

EVERHART MUSEUM

NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE & ART

1901 Mulberry Street, Scranton, PA 18510

[tel] 570-346-7186 [fax] 570-346-0652 [web] www.everhart-museum.org

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Press Photographs are Available Upon Request

Contact: Lauren White at 570-346-7186 or public.relations@everhart-museum.org

Beatles Photography Exhibit will Rock the Everhart

Scranton – October 14, 2008: The Everhart Museum will open *The Beatles: Photographs by Harry Benson* on November 9 and continue on display through December 31, 2008. The exhibition features classic rock-and-roll photographs by Scottish-born photojournalist, Harry Benson and is complemented by vintage Beatles memorabilia on loan from the Newseum in Washington, DC. The exhibit is funded in part by Penn Security Bank & Trust Co. with media sponsorship by Cool 92 FM.

Nearly 45 years after the Beatles began the British invasion with their historic February 9, 1964 appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," the music world still stands in awe of their impact, and more importantly, their sound. *The Beatles: Photographs by Harry Benson* celebrates what many consider to be the most influential event not only in rock 'n' roll history, but for American society as well. "They touched all dimensions, all levels," marvels Benson. "People related to them because they were four really good-looking guys with enormous talent. I feel very fortunate to have been able to cover them, and to have been there when Beatlemania was rising. Even today, as soon as you hear their music play, you turn the radio up a notch. They make people smile. Their music is going to live forever ... it has to." While the band stayed together seven years, ultimately splitting up in 1970, at the time of their arrival in the U.S., the Fab Four expressed doubts about their future. "They were apprehensive about how they'd be received," recalls Benson. "The Beatles thought they might not last. They figured they would last maybe 17 months. Ringo said he was going to open a beauty parlor. George figured he would play classical guitar for an orchestra. John wanted to be a writer. And Paul planned to [write] for West End London shows [similar to Broadway]."

Harry Benson arrived in America with the Beatles in 1964 and never left. He has photographed every U.S. president from Eisenhower to George W. Bush; was just feet away from Bobby Kennedy the night he was assassinated in 1968; stood in the room with Richard Nixon when he resigned from office; covered the Meredith March with Martin Luther King and was next to Coretta Scott King at her husband's funeral; went on maneuvers with the IRA; was there when the Berlin Wall went up and then came down; and covered the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Recently Benson was honored with a Doctor of Letters from the Glasgow School of Art and Glasgow University in 2007. Twice named NPPA Photographer of the Year, he received the 2005 LUCIE Award for Lifetime Achievement in Portrait Photography; the 2005 AMERICAN PHOTO Magazine Award for Achievement in Photography; the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Scottish Press Photographers Association; and has twice earned the Leica Medal of Excellence. Benson has had 40 solo gallery exhibitions and thirteen books of his photography published, the most recent this past spring *RFK: A Photographer's Journal* (PowerHouse Books). His photographs are in the permanent collection of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh, and the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC. Both museums recently hosted his retrospective *Harry Benson: Being There* in 2006-2007. More recently another retrospective of his work was at Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow in June–September 2008.

Harry Benson, under contract to LIFE magazine from 1970 to 2000, is presently under contract to Vanity Fair Magazine, and photographs for Architectural Digest, Newsweek, and other major magazines. He lives in New York with his wife Gigi, who works with him on book and exhibition projects such as this one for the Everhart Museum.

A special fund raising preview of ***The Beatles: Photographs by Harry Benson*** will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2008 beginning at 6:00 pm. Admission is \$30/person and participants must be 21 or older in order to attend. The event is limited to 200 people and reservations are required.

The Everhart Museum is open: noon-4:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Monday; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday; and noon-5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/students & seniors, \$2/children 6-12, and free to Everhart Museum members. For more information on this exhibit or the fund raising event, contact the museum at 570-346-7186 or email general.information@everhart-museum.org.

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About the Everhart Museum: Founded in 1908, the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art is the largest general museum in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Everhart Museum, located in Nay Aug Park in Scranton, is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to the collection, care and display of a diverse array of artifacts, including natural history, science and fine arts. Through our exhibits and programs, the Everhart Museum has become an invaluable regional resource for educational and cultural opportunities. General support for the museum is received from the Lackawanna County Office of Education & Culture, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the City of Scranton. For more information on the museum visit our website at www.everhart-museum.org or contact us at 570-346-7186.