



ROOTS OF AMERICAN MUSIC CONCERT SERIES



STEEP CANYON RANGERS



REED ISLAND ROUNDERS



CARLENE CARTER



SOUTH CAROLINA BROADCASTERS

Music center announces summer concert series

PERFORMERS FOR ROOTS OF AMERICAN MUSIC SERIES INCLUDE CARLENE CARTER, BRYAN SUTTON, LONESOME RIVER BAND, MIPSO, STEEP CANYON RANGERS & MORE

Staff Report

The Blue Ridge Music Center will open its season on May 28, welcoming a weekly lineup of musicians to the venue for the 2016 Roots of American Music Concert Series. The season continues most Saturdays through September, and includes two fall heritage performances in October.

The center at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway selects performers that carry on and interpret traditions of bluegrass, old-time, folk, gospel, Americana and country blues music.

This season includes concerts by beloved veterans of the music scene such as Carlene Carter, Bryan Sutton and his Bluegrass Band, Steep



BLUE RIDGE MUSIC CENTER AMPHITHEATER

Canyon Rangers (a Friday performance), Lonesome River Band and The Virginia Luthiers, as well as rising talents Mipso, Bill and the Belles, The Church Sisters, Dori Freeman, Zoe & Cloyd, Shadowgrass and Mason Via.

Some of the best old-time mountain music bands from



DORI FREEMAN

See CONCERTS, Page 3

Concerts

Continued from Page 1

the Blue Ridge will perform, including the Reed Island Rounders, Crooked Road Ramblers, Larry Sigmon and Martha Spencer, South Carolina Broadcasters and Five Mile Mountain Road.

The center will honor the late historian and music promoter Joe Wilson with "A Show for Joe: The Joe Wilson Memorial Festival" on Sept. 3, featuring Wayne Henderson, Helen White and Herb Key, plus Elizabeth LaPrelle, Phil Wiggins and Linda and David Lay. Wilson was instrumental in creating the Blue Ridge Music Center and The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail.

The center also will host free mid-day mountain music performances daily from noon to 4 p.m.

JAM & Family Day is May 21, with activities and workshops for young musicians, plus hiking, an instrument petting zoo and more. The free event is from 1-7 p.m.

"Banjos: From Africa to the New World," an exhibit featuring Bob Thornburg's collection of restored and reproduction banjos, is July 26-Sept. 5 in the luthier shop.



BRYAN SUTTON

Roots of American Music 2016 Concert Dates

Mipso + Shadowgrass
May 28, 7 p.m., \$15

Big Ron Hunter + Martha Bassett Band
June 4, 7 p.m., \$10

Steep Canyon Rangers + Dori Freeman
June 17, 7 p.m., \$25
A concert of the Mountains of Music Homecoming Festival plus ticketed preshow reception, \$30

Crooked Road Ramblers + Mountain Park Old-Time Band
June 25, 7 p.m., \$10

Bryan Sutton and his Bluegrass Band + The New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters
July 2, 7 p.m., \$20

Jeanette Williams Band + Zoe & Cloyd
July 9, 7 p.m., \$10

Carlene Carter + Reed Island Rounders
July 16, 7 p.m., \$20

Five Mile Mountain Road + Hard Cider
July 23, 7 p.m., \$10

Bill and the Belles + South Carolina Broadcasters
July 30, 7 p.m., \$10

Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba + Mason Via
Aug. 6, 7 p.m., \$10

The Church Sisters + Larry Sigmon & Martha Spencer
Aug. 20, 7 p.m., \$15
Plus ticketed preshow reception, \$30

Lonesome River Band + Iron Mountain
Aug. 27, 7 p.m., \$20

"A Show for Joe: The Joe Wilson Memorial Festival"
Wayne Henderson, Helen White & Herb Key + Elizabeth LaPrelle + Linda and David Lay + The Barr Family
Sept. 3, 1-9 p.m., \$20

The Virginia Luthiers
Oct. 15, 5 p.m., \$15
Indoor concert

Performers to be announced
Oct. 29, 5 p.m.
Indoor concert

Concert tickets can be bought at www.blueridgemusiccenter.org or by calling (866) 308-2773, ext. 245. Packages available for full season, half-season or pick three concerts.

Effective May 7, the visitor center and Roots of American Music exhibit will be open Thursday-Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and open daily starting May 26, through October.