



“Gathering in the Gap” Music Festival

Saturday, May 27, 2017
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 **Steep Canyon Rangers** and **Dave Eggar**.

Main Stage Performance Schedule

6:30 p.m. Dave Eggar & Deoro

8:00 p.m. Steep Canyon Rangers



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*



Steep Canyon Rangers:

What does North Carolina sound like? In a state that's also produced Doc Watson, James Taylor and the Avett Brothers, there's hardly a more well-rounded answer than the Steep Canyon Rangers. A bluegrass band at their core, the Steep Canyon Rangers effortlessly walk the line between festival and sophisticated string orchestra. They're as danceable as the most progressive, party oriented

string band, and equally comfortable translating their songs for accompaniment by a full symphony. It's that mix of serious chops and good-natured fun that earned the Steep Canyon Rangers the Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Album in 2013 for (Nobody Knows You), and that drew celebrated comedian Steve Martin to them when he needed a backing band. The Rangers are world-class musicians who are just as at home taking the stage at Carnegie Hall as they are knee-deep in a mountain brook, fly rod in hand. Fifteen years and nine studio albums since forming in Chapel Hill, the sextet—who reside in the western N.C. mountains of Brevard and Asheville—returned to their roots at Echo Mountain Recording for their staggering new collection, *RADIO*. Recorded over three four-day sessions as the deep, snowy winter of 2015 held fast in the Blue Ridge, the band took full advantage of producer Jerry Douglas, who contributes his distinctive dobro playing throughout the albums. “They came in with the songs and arrangements...and I hacked and hewed and changed things around,” says Douglas. “I threw some curveballs at them, and they hit every one of them.” The album's title track, “Radio” bats leadoff. Penned by banjoist Graham Sharp, the song recalls the days when hearing a favorite song required patiently waiting for a radio DJ to spin it and the excitement of the Sunday afternoon Top 40 count downs. Opening with a virtuosic fiddle riff from Nicky Sanders—the only classically trained musician in the band and a graduate of the prestigious Berklee College of Music—*RADIO* also demonstrates the band's team mentality—Sharp's initial version of the tune jumped straight to the verses, but in the hands of Douglas and the band, it morphed into a multi-faceted, dynamic canvas. “It's really gratifying to play music with people you can trust, who hear something and pull what's best out of it into something truly special,” says Sharp. “As a songwriter, my favorite part of the whole thing is watching the band bring these ideas to life.”

Although Sharp penned eight of *RADIO*'s songs, he's hardly the band's only bard. Mandolinist Mike Guggino—who studies, performs and creates Italian music and cuisine when he's home from tour—contributed the rousing instrumental “Looking Glass” (a nod to a favorite waterfall in Pisgah National Forest near his home). Likewise, “Blue Velvet Rain” best exemplifies the band's beautifully haunting penchant for yearning, high harmonies. The song, along with “Diamonds in the Dust” and “When the Well Runs Dry,” was co-written by upright bassist Charles R. Humphrey III, who balances his musical passions with a passion for ultramarathon racing. Then there's “Break,” a rollicking, banjo-driven duet between Platt and his wife, singer Shannon Whitworth, featuring Douglas's unmistakable dobro accompaniment. “Break” delivers all of the exhilarating energy of a hit pop song, with plenty of flourish. Throughout *RADIO*, multi-instrumentalist and longtime friend Mike Ashworth (who joined the band officially after being recruited to play drums with the band while on tour with Steve Martin and Edie Brickell), lends tasteful rhythm from his cajon box kit. Ashworth's presence is both subtle and necessary, rounding out the full sound of a band that's already on the main stage and poised to stay there for the long haul. “We're just getting started,” Platt exudes. “It's almost daunting, to think about how much more there is that we want to accomplish as the Steep Canyon Rangers. Each time I get off stage, I ask myself, ‘Was that fun? Did that feed your soul?’ That's how we go about it, and more times than not, the answer is a rounding ‘Yes.’ We're totally committed.”

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, Sinead O'Connor, Bon Jovi, Manhattan Transfer, Corinne Bailey Ray and many more.

