



# HEAR THE MOUNTAINS!



## 2023 PROGRAM GUIDE

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The Blue Ridge Music Center is operated through a partnership between the National Park Service and Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation. For more, visit [BRPFoundation.org](http://BRPFoundation.org)

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Music Center Road, Galax, Va. • Milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway

For concert information, visit [BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org](http://BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org) or call (866) 308-2773, ext. 212.

HELLO!

# WELCOME TO THE BLUE RIDGE MUSIC CENTER

Thanks for spending your summer Saturday evening with us on the hillside in our outdoor amphitheater at the base of Fisher Peak on the Blue Ridge Parkway. We are thrilled to present a talented lineup of performers for the 2023 Roots of American Music concert series.

The schedule features great bluegrass and old-time music performers and bands. Running the gamut from traditional to contemporary, these bands include the Steep Canyon Rangers, Sam Bush Band, Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper, The Kody Norris Show, Lonesome River Band, Ashlee Watkins & Andrew Small, Cabin Creek Boys, Crooked Road Ramblers, Slate Mountain Ramblers, and Doc at 100, a special Doc Watson tribute concert.

A variety of younger artists who have been influenced by the traditional music of the Blue Ridge region will also take the stage to showcase how they're adapting the music and carrying forward these living traditions in exciting ways. These artists include Amythyst Kiah, Sierra Ferrell, Watchhouse, John R. Miller, Rissi Palmer, Scythian, Larry Bellowin & Joe Troop, and DaShawn & Wendy Hickman.

We are happy that you're joining us, and hope you enjoy an evening of great music in this beautiful setting in the Blue Ridge Mountains.



**Richard Emmett**  
*Program Director*



**Marianne Kovatch**  
*Associate Program Director*



**Adam Lowe**  
*Associate Program Manager*

## Blue Ridge Music Center Team

**Valerie Glowinski** *Lead Interpretive Ranger*

**Holli Harris** *Ranger*

**Brian Downey** *America's National Parks Gift Shop*

**Mike & Judy Duncan** *Photographers*

**Frank Martin** *Lead Sound Engineer*

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**Aubrey Arrington** *Lead NPS Volunteer*

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**Volunteers:** Jared Bowers, Regina Bradley, Faye Cates, Cis Dalton, Ed Dalton, Kathy Kittelberger, Tom Kittelberger, Susan Lewis, Mark Mehring, Emily Morgan, Barb Newton, Samantha Ashley Norman, Renee Pogrow, Joan Sherif, Jeff Summey, Melanie Summey, Sherry Tolle, Tom Tolle



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## ABOUT THE VENUE

The Blue Ridge region is truly one of the most musical places on Earth. The Blue Ridge Music Center honors and celebrates the living musical heritage of the surrounding mountains and interprets its significance within the larger landscape of American music and culture.

For generations, small rural communities in the mountains have produced an abundance of remarkable traditional musicians, dancers, and instrument makers who have become keepers of a legacy rooted in the rhythms of African banjo and the melodies of the European violin. The region created and maintains a wellspring of

old-time, bluegrass, and mountain gospel sounds that have profoundly influenced the development of American music.

The Music Center's mission is to document and interpret the traditional musical forms of the Blue Ridge Mountains, offer opportunities for people to hear this music, and learn about the cultural context from which it emerged.

The Music Center is also a portal to the region, introducing visitors to the many musical and cultural attractions in Blue Ridge Parkway gateway communities.

We hope you enjoy your visit!

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# ROOTS OF AMERICAN MUSIC MUSEUM

Open daily · 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. · Free

At the Blue Ridge Music Center, the Roots of American Music Museum tells the compelling story of the region's rich musical heritage. This year, the Music Center was ranked No. 4 in a list of the Top 10 free museums in the country by USA Today readers.

Visitors can enjoy songs and stories while learning about the significance of this intriguing aspect of mountain culture. Stop in to mix and match lyrics, create mountain music, and hear personal stories of how music has influenced generations of families in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Visitors will see examples of the evolution of the five string banjo since its arrival in North America with enslaved Africans. They can learn how European immigrants brought the fiddle to



the Appalachian frontier. The blending of these two instruments was the beginning of virtually all forms of American music. There are also oral history programs of those who collected the music of the mountains. A key element of the story is how the recording industry and radio popularized and changed mountain music.

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## SONGS & STORIES

# HEAR LOCAL MOUNTAIN MUSIC!

Daily · Noon - 4 P.M. · Free



Join us every day on the breezeway for Midday Mountain Music, songs and tales of the mountains. During these free presentations, visitors are welcomed by the sounds of the fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and guitar, played by regional musicians.

**Sun** Fisher Peak Timber Rattlers

**Mon** Buck Mountaineers

**Tues**  
**1st:** Corbin Hayslett & Friends  
**2nd:** Jackson Cunningham & Friends  
**3rd:** Cedar Ridge  
**4th:** Jackson Cunningham & Friends

**Wed** Bill and Maggie Anderson

**Thurs** Scott Freeman and Willard Gayheart

**Fri** Open Jam with Lynn and Jim

**Sat**  
**1st:** Cedar Ridge  
**2nd:** Blue Ridge Ramblers  
**3rd:** Sugarloaf Mountain Band  
**4th:** Guest artists

## ALONG THE PARKWAY

# MILEPOST MUSIC

The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and Music Center are presenting free mountain music sessions at popular destinations along the Parkway. Milepost Music sessions are offered from 2 to 4 p.m., on the following dates, from June through September.

