

A Traveling Exhibition being offered by the Tennessee State Museum

I HAVE A
VOICE
*Tennessee's African American
Musical Heritage*

Available throughout Tennessee from January of 2018 - January, 2021

Content:

I Have a Voice: Tennessee's African American Musical Heritage showcases African American Tennesseans' important contribution to American music, including spirituals, blues, ragtime, jazz, gospel, rhythm and blues, rock and roll, and soul music. That music has influenced and enriched music around the world. From the early blues legends of W. C. Handy and Bessie Smith to the soul hits of STAX Records in Memphis, visitors can watch YouTube videos of various performers on their smart phones or tablets through the use of QR-coded links.

I Have a Voice includes curriculum-based educational lesson activities for the classroom. A PDF of the activities will be emailed from the museum to the venues.



B. B. King (1925- 2015) "King of the Blues,"
courtesy of Tennessee State Photographic Services

Detailed Specifications

The Exhibit: The Tennessee State Museum will furnish 8-10 graphic panels, 2-3 cases with original artifacts, exhibition text, and artifact labels. At venues where lack of security is of concern, only panels will be available. Reproductions may be substituted for original items in cases where environment, security, or artifact condition adversely affects the ability to display originals. However, every effort will be made to ensure that original artifacts accompany the exhibition.

Dates Available: The traveling exhibition is available beginning in January, 2018. Normally, the exhibition will remain at each venue for a minimum period of six weeks. *I Have a Voice* will travel through January, 2021. The Tennessee State Museum will make every effort to accommodate the hosting venue's schedule.

Rental Fee: Full exhibition using original artifacts and audio/visual equipment will be \$500. The Tennessee State Museum will determine what original artifacts can travel based on artifact condition, security and environment. An invoice for rental fees will be sent to each institution prior to installation.

Shipping, Insurance, Installation, and Scheduling Requirement: Included in the rental fee are: 1) transportation insurance; 2) delivery and pick-up by the Tennessee State Museum; 3) installation and de-installation of the exhibition by State Museum staff (with the assistance of at least one staff member provided by each venue.)

A certificate of on-site insurance is required and must be submitted to the Tennessee State Museum at least thirty days prior to the exhibition arrival date. A standard American Alliance of Museums facilities report is also required and must be submitted and approved prior to booking. Light levels must be no higher than 5 foot candles and the exhibition space must be free of natural daylight and possess UV filters on florescent lighting fixtures. These requirements are to protect the original textiles, leather, photographs and paper artifacts in the exhibition. Venues hosting only the text and graphic panel version of the exhibition need not meet these requirements.

Space Requirements: The optimum space for *I Have a Voice* is an open gallery with a minimum of 400 square feet to accommodate the free standing, pull-up wall system and free standing cases. Each wall panel is approximately 7 ft. tall and 4 ft. wide. Two to three display cases, 22" x 22" x 38" high will house artifacts pertaining to the exhibit.

Educational Materials: The Tennessee State Museum will provide related curriculum-based educational activities for the classroom. These will be in a PDF format that can be emailed to venues.

Booking, Exhibit and Historic Information: **Mike Bell**, Curator of Popular Culture, Tennessee State Museum, 505 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37243. Phone: 615-253-0147. Email: mike.bell@tn.gov

Exhibit Specifications

Contents	Freestanding units with reproductions of photographs, illustrations, and documents with text; cases with original artifacts.
Supplemental	Educational and promotional resources.
Participation Fee	\$500 per each booking period (includes shipping); 6-weeks minimum.
Size	400 square feet (minimum)
Category	Popular Culture: Tennessee's African American Music
Shipping	Included in fee
Contacts	Mike Bell , mike.bell@tn.gov 615/253-0147 (Scheduling, Content)
Tour Begins	January, 2018

Here is what some people have already said...

- Linda Wynn, Professor of History and Political Science at Fisk University:

“The Curators of this exhibit did an enormous amount of research that resulted in a series of panels that takes the visitor through a chronological journey of the African American musical legacy. The curators did an excellent job by having representation across Tennessee. Teachers, students, and those interested in music will benefit from this exhibit.”

- Michael Gray, Museum Editor at the Country Music Hall of Fame:

“As a curator of exhibitions at the Country Music Hall of Fame, I was impressed with the thoughtful presentation created by the State Museum. The exhibit reminds us that the Volunteer State produced music giants from Memphis (W. C. Handy, B. B. King), Chattanooga (Bessie Smith), Nashville (Fisk Jubilee Singers, Fairfield Four), and other regions. I also enjoyed learning about the lesser-known acts. *I Have a Voice* does a strong job of illustrating the ways Tennessee musicians have left a monumental cultural stamp on American music, and enriched music around the world. The State Museum should be commended for preserving this history and interpreting it for the public.”

- Reserve Today! Email or call for availability.
- Contact : Mike Bell, Curator of Popular Culture
- Email: mike.bell@tn.gov
- Phone: (615) 253-0147
- ***NOTE: Exhibit availability is contingent upon a sufficient number of venues participating.***