THE DEPAUL HUMANITIES CENTER CONDEMNATION: JUSTICE, PRISON, PUNISHMENT, PERSECUTION PRESENTS

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PORTRAITS OF LOUISIANA PRISON MUSICIANS

The DePaul Humanities Center's "CondemNation: Justice, Prison, Punishment, Persecution" series kicks off with a screening of a documentary on music in prisons, featuring a talk and Q&A with the film's director, Georgetown ethnomusicologist, Ben Harbert.

Shot over the course of two years in three Louisiana prisons, *Follow Me Down* weaves together interviews and performances of extraordinary inmate musicians—some serving life sentences, some new commits, and one soon to be released. The result plays like a concert film, but instead of bright lights and big stages, these musicians rap in okra fields, soothe themselves with R&B in lockdown, and create gospel harmonies in the yard. With unprecedented access and Harbert's insistence on letting the music speak for itself, the film offers an unexpected look at contemporary American prison life, inspiring viewers to think carefully and with new insight about punishment, justice, art, and our shared humanity.