**Humpback Rocks**  
**Milepost 5.8 (near the Visitor Center)**  
Third Sunday of the month  
(June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17)

**Peaks of Otter**  
**Milepost 85.6 (near the lodge)**  
First Sunday of the month  
(June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3)

**Mabry Mill**  
**Milepost 176.1 (in the Old Mill Village)**  
Second Sunday of the month  
(June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10)

**Doughton Park Picnic Area**  
**Milepost 241 (near the old Bluffs Lodge)**  
Fourth Sunday of the month  
(June 25, July 23, Aug. 27, Sept. 24)

**Asheville Visitor Center**  
**Milepost 384**  
(June 25, August 27)







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ONLINE ANYTIME

# TUNE IN TO OUR STATIONS

You can explore and experience the Music Center with our YouTube and Spotify channels.

Visit our YouTube channel for:

- Videos that highlight aspects of the Music Center, including Roots of American Music Museum, Midday Mountain Music sessions, hiking opportunities on the campus, and an interview with Graham Sharp of the Steep Canyon Rangers
- A Place in the Band: Women in Bluegrass and American Roots Music, discussion series with women in the music business, including musicians and others involved behind the scenes
- Deep Roots Many Voices: Diversity & Inclusion in American Roots Music, a project exploring the issues of diversity and inclusion in American roots-based music



**DEEP ROOTS, MANY VOICES**  
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION  
IN AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC

**A PLACE IN THE BAND**  
WOMEN IN BLUEGRASS  
& AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC

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To hear a playlist of this year's performers and those from past seasons, check out the Blue Ridge Music Center channel on Spotify.



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## MOUNTAIN BLUEGRASS

# LONESOME RIVER BAND

+ ASHLEE WATKINS & ANDREW SMALL

Sat, May 27 • 7 P.M.

**\$25 adv / \$30 day-of / free for 12 & younger**

The Lonesome River Band is one of the most respected names in bluegrass music. Led by renowned banjo player Sammy Shelor, the group is constantly breaking new ground in acoustic music. With two stellar lead vocalists, Jesse Smathers (guitar) and Adam Miller (mandolin), and the impressive talents of Mike Hartgrove (fiddle) and Kameron Keller (bass), the band seamlessly fuses instrumentals and harmony vocals, traditional and contemporary bluegrass sounds.

**Opening:** Ashlee Watkins and Andrew Small perform music in a variety of styles such as



bluegrass, country, old time, folk, and Americana. Featuring an exquisite blend of vocal harmony, the duo's versatile sound includes a range of acoustic instrumentation from fiddle and banjo tunes to mandolin and guitar numbers.



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## IRISH-INFLUENCED ROOTS ROCK

# SCYTHIAN

+ CABIN CREEK BOYS

Sat, June 3 • 7 P.M.

**\$25 adv / \$30 day-of / free for 12 & younger**

Scythian (sith-ee-yin) began more than 12 years ago as a bunch of college buddies playing Celtic music in the streets. The group has grown to become a headliner at Celtic and bluegrass-Americana festivals. Their brand of high-energy folk music found a resonance that led *The Washington Post* to write: "Scythian's enthusiasm is contagious, and shows seem to end with everyone dancing, jumping around or hoisting glasses." They have played more than 1,300 shows across the United States, Europe, Canada, and Australia.

The group was founded by brothers Alexander and Danylo Fedoryka, who are first-generation sons of Ukrainian immigrants. From the start, Scythian has been a search and love for the



"old time, good time" Celtic-influenced music.

**Opening:** The Cabin Creek Boys play high-energy stringband music from the Blue Ridge Mountains. For the last 13 years, they have been performing at fiddlers' conventions, square dances, and festivals.







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APPALACHIAN STEEPED FOLK

# WATCHHOUSE

+ ALEXA ROSE

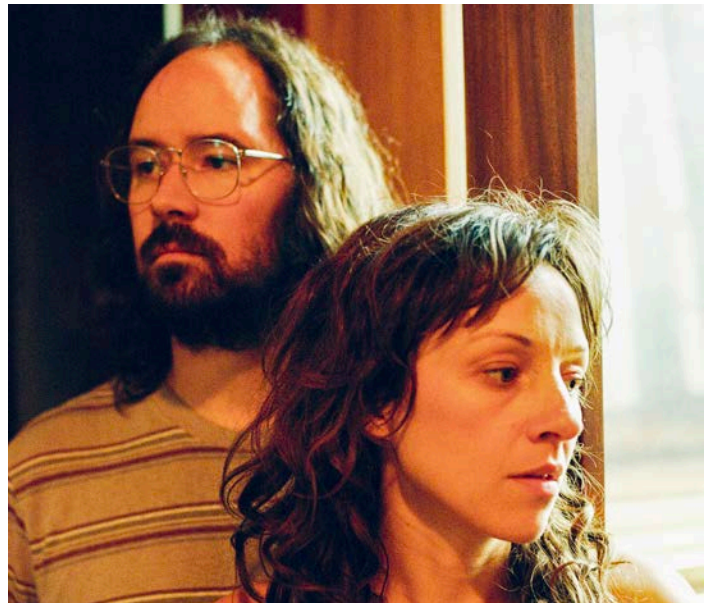
Sat, June 10 • 7 P.M.

