



“Gathering in the Gap” Music Festival

Saturday, May 28, 2016
10 a.m.—10 p.m.
Southwest Virginia Museum
Historical State Park

Tickets:
Adults: \$15.00 in advance,
\$20.00 at the gate
Children 12 and under: Free

“Gathering in the Gap” is a music festival to celebrate the rich tradition of old-time and bluegrass music found in Southwest Virginia. Activities include competitions, workshops, jams, and performances by locally and regionally known musicians. The day’s events will culminate in main-stage performances by **The Whitetop Mountain Band, Dave Eggar and Deoro, and The Black Lillies.**

Main Stage Performance Schedule

6 p.m. Whitetop Mountain Band
7 p.m. Dave Eggar & Deoro
8 p.m. The Black Lillies

Competition Categories

Songwriting
Bluegrass Mandolin
Bluegrass Guitar
Bluegrass Band
Old Time Band
Banjo
Fiddle

**For registration information and deadlines, please visit the festival’s website at gatheringinthegapmusicfestival.com*

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; 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. At the same time, Whitetop Mountain Band shows are very versatile and entertaining containing everything from fiddle and banjo instrumentals to powerful solos and harmony vocals on blues, classic country, honky-tonk, traditional bluegrass numbers, old timey ballads, originals, and four part mountain gospel songs. The band is well known for their high energy and charisma on stage. The Whitetop Mountain Band is one of the most popular dance bands in the Appalachian Mountains. They have a great following at square dances all over Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky at venues like the Carter Family Fold. The band has performed at venues in the United States and abroad, including the National Folklife Festival, Merlefest, and the World Music Institute in New York City. The band originated in the 1940s with fiddler and luthier Albert Hash at the helm. Today, Albert's bother-in-law, Thornton Spencer leads as fiddler, accompanied by his wife, Emily on the banjo and their daughter Martha Spencer on guitar. Debbie Bramer, from



Fancy Gap, Virginia joined the band as a bassist and clogger in the early nineties. Ersel Fletcher, from Glade Spring, Virginia rounds out the group with guitar and vocals. The group has recorded on various labels throughout the years, including the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and JuneAppal. The Whitetop Mountain Band is a guaranteed good time!

Dave Eggar - Dave Eggar's body of work is consistently greeted with superlatives and rave reviews. It's a luxury not often enjoyed by an artist who records in diverse genres and performs live in multiple musical categories, seamlessly moving between each, be it Pop, Rock, Jazz, R&B, New Age, World, or Classical music. A musical prodigy as a child, Dave Eggar began playing the cello and piano at age three. By the age of seven, Dave had performed on Broadway and with the Metropolitan Opera. He debuted at Carnegie Hall at the age of 15. Dave is a graduate of Harvard University and the Julliard School's Doctoral Program. Eggar has appeared worldwide as a solo cellist and pianist. A virtuoso of many musical styles, Dave has performed and recorded with artists in numerous genres including Evanescence, The Who, Michael Brecker, Josh Groban, Coldplay, Beyonce, Pearl Jam, Fall



Out Boy, Dave Sanborn, Kathleen Battle, Ray Lamontagne, Roberta Flack, The Spin Doctors, Dianne Reeves, Brandy, Carly Simon, Phil Ramone, Phillip Phillips, A Great Big World, Duncan Sheik, Sinéad O'Connor, Bon Jovi, Manhattan Transfer, Corinne Bailey Ray, and many more.

The Black Lillies—The Black Lillies are a band for the ages: rich, rootsy tunes performed with as much heart as technical virtuosity. If you ask them, they'll tell you they play "Tennessee music"— combining strains of swampy Memphis soul and blues with Nashville's classic country and East Tennessee's traditional Appalachian style— while Rolling Stone describes it as "country music with a soul-rock infusion, supported by bandleader Cruz Contreras' smart songwriting and tight musicianship." Either way, it's music that stirs your soul, touches your heart and makes you want to dance. On October 2, the band released their fourth album *Hard to Please* (Attack Monkey/Thirty Tigers), which American Songwriter sums up as "a soulful mix of upbeat Americana and tender ballad," while Vanity Fair notes that "their sound continues to cross generations and musical genres— country, folk, blues, and add in a touch of the Dead, for good measure." It's no surprise that *Hard to Please* was an immediate critical and radio success—the bar had already been set high by their previous releases. 2013's *Runaway Freeway Blues* conquered the Billboard Top 200 country charts and was selected for dozens of "Best of" lists, catching the attention of NPR, CMT, Wall Street Journal, Guitar World, Garden and Gun and more for what Entertainment Weekly calls "strong roots-folk songwriting,

sweet harmonies, and charismatic indie spirit." Their raucous live show has earned audiences at venues ranging from Bonnaroo and Stagecoach to the legendary Grand Ole Opry, where they hold the distinction of having performed more often than any other independent band. The music is breakneck, brazen and beautiful; sultry soul, honky-tonk heartache, winding jams and flat-out rock'n'roll, tied together with soaring harmonies that "bring back echoes of practically every great male/female duo of the past several decades...[the sound is] on for the ages, and, one suspects, ages yet to come," according to *Glide* magazine. Make no mistake: when you see The Black Lillies live, you will definitely be pleased.

