

## FACT SHEET

**TITLE:** **THE ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL:  
THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN ANTHEM**  
[TV-G] [CC] [Stereo]

**LENGTH:** 1/58

**NOLA CODE:** OBSA

**CATEGORY:** Documentary

**OFFERED:** Fall 2005, S28

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** April 1, 2006

**CONTRACT TERMS:** Four releases to be completed by March 31, 2008.  
A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

**PROGRAM SUPPLIER:** Northern Light Productions

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** Did you know that "The Orange Blossom Special" is one of the top 10 most-performed songs of the 20th century? **THE ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL: THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN ANTHEM** explores the evolution of this extraordinary fiddle tune, its colorful creator and the musicians who constantly reinvent it.

The documentary uses no narration, but instead presents the sights and sounds of the bluegrass experience, exploring the musical tradition with some of America's greats including Bela Fleck, Charlie Daniels, The Del McCoury Band, String Cheese Incident, as well as the late Vassar Clements and Johnny Cash. It creates a journey as memorable as the song itself through original cinematography, concert and backstage footage, interviews with musicians and fans and a diverse collection of archival stills, motion picture footage and vintage television broadcasts.

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**PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS:** Use above description for guide listings. A press release and episode listings will be posted to PBS Connect and [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org). Color photography will be available via email and will also be posted on [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

**PRODUCTION DATE:** © 2005 Northern Light Productions

**RELATED MERCHANDISE:** Individual viewer purchase: **THE ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL: THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN ANTHEM** is available on VHS or DVD for \$25.00 plus shipping and handling. To order: Call 1-617-789-4344 or [www.nlprod.com](http://www.nlprod.com). Offer made by Northern Light Productions and American Public Television.

Pledge: There is pledge merchandise available for this program. If you are interested in pledging this program, please contact Kerry Taylor at 617-338-4455 x121 or email [Kerry\\_Taylor@APTonline.org](mailto:Kerry_Taylor@APTonline.org).

**VIEWER INQUIRIES:** [www.nlprod.com](http://www.nlprod.com)

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2/13/2006

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Documentary Salutes One of the Most Enduring Fiddle Tunes of All Time

"I can hit the first train whistle on *Orange Blossom Special* (OBS) and people know what I'm playing. Maybe they don't recognize the introduction to another song I do all day long, but that one they know."  
— Charlie Daniels, musician

To many, it is a sweet, familiar tune. Born in the rough seas of the Depression, its tale is one of endless railroad tracks, towns without names and wanderlust. It is a friend to everyone, but very few really know it intimately. It travels with disparate bands, each night taking on a new voice and a new spirit. Like the familiar call of a train whistle, one can recognize it in the first few notes. It is the "Orange Blossom Special," the fiddle anthem of American bluegrass. **THE ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL: THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN ANTHEM**, airing on American public television stations nationwide beginning April 1, 2006 (check local listings), tells the story of this famous song, its colorful creator and the innovative musicians who re-invent it night after night.

Named after a seasonal train that ran down the East Coast to Florida, "Orange Blossom Special" was written in 1938 by trick fiddler Ervin T. Rouse and made famous by traveling musician, Chubby Wise. The song's evocation of the train's sound and speed has been interpreted in every musical form and performed on festival stages from New York to Utah and around the world. It is one of the most performed songs of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**THE ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL: THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN ANTHEM** is an American musical story told by musicians and their music. Using no narration, the film presents the sights and the sounds of the bluegrass experience. It also includes

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## **THE ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL /2**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

interpretations of the song by such musicians as Vassar Clements, Bela Fleck, Charlie Daniels, The Del McCoury Band, String Cheese Incident, Johnny Cash and others. The documentary combines original cinematography, concert and backstage footage, interviews with musicians and fans, a rich and diverse collection of archival stills, motion picture clips and vintage television broadcasts to create a journey as memorable as its namesake — “The Orange Blossom Special,” the fastest train on the line.

**THE ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL: THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN ANTHEM** was acquired from Northern Light Productions by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations nationwide.

### **About American Public Television**

For 44 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations. APT distributes more than 10,000 hours of programming including *JFK: Breaking the News*, *Simply Ming*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Julia and Jacques Cooking at Home*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Jungle*, *America's Test Kitchen*, *Lidia's Family Table* and classic movies. APT is known for identifying innovative programs and developing creative distribution techniques for producers. In four decades, it has established a tradition of providing public television stations nationwide with program choices that enable them to strengthen and customize their schedules. Press should contact Donna Hardwick at 617-338-4455 ext. 129 or via email to [Donna\\_Hardwick@APTonline.org](mailto:Donna_Hardwick@APTonline.org). For more information about APT's programs and services visit [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

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