**\$40 / \$20 for 12 & younger**

Watchhouse, formerly Mandolin Orange, is an Americana-folk duo featuring Andrew Marlin (vocals, mandolin, guitar, banjo) and Emily Frantz (vocals, violin, guitar). The duo weaves Appalachian-steeped folk into earnest songwriting, and capture audiences through the interplay of storytelling and harmony singing.

Over the past decade, they have released six albums as Mandolin Orange. Under the new name, they produced a self-titled album in 2021, a recording that reflects their new direction and intentions as a band.

**Opening:** Alexa Rose was born in the Alleghany Highlands of Virginia and raised in a tiny Appalachian railroad town. The musical legacy and storytelling spirit of the mountains are woven



into her voice and songwriting. Her debut album, *Medicine For Living*, is a multilayered Americana merger of old country music and traditional folk songs.

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NATIONAL TREASURES IN NATIONAL PARKS

# MICHAEL CLEVELAND & FLAMEKEEPER + CROOKED ROAD RAMBLERS

Sat, June 17 • 7 P.M.

**\$30 / free for 12 & younger**

From an early age, Michael Cleveland heard old-time and bluegrass music at local jams and festivals near his hometown of Henryville, Indiana, inspiring him to take up the fiddle at age four. Cleveland began playing professionally after high school, and in 2006, he formed Flamekeeper, a group that has won the International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) Instrumental Group of the Year award seven times.

Cleveland has been recognized 12 times as the IBMA's Fiddler of the Year, was inducted into the National Fiddlers' Hall of Fame, and won a Grammy for his album *Tall Fiddler*. In 2022, the National Endowment for the Arts named him a Heritage Fellow, the United States' highest honor in the folk and traditional arts.



**Opening:** The Crooked Road Ramblers are an old-time band steeped in the traditional music of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The group performs a mixture of instrumental dance music, old ballads, and traditional country and bluegrass songs.

*This concert is sponsored by the National Council for Traditional Arts as part of its series National Treasures: A Tour of Culture Bearers in National Parks. National Treasures showcases the nation's most distinguished cultural ambassadors at signature national parks throughout the American landscape.*



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COLLISION OF WORLDS

# AMYTHYST KIAH + THE FOREIGN LANDERS

Sat, June 24 • 7 P.M.

**\$25 / free for 12 & younger**

A Tennessee-raised singer, songwriter, and instrumentalist, Amythyst Kiah cuts across genres. Her diverse taste in artists spans the likes of pop icons such as Micheal Jackson and Tori Amos, as well as classic country artists Jimmy Rogers and the Carter Family. When combined with the transcendent quality of her voice, what emerges is an extraordinary vessel for Kiah’s musical expression and songwriting. Her standout song “Black Myself” earned a Grammy nomination for Best American Roots Song and won Song of the Year at the 2019 Folk Alliance International Awards. With her Rounder Records debut, *Wary + Strange*, she has toured in Europe and the United States.

**Opening:** The Foreign Landers are a



transatlantic husband and wife folk duo. Mandolinist David Benedict grew up in South Carolina. Banjoist Tabitha Agnew Benedict hails from Northern Ireland. Their authenticity and originality is accompanied with accolades, such as each of them receiving an Instrumentalists of Year Momentum Award from International Bluegrass Music Association.

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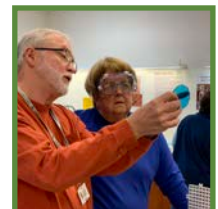


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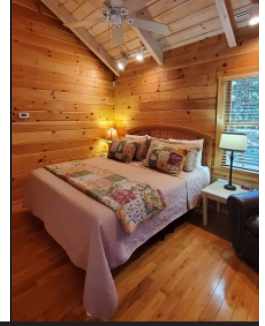


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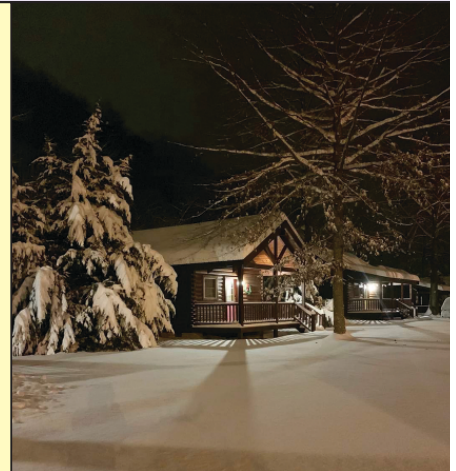
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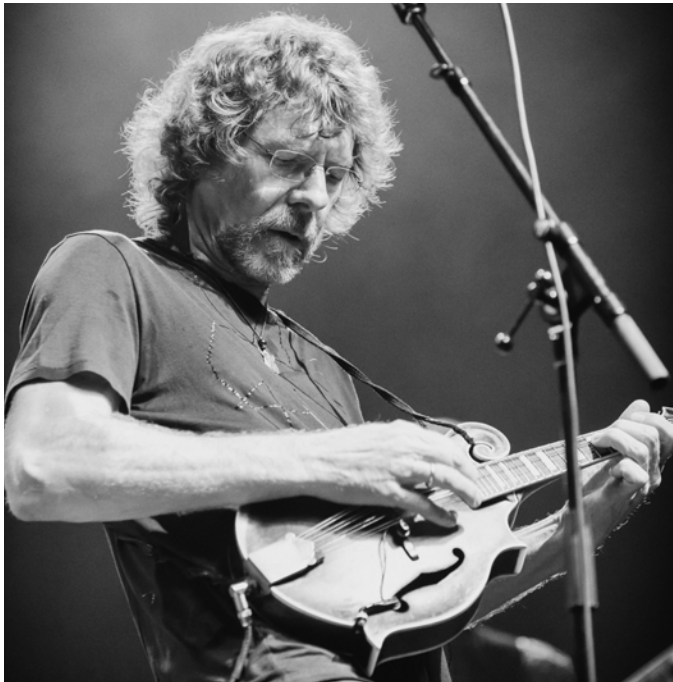
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FATHER OF NEWGRASS

