

CONTACT PERSON: Elaine Irwin Meyer
Museum of Appalachia
P.O. Box 1189
Norris, TN 37828
865-494-7680 or 494-0514
e-mail: museum@museumofappalachia.org
www.museumofappalachia.org

For immediate release

Award-winning performers make 35th Annual Tennessee Fall Homecoming a must-see

NORRIS, Tennessee: The best Bluegrass, Gospel and Old-Time music in the South will resonate across the beautiful grounds of the Museum of Appalachia, October 10-12th.

This year's line-up includes over 70 national, regional and local musicians, performing on five unique outdoor stages, throughout the pastoral Museum setting. In celebration of 35 years of this award winning festival, organizers have put together the strongest lineup in event history, bringing in hosts of exciting new groups, providing for an eclectic viewing experience for the whole family.

The Museum is proud to welcome one of the biggest names in contemporary bluegrass to this year's festival, the *Lonesome River Band*. Since their 1983 debut, the group has brought their distinctive sound to outdoor festivals, the David Letterman show, and everywhere in-between. Over the span of their career, the group has garnered a treasure-trove of awards from IBMA, including Album of the Year. Group leader and banjo player Sammy Shelor was recently presented with the Excellence in Bluegrass and Banjo Award by the iconic Steve Martin. Shelor also is the 5-time recipient of the IBMA award for Banjo Player of the Year. Still going strong after more than 30 years, the *Lonesome River Band* continues to enjoy their reputation as one of the most talented groups in all of bluegrass music.

Another exciting group making its Homecoming debut this year is *The Gibson Brothers*. They are the reigning IBMA Entertainers of the Year, two-time Vocal Group of the Year winners, and have won countless other awards. Citing influences from Bill Monroe to Merle Haggard, the *Brothers* mix old-time bluegrass with modern roots country, showcasing an impressive ability to skillfully play music that touches upon many different genres. Their uncanny ability to infuse new energy with an old style has made them a staple of bluegrass music.

The dynamic and gifted ladies of *Della Mae* comprise another high-profile group that the Museum has secured for this year's festival. Having already garnered a Grammy nomination since their 2012 Rounder debut, these five talented women have taken the country music scene by storm with their enthusiastic and heartfelt performances. *Della Mae* combines "centuries' worth of musical influences with an emotionally tough, undeniably modern musical sensibility." Their collective chemistry, based upon their impressive vocal, instrumental, and songwriting talents make for powerful performances that aren't to be missed.

Also appearing at this year's event is Grammy award-winning vocalist, Marty Raybon and his band, Full Circle. Formerly the lead singer of *Shenandoah*, Marty has he has sold millions of

records and performed thousands of shows worldwide over his thirty year-long career. Marty boasts multiple number one singles, top selling albums, CMA, ACM, IBMA, and Grammy Awards, along with countless other accolades. Dubbed “the best singer on the planet” by Rascal Flatts, Marty’s soulful country voice continues to wow audiences to this day.

Another exciting newcomer to this year’s *Homecoming* is *Junior Sisk and Rambler’s Choice*. As the reigning IBMA Male Vocalist of the Year, Junior and his band have garnered legions of fans throughout the years and have become an institution in traditional bluegrass music. In addition, newcomers *Jeff Brown & Still Lonesome* look to make appearances at this year’s Homecoming festival.

Appearing again this year are Grammy nominated, Blue Highway; Broadcaster of the Year, Chris Jones and the Night Drivers; the award winning Darrell Webb Band; the highly recognized Blue Moon Rising, a top 10 Bluegrass album holder; Grits & Soul, Jesse Gregory & Faultline, and the legendary Paul Williams and the Victory Trio. Joining these top artists is one of the most successful bluegrass bands of all time, seven-time International Bluegrass Music Association “Vocal Group of the Year” with multiple Grammy and Dove award nominations and IBMA Hall of Fame inductee, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver.

Perennial favorites back at Homecoming this year are Leroy Troy, Ramona Jones, The Dismembered Tennesseans, Daniel Rothwell and his grandfather, legendary buck dancer, Thomas Maupin, The Stewart Family, Dale Jett of the Carter Family, Russ & Becky Jeffers, and Jimbo Whaley and Greenbrier. Scores of additional musicians will perform all day, each day, over the course of this three day event.

Tennessee Fall Homecoming, much more than a music festival, includes historic demonstrations such as spinning, weaving, sorghum making, blacksmithing and sawmilling; with heritage arts and crafts such as tatting, whittling, lye soap making, leather working and hand crafted white oak baskets. Tour the entire Museum of Appalachia complex, feast on fine Southern fare and Appalachian delights, and take the opportunity to meet regionally and nationally known Southern writers.

As a non-profit, Smithsonian affiliated organization, the Museum’s mission is to preserve the artifacts and culture of an earlier time for the benefit of future generations; and to instill in the community – regionally, nationally, and internationally- a greater knowledge of and appreciation for the Appalachian heritage. The Museum is located 16 miles north of Knoxville on I-75, exit 122, then travel one mile east. If you would like to purchase tickets, you may purchase them at the Museum gate, starting October 10. Event parking is free. For more information, call 865-494-7680, or visit the website at www.museumofappalachia.org.

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