

The Blue Ridge Music Center
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Milepost 213, Blue Ridge Parkway

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Blue Ridge Music Center Presents
Ginny Hawker & Tracy Schwarz / Benton Flippen Band In Concert**

Appalachian Songs and Old-Time Tunes

GALAX, Va. – The soulful singing of Ginny Hawker and Tracy Schwarz and the traditional stringband music of Benton Flippen and his band will fill the night air Saturday, June 5th at the Blue Ridge Music Center (milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway). The Blue Ridge Music Center has evening concerts weekly all summer through to mid September in the outdoor amphitheater at the foot of beautiful Fisher Peak (only 10 miles from Galax).

Raised on Primitive Baptist harmonies in Elkins, W.Va., Ginny has been singing all her life. Tracy performed with The New Lost City Ramblers, a group responsible for introducing urban audiences to southern rural music in the 60s and 70s. Both shared a love of the music when they met in 1988 and later became not only a performing duet, but husband and wife. Their sweet vocal blend and hair-raising harmonies make them unforgettable which is why they are sought after performers who perform across North America and in Europe. In concert, they cover the range of traditional southern tunes, unaccompanied ballads, early Bluegrass duets and songs of The Carter Family.

Opening this very special concert will be living legend, 89-year-old fiddler, Benton Flippen from Mount Airy, N.C. Benton has received countless blue ribbons for his music and is a recipient of the North Carolina Folk Heritage Award. This year he was presented with another lifetime achievement award at the inaugural Surry County Fiddlers Festival. Benton Flippen was the first to perform on the radio station WPAQ in Mt. Airy when the station aired its first program in 1948. He will be joined by his band, The Smokey Valley Boys. As the old saying goes, "The older the fiddle the sweeter the tune!"

Advance tickets and info are available online at www.blueridgemusiccenter.org or by calling the Blue Ridge Music Center at (276) 236-5309. Tickets will also be available at the gate. Become a BRMC Concert Club Member (only \$20) and save on tickets for the whole 2010 season. Admission: \$10. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Concert:

7 p.m. Seating begins at 5:30 p.m.the day of the show. No pets or alcohol. Picnic food is permitted.

Concessions are available. Lawnchairs, blankets, and flashlights recommended. The Blue Ridge Music Center is operated jointly by the nonprofit National Council for the Traditional Arts and the National Park Service.
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