## SAM BUSH BAND

Sat, July 1 • 7 P.M.



**\$35 adv / \$40 day-of / \$15 for 12 & younger**

Sam Bush, aka The Father of Newgrass, is known as one of the liveliest performers around. Inspired by the pioneering progressive bluegrass band the New Deal String Band and their rock-flavored approach to bluegrass, Sam Bush formed the New Grass Revival in 1972. Over the next 17 years, he and the band revolutionized the music of the hill country, incorporating everything from gospel and reggae to rock and modern jazz into their tradition-rooted sound.

After a quarter-century of making music with New Grass Revival and collaborating with other bands, Bush, went solo. He's released seven albums and a live DVD over the past two decades. In 2009, the Americana Music Association awarded Bush the Lifetime Achievement Award for Instrumentalist. The Punch Brothers, Steep Canyon Rangers, and Greensky Bluegrass are just a few present-day bluegrass vanguards he's influenced.

APPALACHIAN KEYS

## JEFF LITTLE TRIO

+ DASHAWN & WENDY HICKMAN

Sat, July 8 • 7 P.M.



**\$20 / free for 12 & younger**

Jeff Little is an award-winning musician from the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. As a true music innovator, he gives the piano a prominent role in Americana and Appalachian music that is very rarely seen.

The Jeff Little Trio includes Steve Lewis and Luke Little. Lewis is an award-winning guitar and banjo player from Todd, N.C., and is one of the most respected acoustic musicians in the country. Luke is a young and talented mandolin player whose musicianship and style expand well beyond his years.

**Opening:** DaShawn Hickman, from Mount Airy, N.C., is one of today's foremost players of Sacred Steel, a blues-gospel tradition started in the Pentecostal-Holiness churches of the 1930s. He grew up hearing pedal steel in the tiny House of God church his family attended, and listening to his mother play lap steel at home. Hickman, along with his vocalist wife, Wendy, and bass player Charlie Hunter have put their own spin on Sacred Steel, and love to share their soulful sound.



# Vacation or **SHORT GETAWAY**...





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## SOUTHERN SOUL

# RISSI PALMER + MARTHA BASSETT

Sat, July 15 • 7 P.M.

**\$20 / free for 12 & younger**

Rissi Palmer made her mark in country music, yet she is equally at home in R&B, bringing the entire spectrum of popular music to bear on music she calls “Southern Soul.”

As a passionate voice for country artists of color and those who have been marginalized in mainstream country music, Palmer launched her radio show *Color Me Country with Rissi Palmer* on Apple Music Country in 2020. The program treats listeners to in-depth conversations with artists of color, including Brittney Spencer, Cam, Chapel Hart, Crystal Shawanda, Maren Morris, Miko Marks, The War and Treaty, Darius Rucker and Mickey Guyton, and Andrea Williams.



**Opening:** Martha Bassett’s beautiful alto-voice radiates as she performs in a wide array of musical genres, including jazz, folk, and country gospel. As a guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter, her solid stage presence captivates audiences. She is also the host of the *Martha Bassett Show*, a popular monthly radio program that features her as band leader and curator.

## ECLECTIC & HEARTFELT

# SIERRA FERRELL

Sat, July 22 • 7 P.M.

**\$30 adv / \$35 day-of / \$15 for 12 & younger**

With her spellbinding voice and time-bending sensibilities, Sierra Ferrell makes music that’s as fantastically vagabond as the artist herself. Growing up in small-town West Virginia, the singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist left home in her early 20s to journey across the country with a troupe of nomadic musicians, playing everywhere from truck stops to alleyways to boxcars speeding down the railroad tracks.

After years of living in her van and busking on the streets of New Orleans and Seattle, she moved to Nashville and soon landed a deal with Rounder Records. On her label debut *Long Time Coming*, Ferrell shares songs that instantly transport her audience to an infinitely more



enchanted world.

“I want my music to be like my mind is — all over the place,” she says. “I listen to everything from bluegrass to techno to goth metal, and it all inspires me in different ways that I try to incorporate into my songs and make people really feel something.” Ferrell joined forces with a knockout lineup of guest musicians, adding entirely new texture to each of her gracefully crafted and undeniably heartfelt songs.

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EARTHY COUNTRY, FOLK & BLUES

# JOHN R. MILLER

+ CALEB CAUDLE

Sat, July 29 • 7 P.M.



