

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 1, 2016**  
**EVENT DATE: AUGUST 11-14, 2016**  
**Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
**Pat Crow - Festival Director**  
**Ph. 740-392-3378 Fax 740-392-7840**  
**Cell phone – (740) 507-3898**

For Detailed Up-to-Date Festival Information, Visit [www.DanEmmettFestival.org](http://www.DanEmmettFestival.org)

## **Festival Bell Celebrates 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Soldiers Monument**

MOUNT VERNON – The 2016 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival will be auctioning its 15<sup>th</sup> in the series of Festival Bells during the annual Festival Bell Auction. As in previous years, the Festival Bell is a bronze casting prepared by the Verdin Bell Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, who also cast the Ohio, Knox County, and Mount Vernon Bicentennial Bells. The previous auctions have been a tremendous success, raising substantial money for the benefit of the Festival.

Twelve Festival Bells are auctioned each year to create a series of annual Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival Bells. The Bells are individually cast, unique, and year specific. They are cast to resemble the 2003 Ohio Bicentennial Bell, the 2005 Mount Vernon Bicentennial Bell, and the 2008 Knox County Bicentennial Bell.

The artwork is designed and prepared by Gambier artisan Tim Yoder, of Dezign It. The 2016 Festival Bell commemorates the 140th anniversary of the **Soldiers Monument** in the center of Mount Vernon's Public Square. On the reverse side, the Bell bears the year and a beautiful script of the Festival name. Each handcrafted Bell is 8" tall, individually numbered by grading, and will be provided with a certificate of authenticity. The Bells have become a wonderful collector's item, especially for those who have been able to secure each Bell in the series. A photo of this year's Festival Bell is on the Festival web site.

The Festival Bell Auction will be held at the 2016 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> from the First-Knox Main Stage on the Square at approximately 8:00 p.m., preceding the live concert by country music legend BJ Thomas.

The 2016 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival runs August 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> in Downtown Mount Vernon with various activities each day. This year's Festival is made possible through the contributions of Ariel, First-Knox National Bank, and Time Warner Cable. For additional information, contact the Festival at (740) 392-FEST (3378) or email at [director@DanEmmettFestival.org](mailto:director@DanEmmettFestival.org).

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