

Make Some Mountain Music

(NAPSA)—This may be music to your ears: You don't have to travel very far to hear or make your own authentic mountain music.

For instance, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., there are special events year-round that welcome some of the nation's best bluegrass and Appalachian musicians for incredible concerts.

The annual AppalachiaFest is an unforgettable evening of performances of traditional Smoky Mountains music. It takes place every January during the annual Wilderness Wildlife Week, which celebrates the heritage and beauty of the Appalachian Mountains. In 2008, AppalachiaFest will be hosted by the Grammy Award winner David Holt and will feature many talented artists, including the legendary Ralph Stanley.

During StringTime in the Smokies, which takes place each August, some of the country's finest bluegrass musicians come to town to pay tribute to the music of the Smoky Mountains during three days of free concerts. If you pack an instrument, you can participate in the popular Jammin' at the Old Mill, when performers and guests alike enjoy informal jam sessions after each evening's show.

Dollywood is home to the annual BBQ & Bluegrass festival. Every September, the sound of bluegrass and the smell of barbecue entice visitors to the park for 15 days of more than 300 free concerts. When you're not licking



your fingers or tapping your toes, you can enjoy Dollywood's many thrilling rides and roller coasters.

For what you need to make beautiful music, you can visit the many music stores in Pigeon Forge. These specialty shops offer many different kinds of stringed instruments, including some that are handmade. You can test your skills on a dulcimer, guitar, banjo, mandolin and more.

For those who would rather hear the music than play it, there are many theaters and shows in Pigeon Forge that feature bluegrass and traditional mountain music. Listen for a fiddle or banjo solo by one of Pigeon Forge's talented musicians, such as in the popular tunes "Dueling Banjos" or "Orange Blossom Special."

Located at the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, Pigeon Forge, Tenn., has all of this and more. For information on these special events or any other Pigeon Forge event or attraction, call toll free (800) 251-9100 or visit www.MyPigeonForge.com.