## \$20 / \$5 for 12 & younger

John R. Miller is a guitarist, singer, and songwriter whose music has the earthy twang of country, the late-night feel of blues, and the road-worn defiance of rock & roll.

When he was 14, he taught himself to play guitar. Starting with punk rock, he switched direction during a brief stint in college, discovering traditional West Virginia fiddle music, and taking an interest in folk and country singer-songwriters.

His latest recording, *Depreciated*, was released in 2021 to glowing accolades, including from roots music favorite Tyler Childers, who says Miller is “a well-traveled wordsmith mapping out the world he’s seen, three chords at a time.”

**Opening:** Caleb Caudle’s songs weave their way into the listener’s life, embracing the vast spectrum of emotion between the joy and sadness of our shared experiences. His catalog is a soundtrack to weddings, births, funerals, first dates, road trips, family reunions, and long afternoons spent on the porch.

OLD-TIMEY BLUEGRASS & FOLK

# KODY NORRIS SHOW

+ SLATE MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS

Sat, August 5 • 7 P.M.



## \$20 / \$5 for 12 & younger

The Kody Norris Show’s sound and energy channel the instrumental virtuosity of the legendary Bill Monroe, the showmanship of the “King of Bluegrass” Jimmy Martin, the vocal harmonies of the Stanley Brothers, and a bit of the over-the-top comedy entertainment of vaudeville performances. Top-notch picking is center stage, but humor and visual flash are part of the package.

The foursome is fronted by Norris on guitar and his fiddling “sweetie,” Mary Rachel Nalley-Norris, with Josiah Tyree on banjo, and Cousin Charlie Lowman on bass. The group’s album, *When I Get the Money Made*, was named the 2017 Bluegrass Album of the Year by the National Traditional Country Music Association. In 2022, Nalley-Norris won Fiddle Performer of the Year, and The Kody Norris Show earned the Entertainer of the Year title from the organization.

**Opening:** The Slate Mountain Ramblers is a old-time family band from Mount Airy, N.C. For many years, Richard Bowman, his wife, Barbara, and their daughter Marsha, have spent weekends traveling across Northwest North Carolina and Southwest Virginia playing music for dances, concerts, community events, and fiddlers’ conventions.



# MUSIC FOR DAYS

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## NCFolkFest

LOCAL FOOD | HANDMADE CRAFTS | GLOBAL ARTISTS | FAMILY FUN

### SEPTEMBER 8-10

Performances by: Leyla McCalla (Haitian-American) | Kevin Doyle's Roscommon Soles (Irish) | Cedric Watson & Bijou Creole (Louisiana) | Riyaz Qawwali (Sufi music from South Asia) | Cimarrón (Colombian Joropo) | Larry & Joe (Venezuelan/Appalachian) | Damn The Banjos (American Blues and Roots Rock) | Nani Vazana (Ladino) | Zoe & Cloyd (Bluegrass and Klezmer) | Ric Robertson (American songwriter) | & More!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR • BRING YOUR FRIENDS





## DOC WATSON CELEBRATION & TRIBUTE

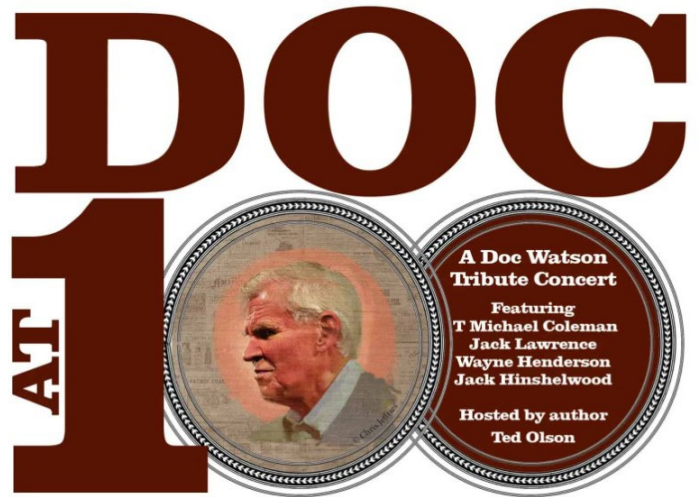
# DOC AT 100

Sat, August 19 • 7 P.M.

**\$25 adv / \$30 day-of / \$10 for 12 & younger**

DOC AT 100 explores the history and legacy of Doc Watson, who was born in Deep Gap, N.C., in 1923, and went on to become perhaps the most influential acoustic guitarist in the world of folk music. The show will include remembrances of Doc with special stories, and feature the many powerful songs that he played and recorded during his career.

Hosted by author Ted Olson, the concert program celebrates the life and legacy of Watson by artists who were profoundly influenced by his music, and who called him a friend. This includes T. Michael Coleman and Jack Lawrence, who performed, recorded, and toured with Doc longer



than any other musicians he worked with. Joining Coleman and Lawrence are fellow guitarists Wayne Henderson and Jack Hinshelwood, who were both heavily impacted by Doc's music. In his later years, Watson enjoyed visiting Henderson in his luthier shop in Rugby, Va.

## LATIN-INFLUENCED FOLK & BLUEGRASS

# LARRY & JOE + SHAY MARTIN LOVETTE

Sat, August 26 • 7 P.M.

