

For Immediate Release
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BRAND NEW WILD MUSIC EXHIBIT PROVIDES A MUST-SEE, MUST-DO, MUST-HEAR EXPERIENCE

Wild Music: Sounds & Songs of Life opens February 2 at ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum

Ashland, Oregon. – Whales compose, bullfrogs chorus, songbirds greet the dawn, and people everywhere sing and dance. What do we all have in common? Visitors of all ages will find out on Saturday, February 2, when *Wild Music: Sounds & Songs of Life*, a brand new, hands-on exhibit that explores sound and music in nature and in life, makes its debut at ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum.

Wild Music invites visitors of all ages to expand their understanding of what makes music. Through whimsical, hands-on activities, they'll not only hear the music that surrounds them every day, but they'll see and even feel it too. They'll discover that nature is filled with "musicians" that create distinct musical masterpieces to communicate with and relate to one another. And they'll explore how human music is inspired by the music of other living creatures – from tiny insects to giant whales.

Highlights of *Wild Music* include:

- Three different "**soundscapes**" that invite visitors to explore sound and music that comes from the ocean, the forest, and the city. Visitors will learn to interpret spectrograms, or "pictures," of bird songs, learn what whale cries tell us about the animal's life cycle, see samples of instruments from around the world, experiment with how sound travels underwater, explore how music influences memory, and more. □
- **The Jamming Room**, a practice studio where visitors can use pre-recorded audio soundscapes, animal voices, percussion instruments, and live vocals to compose their own songs. □
- **The Bioacoustic Lab**, where visitors can experiment with how the human voice works and how it compares to that of other animals, specifically birds. Here, visitors can explore a model of the human larynx and the bird syrinx, use an electrolarynx to "speak" without using their voices, and use a set of vibrating metal reeds to "feel" sound. □
- **The Power of Sound and Music Theater**, where visitors can sit back, relax, and experience sounds from around the world. The seven-minute, sound-driven video demonstrates – both visually and audibly – how animals use sound to identify themselves, communicate, and form and nurture social groups. □

With its hands-on activities and music samples drawn from natural soundscapes from across the globe, *Wild Music* invites visitors to celebrate every note of every player in the symphony of life.

A sizeable exhibit

Wild Music is the largest special exhibit installation to date at ScienceWorks, filling the entirety of the museum's Main Exhibit Hall. During installation, visitors can receive special retro pricing of \$7.50 for adults, \$5.00 for children and seniors, and children under 2 remain free.

Designed with an eye to accessibility

Wild Music is designed to be accessible to all visitors. All of the exhibit's videos are narrated and captioned, and more than a dozen major components have audio descriptions for vision-impaired visitors. Many components incorporate tactile (raised line) graphic illustrations, and many have visitor-adjustable volume controls. All areas of the exhibit were built to be accessible for visitors using wheelchairs.

In addition, text in *Wild Music* is printed in large, highly-readable type and is written in both English, Spanish, and, in some cases, Braille.

Visitor Information

Wild Music will be open daily in the ScienceWorks Main Gallery, starting Saturday, February 2nd through Monday, September 2 (Labor Day). Admission is included in regular exhibit gallery admission (\$12 for adults; \$10 for children and seniors; under 2 are free). For a complete list of museum hours and services, visitors may call (541) 482-6767 or visit www.scienceworksmuseum.org.

On Thursday, January 31 and Friday, February 1, the exhibit will be open for special Members and Media Preview Days during normal operating hours (10AM to 5PM). Media representatives should check in with the Front Desk for admission, tours, and staff interviews.

Saturday, February 2 is the grand opening of the exhibit to the public. A live music performance will take place in the exhibit and museum from 1:00-2:00 PM that day.

Community Support

Wild Music: Songs and Sounds of Life at ScienceWorks is made possible through the generous support of: Richard and Elizabeth LeVitt, the Fred W. Wright Memorial of the Oregon Community Foundation, Lithia 4 Kids, the Olsrud Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, the Jackson County Cultural Coalition and anonymous donors.

ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum is proud to be partnering with Rogue World Music, the Schneider Museum of Art, and the Ashland Independent Film Festival to provide unique programming at the Museum for the exhibit's duration.

Wild Music is originally a production of the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Association of Science-Technology Centers, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Music, with major support from the National Science Foundation and additional support from Harman International, Inc. and the NEC Foundation of America.

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