



14. Now that you have learned more about DeFord Bailey and country music, it is time to create your own connection. What does DeFord Bailey have in common with one of your favorite musical artists?

## YOU DID IT!

Show your completed Seek and Find at the Information Desk on the first floor to receive a DeFord Bailey activity pack to take home!



Scan the QR code to learn more about DeFord Bailey and to take a harmonica lesson yourself.

Answer key: 1. Four; 2. Answers vary; 3. Hohner Marine Band harmonica, Megaphone; 4. Press the chord bar button with one hand and strum the strings with the other hand; 5. Jimmie Rodgers, The Singing Brakeman; 6. Doll; 7. 15¢; 8. Gibson F-5 Mandolin; 9. Hohner Marine Band; 10. A boat on a river; 11. He is flying; 12. *Color Me Country*; 13. 1899, 123 years old (as of 2022); 14. Answers vary



This program is made possible by a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission.

# DISCOVER DEFORD BAILEY: COUNTRY MUSIC SEEK AND FIND



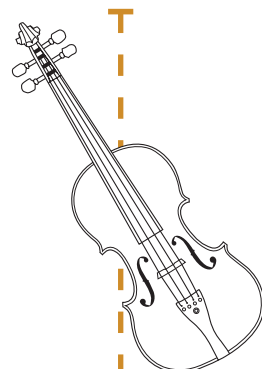
Use this activity to learn about the life and music of Country Music Hall of Fame member **DeFord Bailey**, one of early country music's most popular performers and the first Black star of the Grand Ole Opry radio program.

## READY...SET...GO!

Try your best to answer the following questions and have fun!

*\*Hint: Questions are in order as you walk through the gallery. Look for the display case names in GOLD. An answer key is on the back page!*

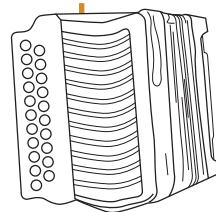
## 3RD FLOOR



### 1. FROM BARBARA ALLEN TO OMIE WISE: FOLK MUSIC FROM THE BRITISH ISLES

DeFord Bailey gained a love of music from his family, who would often gather together to make music and perform. The Bailey family played stringband instruments like the guitar, banjo, mandolin, and harmonica. DeFord's grandfather, Lewis Bailey, was even a champion fiddle player!

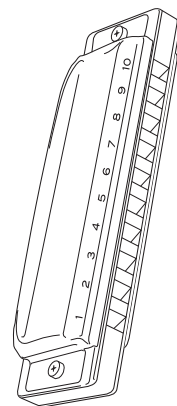
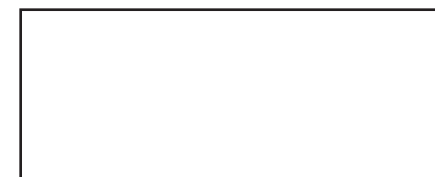
Find the **fiddle**. How many strings does it have? \_\_\_\_\_



### 2. WITH A BANJO ON MY KNEE: MUSIC OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY STAGE

DeFord was a multi-instrumentalist who also sang and composed music. He was best known for playing the harmonica, which he called a "harp." This pocket-sized wind instrument was popular due to its small size, affordability, and musical flexibility. Though they look different, a harmonica and an accordion create sound in a similar way. When air enters the instrument, a reed vibrates in the center, which makes musical sounds.

Find an **accordion**. Draw one detail.



### 3. FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS: THE DAWN OF COUNTRY RADIO

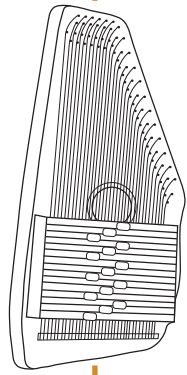
Long before television and YouTube, many people listened to music on the radio. DeFord Bailey became famous by performing live on the radio, but he also made records and played concerts too. He was called the "Harmonica Wizard" because of his exciting style of playing, which included fast passages, quick changes from high to low notes, and "double stops," a playing technique that makes two notes sound together.

Find DeFord's **artifacts**.  
What kind of harmonica did he play?  
What device did he use to make it sound louder?

\_\_\_\_\_



See DeFord perform

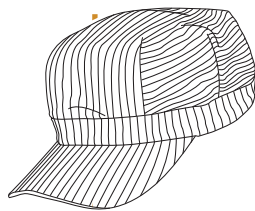


#### 4. REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE: EARLY COUNTRY RECORDINGS

DeFord took part in the first commercial recording session ever held in Nashville. In 1928, he recorded eight tunes for producer Ralph Peer. A year earlier, Peer had gone to Bristol, Tennessee, and recorded two other important early country music acts: the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers.

Find the **autoharp** played by Sara Carter of the Carter Family.  
How do you think you make music with an autoharp?

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#### 5. REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE: EARLY COUNTRY RECORDINGS

When he was three years old, DeFord became sick with a dangerous disease called polio. While he lay in bed for a year recovering, he learned to play the harmonica. He taught himself to imitate the sounds of the trains that passed by his home in rural Smith County, Tennessee. Later, he used these sounds in his train song, “Pan American Blues.” Another early country musician was also inspired by trains.

Find the **railroad worker cap**. Who owned this hat? What was his nickname?