**\$20 / free for 12 & younger**

Joe Troop and Larry Bellorín are versatile multi-instrumentalists and singer-songwriters on a mission to show that music has no borders. They perform a fusion of Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music on harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, guitar, and maracas.

Bellorín grew up in Punta de Mata in the state of Monagas, Venezuela. By age six, he became a shoe shiner and built a faithful clientele by singing as he polished, taking requests for the popular Vallenatos of the day. He eventually caught the attention of a local music educator who invited him to study at the city's premiere music school. In 2012, he left Venezuela for the United States when his home country began to collapse.

Troop is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, and

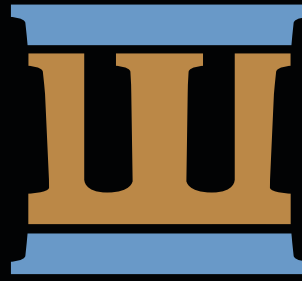


songwriter from Winston-Salem, N.C. His music is deeply inspired by his decade living in Buenos Aires and traveling across Latin America.

**Opening:** Shay Martin Lovette is a Boone, N.C.-based songwriter and musician. After growing up in nearby Wilkes County, he draws from his admiration for the rich musical traditions of his home region to craft originals like "Parkway Bound." In 2019, Lovette and his backing band won the band competition at MerleFest.



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BLUEGRASS & BEYOND

## AN EVENING WITH STEEP CANYON RANGERS

Sat, September 2 • 7 P.M.

**\$40 / \$20 for 12 & younger**

The Steep Canyon Rangers are Grammy winners, perennial Billboard chart-toppers, and frequent collaborators of the renowned banjoist (and occasional comedian) Steve Martin.

The band started in college at UNC-Chapel Hill, then dove head first into bluegrass in its most traditional form. Over the years, they have risen to the top of the bluegrass genre headlining festivals such as MerleFest and Grey Fox Bluegrass. Their collaboration with Martin has taken the group on tour, helping to make the Steep Canyon Rangers one of the most recognizable modern names in bluegrass music.

The group released three albums in 2020. The Grammy-nominated *North Carolina Songbook* is a recording of their live 2019 performance at MerleFest. The studio album *Be Still Moses* paired



the band with soul legends Boyz II Men and their hometown Asheville Symphony to overhaul the song “Be Still Moses.” The album includes re-imagined versions of Steep Canyon Rangers’ previously released original songs performed with an orchestra. Their most recent release of all original music is titled *Arm in Arm*.

All the group’s members contribute vocals and are Graham Sharp on banjo, Mike Guggino on mandolin/mandola, Aaron Burdett on guitar, Nicky Sanders on fiddle, Mike Ashworth on drums, and Barrett Smith on bass and guitar.



# THE BLUFFS IS BACK!

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER ON THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

Laurel Springs, NC | (336) 372-7875 | [bluffsrestaurant.org](http://bluffsrestaurant.org)



# THE CROOKED ROAD

## Experience the Mountains of Music



The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail offers an array of heritage music along a 330-mile stretch throughout Southwest Virginia.



With 9 major venues and over 60 affiliated venues & festivals, this road trip invites you to wander through Southwest Virginia to experience the rich & unique musical heritage.



For trip planning information, contact The Crooked Road at [info@thecrookedroad.org](mailto:info@thecrookedroad.org) or call 276.492.2409

[WWW.THECROOKEDROAD.ORG](http://WWW.THECROOKEDROAD.ORG) | [#VAMUSIC](https://twitter.com/VAMUSIC)

Photos Courtesy: Birthplace of Country Music Museum by Billie Wheeler, Floyd Country Store by Brett Lemon  
Dancing at Blue Ridge Music Center - photo by Mike Duncan

VIRGINIA  
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MUSIC  
LOVERS



# MUSICAL TIME MACHINE

The Blue Ridge Music Center is proud to have hosted so many wonderful roots and traditional musicians and bands on our stage since the venue first began to present concerts. Our goal is to showcase a range of artists who represent old-time, bluegrass, traditional, folk, country, Americana, and blues music, from the late, great North Carolina folk musician Doc Watson to the African-American string band revivalists, the Carolina Chocolate Drops.

The Music Center has given fans and supporters of mountain music a wealth of opportunities to see some of the all-time greats in American roots music alongside some of the best local and regional traditional performers from Southwest Virginia and Northwest North Carolina, who are carrying forward the living musical and cultural traditions of Southern Appalachia.

## Notable performers who have graced our stage over the last years:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>2002</b> Doc Watson                               | <b>2013</b> Roseanne Cash                 |
| <b>2003</b> Seldom Scene                             | <b>2014</b> Carolina Chocolate Drops      |
| <b>2004</b> Ricky Skaggs                             | <b>2015</b> Della Mae                     |
| <b>2005</b> Del McCoury Band                         | <b>2016</b> Bryan Sutton Bluegrass Band   |
| <b>2006</b> Blue Highway                             | <b>2017</b> Old Crow Medicine Show        |
| <b>2007</b> Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys | <b>2018</b> Che Apalache                  |
| <b>2009</b> The Kruger Brothers                      | <b>2019</b> The Steel Wheels              |
| <b>2010</b> Tony Rice Unit                           | <b>2020</b> Amythyst Kiah                 |
| <b>2011</b> The Quebe Sisters                        | <b>2021</b> Mipso                         |
| <b>2012</b> Dom Flemons                              | <b>2022</b> Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway |



(1) Trent Wagler of The Steel Wheels (2) Joseph Terrell & Libby Rodenbaugh of Mipso (3) Ricky Skaggs (4) Old Crow Medicine Show (5) Rhiannon Giddens with the Carolina Chocolate Drops. Photos by Mike Duncan





# DISCOVER



# ALLEGHANY



[alleganycountychamber.com](http://alleganycountychamber.com)  
[authenticallyallegany.com](http://authenticallyallegany.com)





# REGIONAL RECREATION

Make a weekend out of your Blue Ridge Music Center experience!

