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ARTS
CENTER



*CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF
THE CROOKED ROAD*

Friday, July 12, 2024, 7:30 PM

Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE CROOKED ROAD

Whitetop Mountain Band
The Lovely Mountaineers
Shelton & Williams
Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass
Earl White
Jared Boyd and Raistlin Brabson

Program to be announced from the stage





BIOGRAPHIES

WHITETOP MOUNTAIN BAND



The Whitetop Mountain Band is a family-based band from the highest mountains of Virginia. Whitetop, Virginia is an area rich in the old-time music tradition, and this band has deep roots in mountain music. The members have done much to preserve the Whitetop region's style of old-time fiddling and banjo picking and are legendary musicians and teachers of the style. The band is currently led by Emily Spencer, who was a founding member of the group in the 1970s.

THE LOVELY MOUNTAINEERS



Gina and Jason Dilg of The Lovely Mountaineers play, sing, teach, write, and make art about old-time and early country music from their home in Radford, Virginia, high on the Blue Ridge at the foot of Lovely Mount.

SHELTON & WILLIAMS



Shelton & Williams, featuring members Jeanette Williams, Jay Shelton, and Johnny Williams (all of Danville), performs a variety of styles — including original, classic country, gospel, blues, traditional and progressive bluegrass, and Americana.

All members are songwriters and seasoned vocalists. Their first project as Shelton & Williams, *So Much Time, So Much Love*, was released in July 2022.

Jeanette Williams has become one of the most successful and celebrated women in bluegrass music. Her list of awards, accolades, and career highlights continues to grow — as does her adoring fan base from coast to coast and internationally — with her powerful songs, angelic voice, and warm, sincere personality. Touring, recording, and industry awards have become a mainstay for Williams. She also plays bass with the band. Williams has accumulated more than 17 Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America (SPBGMA) nominations through 2021, including three wins for Female Vocalist of the Year (2009, 2012, and 2013); two International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) awards (2006 and 2009 Recorded Event of the Year with

BIOGRAPHIES, cont.

the Daughters of Bluegrass); two songwriting awards (2007 Chris Austin Songwriting Contest at MerleFest, 2008 International Acoustic Music Awards Songwriting Contest); and over 32 years of performance experience in bluegrass and bluegrass gospel. She is expanding her repertoire to include her early influences of classic country, blues, roots, and rock.

Jay Shelton was on the bluegrass scene in the '70s and '80s as a lead singer and lead guitarist, changed direction to become the front man for a rock band for many years, and then became a singer-songwriter, performing solo concerts. In 2019 Shelton returned to the bluegrass scene. An accomplished lead guitarist, songwriter, and vocalist, he recorded his first project, *Home* (with Jeanette and Johnny Williams) this past year.

Johnny Williams plays guitar, shares vocals, and writes most of the band's original material. An award-winning singer and songwriter, Williams has been named Virginia State Champion Male Vocalist, PICABO Male Vocalist (twice), and PICABO Songwriter of the Year. He was the bluegrass division winner of the prestigious Chris Austin Songwriting Contest at Merlefest in 1998 and 1999. He has also been a finalist for the SPBGMA Male Vocalist and Songwriter the past few years in Nashville. Recently, Williams and his wife, Jeanette, were awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards by the city of Danville for their contributions to bluegrass music for the past 30 years, both nationally and internationally.

DANNY PAISLEY AND THE SOUTHERN GRASS



Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass continues to be deeply rooted in tradition but looks to the future with enthusiasm and anticipation. The group's latest release, *Bluegrass Troubadour*, was nominated for IBMA's Album of the Year and earned significant chart action, with the song *Blink of an Eye* spending several months at the number one spot on the Bluegrass music charts — it was also nominated for IBMA's Song of the Year.

Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass plays powerful, unadorned, and intense traditional bluegrass. There is no hybrid or genre-bending music here. The combination of instrumentation and vocals conveys the energy and emotion of classic bluegrass and country music. Paisley's lead vocals will captivate your senses, so much so that many prominent musicians, including Alison Krauss, have considered him one of their favorite singers. His voice combines powerful range and soulful blues with a sound like no one else in bluegrass today.

Since Danny's father, Bob Paisley (founder of Southern Grass), passed away in 2004, Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass has made its niche in the bluegrass world, producing consecutive chart-topping albums. The group has received over 20 Bluegrass Music Award nominations and won the 2009 IBMA Song of the Year for *Don't Throw Mama's Flowers Away*. In 2021, Danny Paisley joined an elite group of vocalists to be awarded the IBMA Male Vocalist of the Year for the third time — an achievement bestowed only to five others in Bluegrass music history.

