

Press Release

The Freedom Festival of Music kicks off Thursday, August 2, at Ausable Chasm with our own local musicians: Roy Hurd; Lita Kelley and Joan Crane known as Kelly 'n' Crane; Towne Meeting; the Lake Champlain Gospel Choir; and Charlie Stone & Split Rock. Charlie Stone will be master of ceremonies.

The festival will be held outdoors at the Ausable Chasm Pavilion beginning at 5 p.m.

Proceeds will benefit the North Star Underground Railroad Museum, which opened just over a year ago and is drawing thousands of visitors from around the region and around the globe. The Museum tells the story of enslaved people who escaped through the Lake Champlain Corridor of the Underground Railroad with the help of courageous local people who believed in freedom.

The Freedom Festival date in early August is significant as the British abolished slavery in their empire (including the Canadas) on August 1, 1834. Their action inspired abolitionists in the U.S. to organize the antislavery movement and aid thousands of fugitives from slavery to escape to the Canadas. Emancipation Day was celebrated in the British Colonies and in the U.S. for years, and is still celebrated in former British colonies, especially in the Caribbean.

All the performers are donating their talents, in tribute to America's first true civil rights movement, and the local museum that celebrates it.

The Freedom Festival of Music is open to all. Tickets are \$7 for adults. \$2 for children under 12.

Fans are invited to bring their own picnics and chairs for the lawn. Some refreshments will be sold as well. No alcoholic beverages.

Tickets may be purchased in advance from: Bob's Music, 32 Plattsburgh Plaza; Cornerstone Bookstore, 110 Margaret St.; North Star Underground Railroad Museum, 1131 Mace Chasm Rd., Ausable Chasm, or at the door.

For more information call: Peter Slocum 518-708-5607