## Galax & New River Trail

### Dinner, drinks & music in Galax

Galax offers a range of dining options including local restaurants, such as The Galax Smokehouse and Briarpatch Marketplace & Cafe. To catch live music on Friday evening, check out the Rex Theater, Fries Community Center, and Creek Bottom Brewing.

### Shopping in Galax

Unique shops located within the historic downtown include multiple antique stores, outfitters, music instrument shops, and arts and crafts stores. Check out the Chestnut Creek School of the Arts where you can purchase local art and sign up for Saturday morning classes.

### New River Trail State Park

The New River Trail State is a 57-mile path that follows an old railroad grade along the waterway. The trail welcomes hikers, bikers, campers, and horseback riders and can be accessed in Galax. There are also shuttle services and bike rentals available from outfitters in Galax and Fries.

For more info, go to [VisitGalax.com](http://VisitGalax.com).



## Grayson County

This beautiful county is home to the highest peaks in Virginia and ample outdoor recreation experiences, agricultural tourism, and music happenings. A drive to the historic town of Fries (pronounced “freeze”) serves as a fun side trip while you’re in the area. More at [FriesVa.com](http://FriesVa.com).

### Floating the New River

Despite its name, the north flowing New River is considered to be one of the oldest rivers in the world. You can rent a canoe, kayak, or tube to explore the river before an evening show if you are looking for a relaxing morning on the water. Details at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks).

### Trout Fishing

Wonderful trout fishing opportunities exist close to the Blue Ridge Music Center. Besides numerous wild trout streams in the area, Chestnut Creek and Crooked Creek offer both delayed harvest and stocked access for recreational fishing.

## Alleghany Co., Sparta & Doughton Park

With its pastoral mountain landscape, Alleghany County is south on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina. The county seat of Sparta is located 20 miles from the Music Center and features restaurants, a brewery, and craft shopping opportunities.

### Doughton Park & The Bluffs Restaurant

Doughton Park and Bluff Mountain are located 39 miles south on the Parkway from the Music Center and 11 miles from Sparta. This recreation area offers wonderful mountain views. After exploring the numerous hikes at Doughton Park, including the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, enjoy a homestyle meal at The Bluffs Restaurant located at milepost 241 on Parkway.





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Elk Creek Properties is a full-service real estate brokerage situated in charming Elk Creek, Virginia. With an extensive knowledge of the local market, we are well-equipped to provide clients with the insight to make the best decisions for their real estate investments.

As a brokerage with Green Designation, we have a deep commitment to sustainability and environmentally conscious practices, ensuring that we are doing our part to protect our planet while helping our clients find their dream homes.



## Welcome to the Station

The station is a cozy coffee and ice cream shop located in the heart of Elk Creek that takes pride in serving our customers some of the finest coffee and ice cream around.

We proudly offer Dark Hollow Roasters coffee, Big Indian Farm artisanal baked goods, and delicious ice cream from Homestead Creamery. With a wide variety of flavors, there's something for every taste.

Whether you're stopping by for your morning cup of coffee, or browsing our inventory of HeartMoss Pottery, our friendly staff and free Wi-Fi make the Station the perfect spot to catch up with friends or just relax with a good book.

### We Proudly Support Local Businesses!





# TRAILS AT THE BLUE RIDGE MUSIC CENTER

## Trailhead Parking

Hikers are asked to park at the trailhead on Foothills Road (State Route 612). On the Parkway, follow signs to the Music Center, turn into the entrance, then turn right onto Foothills Road just before the facility gates. Continue a half mile to the parking area.

## High Meadow Trail

1.35 miles one-way. Easy

This leg-stretcher trek takes hikers through a hayfield, wetland, and forest with an abundance of wildflowers and birds. Two junctions for the Fisher Peak Loop join this trail. You may turn onto the loop trail, follow the High Meadow Trail to go to the Visitor Center, or return to the trailhead from these points. This route is a Kids in Parks TRACK Trail, which is part of

a nationwide network of trails designed to engage children with the outdoors. Before exploring the trail, families can pick up a brochure or download several e-Adventures to an electronic device to use along the trek. The e-activities include bug and flower identifications and forest bathing. After the hike, kids can register their adventure online to earn prizes. To learn more, visit [KidsinParks.com](http://KidsinParks.com).

## Fisher Peak Loop

2.24-mile loop. Moderate

Begin this trail at one of its junctions with the High Meadow Trail and wind up Fisher Peak. The path follows a stream. In May and June, Catawba rhododendron provide a spectacular floral display.



Let's go Hiking!

