



**Little Lectures Wrap Up for 2017 with
“West Virginia Musicians and the Nashville Sound”**

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Charleston, WV — Since 2001 the Humanities Council has presented the annual Little Lecture Series at its historic MacFarland-Hubbard House headquarters in Charleston. The 2017 series concludes on Sunday, June 25, at 2:00 p.m. with the presentation “West Virginia Musicians and the Nashville Sound” by West Virginia University professor Travis D. Stimeling.

Stimeling credits a 2014 Humanities Council fellowship for getting him started on the project to document recording and production practices from country music’s “Nashville Sound” era prevalent from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s. He recently received a \$50,400 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue his study.

Nashville, Tennessee, has been one of the most significant popular music production centers in the United States and, more recently, globally. Best known as a country music mecca, the city’s recording studios—and the exceptionally talented studio musicians who work there—have also made noteworthy contributions to rock, pop, gospel, and jazz.

Drawing on archival research and oral histories from Nashville session musicians, Professor Stimeling’s program will address the role of Nashville session musicians in shaping the popular music landscape of the past half-century. Stimeling will also discuss the ways that West Virginians, including Charlie McCoy, Roger Bryant, Russ Hicks, and Wayne Moss, have interacted with the Nashville recording industry.

Travis Stimeling is assistant professor of musicology at West Virginia University and the founding director of the WVU Bluegrass and Old-Time bands. He is the author or editor of four books on country music, including *Fifty Cents and a Box Top: The Creative Life of Nashville Session Musician Charlie McCoy* (WVU Press, 2017) and the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Country Music*. Copies of *Fifty Cents and a Box Top* will be available for purchase at the Little Lecture on June 25.

Admission to the Humanities Council Little Lectures is \$10 and includes refreshments after the program. Seating is limited and people interested in attending should confirm that seats are available by calling 304-346-8500 no later than noon on Thursday, June 22.

All Little Lectures are presented on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the MacFarland-Hubbard House, Humanities Council headquarters, located at 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, East, in Charleston. For more information visit www.wvhumanities.org or contact program officer Mark Payne at 304-346-8500 or payne@wvhumanities.org.