With Paisley on guitar, Southern Grass continues the family tradition by adding Paisley's son, Ryan, on mandolin — part of the next generation of up-and-coming pickers. Southern Grass

BIOGRAPHIES, cont.

continues the rich musical heritage started by Bob Paisley and Ted Lundy with Lundy's sons, T.J. (fiddle) and Bobby (bass and vocals). T.J. Lundy is a highly respected fiddler, bridging the gap between old-time fiddling and bluegrass music. Bobby Lundy is also a renowned multi-instrumentalist who has gained attention for his unique bass style. Southern Grass also includes Dean Phillips on banjo.

Danny Paisley, born in Landenberg, Pennsylvania, in 1959, grew up listening to the music his father Bob played and enjoyed hearing the sounds of classic bluegrass like Red Allen, Mac Martin, Bill Monroe, the Stanleys, Reno and Smiley, and the Osbornes, as well as old-time mountain music and traditional country music. Once you hear Paisley sing, it is no surprise that he lists George Jones and Vern Gosdin as major influences.

Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass continues to carry on a legacy set forth over six decades ago, gathering fans at each event; the group looks forward with renewed energy as it brings its unique sound to audiences near and far.

EARL WHITE



Earl White is a fiddler, founding member of the Green Grass Cloggers, and leader of the Earl White Stringband. White co-founded the Big Indian Farm Artisan Bakery in Floyd and is an influential person in the old-time music and dance community. He

is an African American playing music that many forget was once a part of Black culture and Black communities across the U.S. and in Virginia.

JARED BOYD AND RAISTLIN BRABSON



Jared Boyd grew up in the small community of Laurel Fork in Carroll County, Virginia, and spent the early years of his life surrounded by old-time music on both sides of his family. Boyd learned clawhammer banjo from Ray Chatfield through the Junior Appalachian

Musicians (JAM) program, as well as from his grandfather, Jimmy Boyd, co-founder of the Franklin County old-time dance band the Dry Hill Draggers. His playing has also been influenced by local players of past and present such as Kyle Creed, Tommy Jarrell, Brien Fain, Emily Spencer, and Eddie Bond, to name a few. Boyd won first place in clawhammer banjo competitions at all of the fiddlers' conventions around Galax and the surrounding areas, including the blue ribbon four times at the Galax Old Fiddlers Convention and Best All Around Performer at the 2022 and 2023 Galax conventions. Boyd currently plays with the Twin Creeks Stringband, first place winners of the Old-Time Band competition at the 2022 and 2023 Galax Old Fiddlers Convention.

Raistlin Brabson is old-time musician from Franklin County. Brabson began playing percussion and guitar in local bands until he picked up his great grandfather's fiddle almost two years ago. Inspired by local masters and the likes of Clark Kessinger, Hank Williams, and Kenny Baker, Brabson brings driving dance music and classic country with him wherever he goes.

BIOGRAPHIES, cont.

THE CROOKED ROAD

The Crooked Road was first recognized as Virginia's Heritage Music Trail in 2004 by the Virginia General Assembly. It has since been responsible for two decades of preserving and promoting old-time and bluegrass music throughout the hills of Southwest Virginia. The work of the Crooked Road has supported millions of dollars in economic development related to tourism and the cultural arts. Today, this 333-mile-long driving trail features nine major venues situated along historic Route 58. Covering the 19-county territory of Southwest Virginia, the Crooked Road region is home to nearly 40 affiliated jams, festivals, square dances, and concert venues. The Crooked Road also directly invests in the traditional musicians and dancers of the region with their Crooked Road on Tour program and supports youth music initiatives with their Traditional Music Education Program. For more information about the Crooked Road, please visit thecrookedroadva.com.

We've hosted many Crooked Road events at the Moss Arts Center, including in 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2022.



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**béla fleck and
abigail washburn**
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K-12 PROGRAMS AT THE MOSS ARTS CENTER

Experiences with the arts cultivate the next generation of creative thinkers, engage learners of diverse backgrounds, and foster community dialogue. The Moss Arts Center has been dedicated to providing K-12 students in the region with free, high-quality, and exciting arts programming since opening our doors in 2013. Through school-day matinee programs, gallery tours, in-school performances, and workshops with artists, we are passionate about serving our youngest community members and schools.

Learn more at bit.ly/moss-K12.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since the Moss Arts Center opened in 2013, approximately 23,000 Virginia Tech students have participated in free Moss engagement activities, enjoying exclusive access to master classes and other special on-campus engagement events with renowned artists and ensembles, including in-depth discussions, class visits and lectures, and hands-on workshops.