**Go on Adventures!  
Get FREE Prizes!**

The Kids in Parks TRACK Trail program provides a network of family-friendly hiking adventures nationwide!

Visit [kidsinparks.com](http://kidsinparks.com) to find a TRACK Trail near you!






# EXPLORE *Grayson County*

## Discover TRUE APPALACHIAN CULTURE



### *Share the Music...*

Grayson County, Virginia is Home to the Roots of Old-Time and Bluegrass Music. Every year Grayson hosts over Ten Old-Time Music Festivals and numerous weekly Jam sessions from Spring until Fall. Experience the Music of the Mountains with us this year!



### *Share the Adventure...*

From the Highest Peaks of the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains to the Oldest River in North America, there's an adventure waiting you on our trails, in our parks and on every winding road in between. Find your next Adventure in Grayson County Virginia.



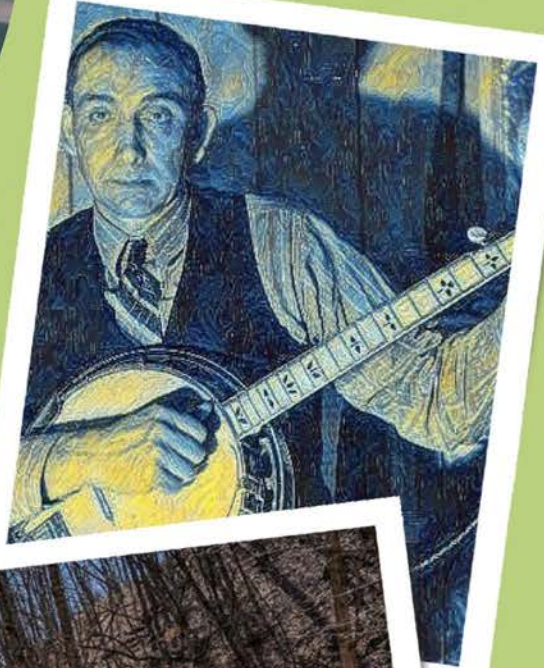
### *Share What You Love*

From the Highest Peaks of the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains to the Oldest River in North America, there's an adventure waiting you on our trails, in our parks and on every winding road in between. Find your next Adventure in Grayson County Virginia.



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# BLUE RIDGE MUSIC CENTER 2023 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Saturdays, 7 P.M. Tickets at [BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org](https://www.BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org)

Join us to experience the living musical heritage of the Blue Ridge Mountains as we welcome great performers to our scenic outdoor amphitheater on the Blue Ridge Parkway.



**MAY  
27**

**Lonesome River Band**  
+ Ashlee Watkins &  
Andrew Small  
\$25 / \$30 day-of



**JUNE  
3**

**Scythian**  
+ Cabin Creek Boys  
\$25 / \$30 day-of



**JUNE  
10**

**Watchhouse**  
(formerly Mandolin Orange)  
+ Alexa Rose  
\$40 / \$20 children



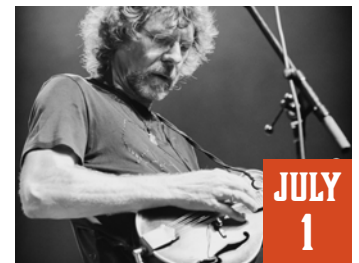
**JUNE  
17**

**Michael Cleveland  
& Flamekeeper**  
+ Crooked Road Ramblers  
\$30



**JUNE  
24**

**Amythyst Kiah**  
+ The Foreign Landers  
\$25



**JULY  
1**

**Sam Bush Band**  
\$35 / \$40 day-of /  
\$15 children



**JULY  
8**

**Jeff Little Trio**  
+ DaShawn & Wendy  
Hickman  
\$20



**JULY  
15**

**Rissi Palmer**  
+ Martha Bassett  
\$20



**JULY  
22**

**Sierra Ferrell**  
\$30 / \$35 day-of /  
\$15 children



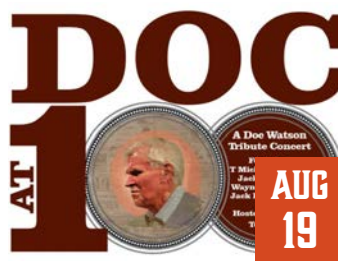
**JULY  
29**

**John R. Miller**  
+ Caleb Caudle  
\$20 / \$5 children



**AUG  
5**

**The Kody Norris Show**  
+ Slate Mountain Ramblers  
\$20 / \$5 children



**AUG  
19**

**A Doc Watson Tribute**  
\$25 / \$30 day-of /  
\$10 children



**AUG  
26**

**Larry & Joe**  
+ Shay Martin Lovette  
\$20



**SEP  
2**

**An evening with the  
Steep Canyon Rangers**  
\$40 / \$20 children






Think of all  
the moments  
that went into  
making the  
music you  
enjoy today.

The rehearsals, the craftsmanship, the years of practice. The care and thought to always give it your best. At Skyline National Bank, that's how we approach serving you every day. Wherever you are in your financial journey, know that you will always receive our best.

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# BLUE RIDGE

## FOLKLIFE

## FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023



**“Thoroughly  
Authentic”**

*NY Times*

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**FERRUM COLLEGE | ROUTE 40, FERRUM, VA | 10am-5pm | Rain or Shine**  
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