

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Blue Ridge Music Center Presents  
Traditional Mountain Music

### **Virginia meets West Virginia in stringband concert Saturday**

Dancers and listeners alike won't want to miss the "Dance to the Fiddle Concert at the Blue Ridge Music Center (milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway) on Saturday, June 26, 2010. Sparks will fly when West Virginia's premier mountain stringband, Gandydancer, joins forces in concert with Galax's own New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters at the Blue Ridge Music Center. Preceding the concert is a free performance-discussion on stringband music in the Music Center's small theater. Seating for the talk is limited so be sure to call ahead to reserve a spot at (276) 236-5309 x112.

Gandydancer features five musicians who have known one another and played together in different combinations for over 20 years. Band members include Dave Bing of Harmony, W.Va., Gerry Milnes of Elkins, W.Va., Jim Martin of St. Albans, W.Va., Ron Mullinex of Bluefield, Va., and Mark Payne of Winfield, W.Va. Bing and Milnes have collected, performed and taught traditional music for decades, giving Gandydancer a unique perspective on West Virginia traditional music. The band plays a variety of instrumental and vocal pieces including a cappella vocal harmonies, old-time fiddle and banjo tunes, seldom heard West Virginia folk songs, traditional bluegrass numbers, poignant ballads, and driving stringband music. Many of the songs Gandydancer performs band members learned firsthand from older artists now gone.

Local favorite, The New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters, will be also perform in this exciting concert. The band's name comes from the original Bogtrotters, a famous Galax-area band of the 1930s. Known for playing high-energy dance tunes, this group from the musically rich region surrounding Galax has won the prestigious first place old-time band prize at the Old Fiddlers' Convention in Galax several years. The Bogtrotters have played at several notable festivals including the Chicago Folk Festival, Merlefest, and Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Eddie Bond, the band's fiddler, is also a fine vocalist, and he knows many of the old mountain ballads that date back to previous generations. Expect a rousing collaboration of both bands at the end of the show!

Tickets for the concert are only \$10. Get them while they last!

Advance tickets and info are available online at [www.blueridgemusiccenter.org](http://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 has evening concerts every weekend through mid-September in the outdoor amphitheater at the foot of beautiful Fisher Peak (only 10 miles from Galax).

Upcoming performances:

July 3, 2010            Holiday Concert: Crooked Road Ramblers / The Wolfe Brothers \$5

July 10, 2010           Claire Lynch Band / The Barr Family \$15

July 17, 2010           Clack Mountain / Zephyr Lightning Bolts \$10

July 24, 2010           Larnell Starkey & The Spiritual Seven / Pathway Bluegrass Band \$15

July 31, 2010           Kruger Brothers / John Lilly & the Cheating Hearts \$15

Aug 8, 2010 (Sun)      Tony Rice Unit / Rich In Tradition \$20

Aug 14, 2010           No Concert (Enjoy the 75th Annual Galax Fiddlers Convention)

Aug 21, 2010           Piano Concert: Daryl Davis, Gary Patton & guests

\$15

Aug 28, 2010 Paul Williams & The Victory Trio / Carl Jones & Beverly Smith \$15

Sept 4, 2010 Family Traditions Concert: Dale Jett & Hello Stranger/  
The Sheets Family Band \$10

September 10,11,12 Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary Free performances and activities at BRMC all weekend long including concerts featuring: Sierra Hull Band, Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys, Laura Boosinger and Josh Goforth, The Churchmen, The Round Peak Boys, Phil Jamison and Buck Mountain Band. Call (276) 236-5309 x112 for info.  
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