MOSS ARTS CENTER

SUMMER 2024
EXHIBITIONS

Through Friday, August 30

Michiko Itatani

Cosmic Encounters

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

Cosmic Encounters consists of seven large-scale oil paintings depicting imagined interiors of stately concert halls, observatories, libraries, and cathedrals punctuated with otherworldly light and celestial phenomena.

Erika Rane

How Are Things on My End

Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and Sherwood Payne Quillen '71
Reception Gallery

These colorful abstract paintings are built through a push-pull application of painting, collage, and *décollage* methods, which create layered surfaces that embody the raw urgency and physicality reminiscent of action painters and art brut.

Michiko Itatani; *"Shadows of the Mind" painting from Celestial Connection 18-B-5, 2018 (detail); oil on canvas; 78 x 92 1/2 inches; courtesy the artist and Storage. Erika Rane; I Wonder if I Know What You Mean, 2022 (detail); acrylic, shellac, spray paint and paper collage on canvas; 84 x 72 inches; courtesy the artist and Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan People's homeland, and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that the Morrill Land-Grant College Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands in California and other areas in the West.

LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that its Blacksburg campus sits partly on land that was previously the site of the Smithfield and Solitude Plantations, owned by members of the Preston family. Between the 1770s and the 1860s, the Prestons and other local White families that owned parcels of what became Virginia Tech also owned hundreds of enslaved people. Enslaved Black people generated resources that financed Virginia Tech's predecessor institution, the Preston and Olin Institute, and they also worked on the construction of its building.

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YMCA at VIRGINIA TECH

Sustainability at The Y!



Pictured Above L-R: Ellie Hepp, Sydney Kehl



Pictured Below L-R: Vivian Peregrino, Abby Touchstone

We are so proud of our Y-TOSS Team! Recently we received some fabulous news about our collection. This year through the efforts of our team, with 10 PODS full collected from the dorm moveout on campus, we diverted 34,000 pounds or **17 tons** from the landfill ready to ReUse, ReDuce and ReCycle!

Thank you to Team Leaders Vivian, Abby, Ellie and Sydney and to the many, many awesome volunteers who made this possible!

The Y Community Gallery

Visit the Y Community Gallery, Blacksburg's newest gallery, and enjoy the awesome Altered Art exhibit.

ALTERED ART- Making art your own

Local artists and collaboration groups present their vision of creating with discarded art, altering to tell their story. Not every piece of art has an eternal life. Found, damaged, discarded or simply out-grown pieces may have a new life in creative hands. The new artist can add elements, words or objects; remove or replace visual aspects; add objects - found or collected; collage, paint, or alter in any way their personal vision sees.



Gallery Hours:
M-F 10am-6pm
Saturday 9am-6pm
Sunday 12pm-5pm

Please note the gallery will be closed if the Y Thrift Shop is closed.

Thank you to our gallery sponsor: eARTH & gallery supporters: Shelter Alternatives & Bell Electric



When Barbara Michelsen became the Executive Director of the YMCA at Virginia Tech in 1987, she had spent several years as the assistant to the former Executive Director, Emily Stuart. She was the first Director of Y Student Programs which were initiated in 1985.

In 1989 a long time supporter, board member, and benefactor of the Y passed away. In her will, Lucy Lee Lancaster bequeathed her lifelong home adjacent to the VT campus to the Y. Barbara managed the cataloging of the home's furnishings and Lucy's personal possessions, writings, travel mementos, genealogical research, and 84 years of local history. Most of the items went to auction and most of the documents went to Special Collections at the Newman Library. Barbara then managed the remodeling project that transformed Lucy's home into the Y's offices where they remain to this day.

During Barbara's ten year tenure the Student Programs flourished and expanded. They included the After School Program, Project Home Repair, Alternative Spring Break, and the Garden Project among others. Fundraising programs also flourished including the Y Thrift Shop, Crafts Fair, and Open University. And Barbara's ability to warmly connect with people enabled her to strike up a correspondence with Robert Pamplin, Sr., VPI Class of 1933 and CEO of Georgia-Pacific, Inc. That connection resulted in several very significant donations as well as the establishment of an endowment for the Y at the Virginia Tech Foundation.



Barbara (center) at the Y Crafts Fair, circa 1997.

In addition to the YMCA at Virginia Tech, Barbara was engaged and active in numerous other community service organizations. Her mission and her passion were the betterment of peoples' lives, near and far. Her contributions to local communities, and to the Y at VT in particular, were significantly impactful then and are still felt today. Her smiling greeting when she met you, her genuine concern for others' well-being, and her curiosity about life will be sorely missed. But, her legacy will live on. Thank you, Barbara.

www.vtymca.org