

Blue Ridge Parkway News Release
September 11, 2009
For Immediate Release

Fall Heritage Series at the Blue Ridge Music Center:

"Old-Time Ballads And Fiddle Tunes That Won The West" is this year's first presentation in our Fall Heritage Series at the Blue Ridge Music Center. It features cowboy singer Skip Gorman on Sunday, September 20 at 2 pm at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, near Galax, Virginia. Gorman is a multi-instrumentalist, historian, story teller and teacher who has jammed with Bill Monroe, appeared on Prairie Home Companion and whose music has been featured in Ken Burns' productions. Gorman brings to the music a scholar's knowledge of the cowboy's Celtic, Spanish and Afro-American roots as well as the personal experience gained by working as a cowboy on a ranch in Wyoming, along with an exquisite touch as a singer, guitarist, fiddler and mandolinist.

Our popular Fall Series at the Blue Ridge Music Center takes place on five consecutive Sunday afternoons in the intimate setting of the Center's indoor theater. The series, consisting of three music showcases and two films, is sponsored by The National Council for the Traditional Arts and the National Park Service who jointly manage the Blue Ridge Music Center. Admission is \$5 for the films; there is no fee for the showcases. Seating is limited but this year visitors can make advance reservations. Call (276) 236-5309 x112 to make reservations and arrive 15 minutes prior to claim seat. Drop-ins welcome to remaining seats available.

The complete series is listed below. Reserve soon to guarantee a seat. Visitors who come early can enjoy the old-time music of Stu Shenk and friends jamming in the breezeway or experience the fall colors along the Center's hiking trails.

Sunday, September 20, 2009. 2pm-3pm
Showcase: Appalachia to the Rockies - Old-time ballads and fiddle tunes that won the west. Featuring: cowboy singer Skip Gorman. Free.

Sunday, September 27. 2pm. Film.
Throw Down Your Heart chronicles banjo virtuoso and 9 time Grammy award winner Bela Fleck's musical journey to Africa to explore the little known African roots of the banjo. Bela's boundary-breaking musical adventure takes him to Uganda, Tanzania, The Gambia, and Mali, and provides a glimpse of the beauty and complexity of African music. Using his banjo, Bela transcends barriers of language and culture, finding common ground and forging connections with musicians from very different backgrounds.
Admission: \$5

Sunday, October 4. 2pm-3pm

Showcase: Old-time music of Grayson County featuring Kilby Spencer & The Crooked Road Ramblers. Free.

Sunday, October 11. 2pm Film.

“From Wood to Singing Guitar”

An Appalshop documentary film showcasing Wayne C. Henderson, master musician and guitar maker from the small town of Rugby, Virginia.

Admission: \$5

Sunday, October 18. 2pm-3pm

Showcase: Round Peak - A musical phenomenon in the Blue Ridge and around the world. Musicians tba. Free.

The Blue Ridge Music Center is located at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is operated jointly by the National Park Service and National Council for the Traditional Arts. The Center’s mission is to celebrate and honor the rich musical traditions of the Appalachian region. The Center is open for public visitation from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through October. Informal music programs are presented most afternoons, Sunday through Friday. Admission to the Visitor Center is free. Admission to the center is free.

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