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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tom Paxton to headline 16th Cooper's Glen Music Festival

KALAMAZOO, MI --

The Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association (GLAMA) will continue its tradition of bringing top-notch, varied and eclectic entertainment to Kalamazoo with the 16th Cooper's Glen Music Festival on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 100 West Michigan Avenue, in Kalamazoo.

Americana folk icon Tom Paxton will be the lead entertainer among a wide ranging, impressive lineup of evening performers. Paxton, who has performed thousands of concerts around the world, is celebrating his 80th birthday with a new recording and a tour. His songs such as The Last Thing On My Mind, Ramblin' Boy, Bottle Of Wine, and The Marvelous Toy are standards and appear on recordings by many other artists. Says GLAMA President Kathy Nichols, "We are especially excited to bring Tom Paxton to Kalamazoo with Cooper's Glen! His enduring music has entertained and influenced three generations, and it will continue to do so for many more."

Two-time Grammy award winners and international performers Kathy Fink and Marcy Marxer, who have been touring with Paxton, will also take the stage at Cooper's Glen. With a career spanning 35 years, Fink & Marxer are master musicians, happily known as "social music conductors" for their commitment to sharing music and helping others learn to play and sing. They apply superb harmonies and virtuosity on multiple instruments to a repertoire that ranges from classic country to western swing, gypsy jazz to bluegrass, and old-time string band to contemporary folk and originals.

Festival goers will also experience the bluegrass music of fiddle player Michael Cleveland and his band Flamekeeper, which was named the Instrumental Band of 2017 by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA). Cleveland, who picked up the fiddle at the age of four, is considered one of the premier bluegrass fiddlers of his generation. He has won the IBMA Fiddler of the Year ten times and appeared as a guest with many bluegrass legends, including Bill Monroe, Ralph Stanley and Doc Watson. His first project as a Rounder recording artist, "Flame Keeper," was released in February 2002 and was chosen the IBMA's Instrumental Album of the Year.

Completing the festival concert lineup will be the Don Julin Acoustic Trio. Julin, who hails from Traverse City, has been referred to as The Mandolin Master of Michigan. He'll be joined by expert sidemen Joe Wilson (dobro) and Kevin Gills (bass), taking listeners through what Julin calls "a genre-bending instrumental journey" that includes bluegrass, jazz, swing, honky tonk, and even a bit of baby boomer rock.

Afternoon workshops will showcase festival performers and special presentations. Popular sessions such as "Coffee with the Luthiers," a "Community Sing," an "Open Mic" and the "Slow Jam" will also return. The workshop schedule is staggered throughout the afternoon to allow sampling of every offering, while jamming will continue throughout the festival until the early morning hours.

Formed in 1998, GLAMA is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting, performing and preserving acoustic music – the blend of stringed instruments and voices that tell stories and knit together generations of

music makers, songwriters and listeners.

In addition to the Cooper's Glen Music Festival, GLAMA offers regular opportunities for participation in various forms of organized jam sessions and singing groups for musicians of all ages and abilities.

For more information about GLAMA and the Cooper's Glen music festival, including tickets, visit www.greatlakesacoustic.org.

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