation with the American Religious Sounds Project of The Ohio State University and Michi-

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gan State University and made possible through the generous support of The Henry Luce Foundation.

The American Religious Sounds Project (ARSP) is a collaborative research initiative co-directed by Michigan State University Religious Studies Professor Amy DeRogatis and Ohio State University Comparative Studies Professor Isaac Weiner. It offers resources for documenting and interpreting the diversity of American religious life through newly produced field recordings, interviews, oral histories, and related materials. Visit (religioussounds.osu.edu).

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, DC, for more than 70 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through



Ethiopian Orthodox Christian Timiket celebration in Columbus, Ohio. Photo by Lauren Pond.

a wide range of exhibitions about art, science, and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For exhibition description and tour schedules, visit (sites.si.edu).

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/313-7164 or visit (www.sc.edu/lancaster/NAS).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be May 24th for the June 2023 issue and June 24 for the July 2023 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).



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