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#### 6. TENNESSEE SATURDAY NIGHT: NASHVILLE TAKES THE LEAD

The longest-running radio show in America is the Grand Ole Opry, which first broadcast from Nashville in 1925 and is still on the air today. DeFord was one of the Opry’s first and most popular performers, appearing on the show from 1926 to 1941. Another favorite Grand Ole Opry performer and friend of DeFord was singer and fiddle player Roy Acuff.

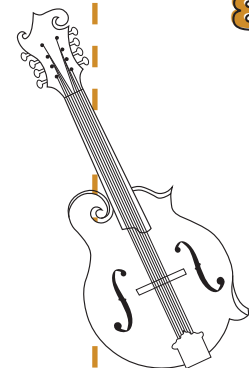
Find the **flour sack**. What toy could be made with this sack when it is empty? \_\_\_\_\_



#### 7. SWEET DREAMS: THE NASHVILLE SOUND

DeFord showed interest in music at an early age and spent a lot of time playing his harmonica as a child. Around age ten, people began to travel from far distances to hear him play. Brenda Lee is another artist who began her musical career at a young age. One of her biggest hits, “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree,” was recorded when she was thirteen years old.

Find the Brenda Lee **artifacts**. How much did the comic book cost in 1962? \_\_\_\_\_

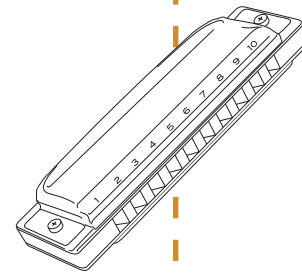


#### 8. THE PRECIOUS JEWEL

As a Black man, DeFord Bailey experienced racism and discrimination that often prevented him from doing things that white people did. For example, he was not always allowed to eat at restaurants or stay in hotels with his fellow Grand Ole Opry members when they toured together. Musician Bill Monroe looked out for DeFord when they were on the road and tried to make sure he was treated fairly, got good meals, and could stay in a hotel with the rest of the musicians.

Find Bill Monroe’s **artifact**. What instrument did he play? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2ND FLOOR

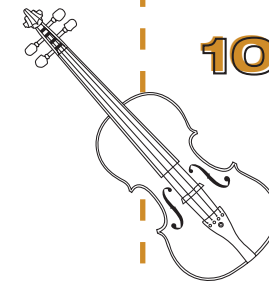


#### 9. OUTLAWS AND ARMADILLOS: COUNTRY’S ROARING ‘70S

The Hohner Marine Band harmonica was DeFord Bailey’s favorite brand of “harp” to play. Another harmonica player named Mickey Raphael became well-known as a member of Willie Nelson’s band. Mickey has played with many artists who make different types of music, like Snoop Dogg, Elton John, Wynton Marsalis, Mötley Crüe, and U2.

Find Mickey Raphael’s **harmonicas**. What kind of harmonica does he play?

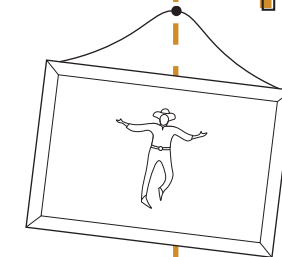
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#### 10. WHEN TWO WORLDS COLLIDE: COUNTRY MUSIC MEETS MASS MARKET

DeFord grew up in rural Tennessee, and his music was inspired by sounds he heard around him in the country. As a professional musician, he performed songs like “Old Hen Cackle” and “Fox Chase.” Another artist whose music was inspired by nature was John Hartford.

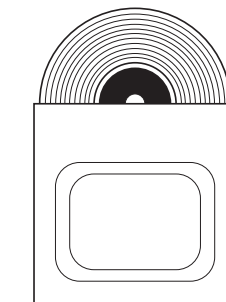
Find John Hartford’s **fiddle**. What is painted on the instrument? \_\_\_\_\_



#### 11. SECOND FLOOR GALLERY HALLWAY

DeFord Bailey was a showman. That means he knew how to entertain an audience. In addition to playing the harmonica in his shows, he sang while playing banjo or guitar, he did yo-yo tricks, and he sometimes added a beat to his harmonica tunes by knocking two pieces of wood (sometimes called “bones”) together with his free hand. Another performer known for being a showman is Garth Brooks.

Find Garth Brooks in a **large color photo**. What is he doing? \_\_\_\_\_

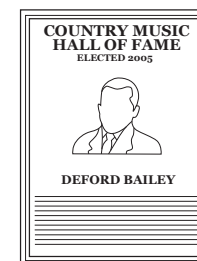


#### 12. AMERICAN CURRENTS: STATE OF THE MUSIC

In the late 1920s, DeFord Bailey became the first Black artist to perform on the Grand Ole Opry. In 1969, Linda Martell became the first Black female solo artist to perform on the show. Even though they faced racism and discrimination, DeFord’s and Linda’s musical talents created lasting and important music that has inspired countless musicians and listeners.

Find Linda Martell’s **album cover** in the display about singer and radio show host Rissi Palmer. What is the name of this 1970 album?

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#### 13. HALL OF FAME ROTUNDA

The Country Music Hall of Fame honors people who have made important contributions to country music, including musicians, songwriters, record producers, business leaders, and more. DeFord Bailey was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005.

Find DeFord Bailey’s **plaque**. What year was he born?  
Bonus: How old would DeFord Bailey be today?

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