

# MUSE / IQUE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR RACHAEL WORBY

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## MUSE/IQUE to Transform Historic Blacker House into a Celebration of American Folk Music and the Life of Pete Seeger

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### Front/Porch Will Take Place Monday May 5 and Feature Music of Moonsville Collective

Under the direction of Artistic Director and conductor Rachael Worby, the front porch of Pasadena's iconic Robert R. Blacker House will set the stage for a celebration of our American roots featuring the music of the Moonsville Collective, a high-energy Americana String Band full of rich harmonies, banjos, fiddles, mandolins and more. Doors open at 6:30 and the program begins at 7:30.

The evening will pay tribute to Pete Seeger, who was instrumental in how the music of Appalachia shaped our country, and a celebration of early 20<sup>th</sup> century architects Greene and Greene, who were revolutionary in creating the American house as renegade art. Food trucks will be parked along Hillcrest Avenue for guests' enjoyment and will add to the festivities of the neighborhood block party.

As part of the ongoing "Uncorked" series, MUSE/IQUE connects master artists with new voices across a limitless range of styles. Its counter-conventional performances, which feel more like parties than formal concerts take place in improvised concert halls. True to MUSE/IQUE's roots, Front/Porch will bring eclectic music to the community in a Pasadena neighborhood known for

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its architectural history. “This is a wonderful way for us to connect with the community in a beautiful and historic setting,” Rachael Worby said. “ Moonsville Collective performs music that is truly of the people and we look forward to an evening of wonderful folk music with the Blacker House as our backdrop.”

Moonsville Collective is an Americana String Band that stands firm in the traditions of Old Time, Folk, Country and Rhythm and Blues. This sextet is comprised of multi-instrumentalists where behind three-part vocal harmonies is a mix of dobro, slide guitar, mandolin, tenor banjo, five string banjo, resonator guitar, fiddle, mouth harp, kazoo and a tight rhythm section of upright bass and loose drums.

The Robert R. Blacker House was built in 1907 and designed by Henry and Charles Greene. Ellen and Harvey Knell purchased it in 1994 and, during that time, have worked to preserve its history by making the house available to the public through various civic events.

In the three years since MUSE/IQUE was founded by a group of community leaders and Artistic Director Rachael Worby, it has grown from one performance with a handful of devoted followers to a major cultural presence that reaches vast audiences. Its considerable membership currently numbers more than 500 people. MUSE/IQUE presents its “Uncorked” series at unconventional locations in the fall and spring, and its “Summer of Sound” featuring three outdoor “music parties” on Caltech's Beckman Mall Lawn.

Among MUSE/IQUE’s guest artists are Jessye Norman, Charlie Haden, Patti Austin, Mary Wilson, Flea, Rickie Lee Jones, Ellis Hall, Matt Haimovitz,

Angela Bassett, Arturo Sandoval and more. Pop-up venues of “Uncorked” have included the Art Center College of Design Sculpture Garden, The Castle Press - one of the nation's largest printing presses, Avon Distribution Center and others. MUSE/IQUE’s “Uncorked” series is made possible in part by the Pasadena Arts and Culture Commission and the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division.

Front/Porch will take place at the Blacker House, located at 1177 Hillcrest Avenue in Pasadena. Tickets are \$50 per person or free with a MUSE/IQUE membership, which ranges from \$125 to \$1,000. For tickets and additional membership information, please call the Box Office at (626) 539-7085 or visit [www.muse-ique.org](http://www.muse-ique.org). For other information, contact Diane Reed at (626) 862-1111 or [Dianereedpr@gmail.com](mailto:Dianereedpr@gmail.com).