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NEWS RELEASE

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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION *THE LEGACY OF ALABAMA AFRICAN AMERICAN GOSPEL QUARTETS* BY DOUG SEROFF WITH A PERFORMANCE BY THE FOUR EAGLES GOSPEL QUARTET AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues another year of informative talks on Alabama History at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Join us at **noon on Thursday, October 20, 2011** as **Doug Seroff** presents ***The Legacy of Alabama African American Gospel Quartets***, with a performance by the **Four Eagles Gospel Quartet**. This presentation is in conjunction with the Department of Tourism's *Year of Alabama Music*.

Jobs in the steel mills of Birmingham brought thousands of rural people to the area in the early 1900s. A cappella quartet singing, fostered and supported by steel mill organizations, local churches, and schools became a passionate practice for many Jefferson County citizens. Drawing influences from the popular music, barbershop singing, and a vast body of sacred songs, the Jefferson County quartets produced a distinctive harmony style, christened the "Alabama Sound." Touring Jefferson County quartets subsequently spread their music throughout the U.S. Founded in the late 1930s, the Four Eagle Gospel Singers of Bessemer, are situated squarely in this tradition. They have been performing for over 72 years and will bring their traditional style to this ArchiTreats program.

Doug Seroff has been researching and writing about African American popular music for over 30 years. He has done extensive research on the history of the African American quartet tradition in Alabama since the late 1970s, and is the author or co-author of several books. In this program Seroff will discuss the "Alabama Sound" as performed by the Four Eagles and other gospel groups.

This ArchiTreats presentation is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. Coffee and tea will be provided by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

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