

**BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA TO HEADLINE “ENCORE: THE FESTIVAL”**  
*Five-time Grammy® Award winners will appear at Garden Spot Village event June 4*

**NEW HOLLAND, Pa. — Apr. 19, 2011** — Fresh from their cameo appearance in the hit movie *Hop*, The Blind Boys of Alabama will headline the evening concert at Encore: The Festival on Sat., June 4, at Garden Spot Village, 433 S. Kinzer Ave.

“We are so excited to welcome The Blind Boys of Alabama to New Holland. It is a thrill and an honor to host musical entertainers of their high caliber,” said John Farber, chief operating officer at Garden Spot Village. “They are living legends of gospel music.”

The original Blind Boys of Alabama began singing together in 1939, when they attended the Alabama Institute for the Negro Blind in Talladega, Ala. The group played the black gospel circuit almost exclusively for 40 years, until their key role in the play *The Gospel at Colonus* brought them to the attention of mainstream audiences. Since then, the group has entertained audiences around the world, performed for two sitting presidents, won lifetime achievement awards from the Grammys and the National Endowment for the Arts and been inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Five of their albums have won Grammy Awards. Their impeccable harmonies have since influenced generations of gospel, soul, R&B and rock musicians. Their live shows are roof-raising events featuring their interpretations of everything from traditional gospel to contemporary spiritual material by songwriters such as Curtis Mayfield, Ben Harper, Prince and Tom Waits.

On May 3, the group will release its first traditional country-gospel album, *Take The High Road*, featuring performances by Vince Gill, Willie Nelson, Hank Williams Jr., Lee Ann Womack and The Oak Ridge Boys. Jamey Johnson co-produced and performs on the album.

“It’s been a dream of mine to do a country gospel album, and we couldn’t have found a better partner than Jamey,” said vocalist Jimmy Carter, the last original Blind Boy still touring with the band. Other members of the band are Bishop Billy Bowers, vocals; Ben Moore, vocals; Eric “Ricky” McKinnie, drums; Joey Williams, lead guitar; and Tracy Pierce, bass.

“The Blind Boys are inspirational performers and inspiring individuals who demonstrate that artistic excellence can increase with maturity,” said Farber.

Opening for The Blind Boys will be Toby Walker, a master of fingerpicking country blues. Earlier in the day, Walker will present a hands-on guitar workshop for those who want to take their playing to the next level. Other local and regional talent will be on hand. For information and tickets, visit [www.EncoreTheFestival.org](http://www.EncoreTheFestival.org).

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