

Big Medicine Delivers Old-Time Remedies June 8th

Big Medicine will perform string band music of the rural South at the next Charlotte Folk Society Gathering. The concert will begin at 7:30 PM on Friday, June 8, in the Bryant Recital Hall of the Sloan-Morgan Building on the Central

CPCC Campus at 1220 Elizabeth Avenue in Charlotte. CFS Gatherings are family-friendly and free, although donations are greatly appreciated. Enjoy a short refreshment

break after the concert and stay on for a jam session or song circle. Free parking is available in the Central Piedmont Community College Staff Deck off Fourth Street, between Independence Boulevard and Kings Drive.

Big Medicine plays old-time melodies and mountain harmonies, ancient ballads and archaic fiddle tunes, heart songs, hollers, hymns, and a touch of early bluegrass—a music with remarkable power, nuance, and timeless appeal, a balm for the modern maladies of the soul. Members of the band—Kenny Jackson, Jim Collier, Joe Newberry, and Bobb Head—are some of the most highly-regarded performers on the traditional mu-

sic scene today. All four are veteran multi-instrumentalists and singers who are steeped in the ruggedly beautiful old-time music of the southern Appalachian and Ozark regions.



Big Medicine (Jim, Bobb, Joe, and Kenny)

These folks have diligently learned by ear and by heart at the well-spring of old-time music, from elder masters, relatives and

friends, field recordings, and old 78 rpm records of "hillbilly" music. Going beyond just being "revivalists," their music comes out sounding like nobody but **Big Medicine**, whether playing timeless traditional material or a newly composed song or tune: deeply rooted, musically compelling, and from the heart.

Music critics and reviewers describe **Big Medicine's** blend of fiddle tunes, ballads, hymns, and early bluegrass as "joyful," "impressive," "spirited," and "powerful." The band's instrumental dexterity, powerful singing, and a lively creativity in their interpretation of old-time music

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Save the Date: Annual Ice Cream Social Sunday, July 8

For the second year the Charlotte Folk Society is jointly hosting a summer Ice Cream Social and Jam with the Charlotte Museum of History. The **free** event will take place on Sunday, July 8, from 1:30 to 4:30 PM on the grounds of the museum, located at 3500 Shamrock Drive in east Charlotte. As well as enjoying scoops of ice cream, visitors are invited to either join or listen in to open acoustic jam sessions, and to tour the museum and the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. Folk toys and games will be available for the youngsters to play with.

Last year's Social proved to be very popular, with some 450 people attending and sharing a beautiful afternoon.

The Ice Cream Social and Jam are open to the public. There will be some chairs provided. To be assured of having a seat, bring a blanket or chair with you. Bring an instrument, if you play. If not, just bring yourself! There's likely to be some singing going on, too! In case of rain, we'll move in to the Great Hall inside the museum. The museum is located on Shamrock Drive, between Eastway Drive and North Sharon Amity Road in Charlotte. Visit www.charlottemuseum.org for directions.

(*Big Medicine, continued from page 1.*)

have won them fans and critical praise nationwide as well as overseas. **Big Medicine** is widely recognized as one of the most influential string bands to come along in the last decade. Visit www.bigmedmusic.com or www.folksociety.org to listen to clips from their CDs, **Fever in the South** and **Too Old to be Controlled**.

Kenny Jackson is best known for his traditional old-time fiddling, but he's a compelling singer, banjo player, and guitarist as well. Kenny's earliest inspiration was the tradition of homemade music and singing that often took place when the family gathered at his grandparents' Kentucky home place. Influenced by elder masters and younger contemporaries, archival field recordings, and old commercial records of string band music, he pursued old-time music with a passion. The result is that Kenny has become a master in his own right, distinctive in his own music while deeply rooted in traditional sources. Kenny has been a part of one outstanding string band after another—touring in the mid-80s with **Leftwich, Higginbotham, and Jackson**, co-founding **The Rhythm Rats** in 1988, and **Big Medicine** in 1999. Kenny grew up in southern Indiana, but has lived in Fayetteville, North Carolina since 1998.

Jim Collier has been playing old-time and bluegrass music since high school days in Raleigh, North Carolina. Influenced early on by time spent with Appalachian musicians such as Roscoe Holcomb, Arnold Watson, and Gaither Carlton, he carries a rich tradition of tunes and songs, ranging from hard-driving to sensitive and mournful. Jim is a superb rhythm guitar player and mandolinist, a knock-down banjo

player, fiddler, and a great singer. Along with Joe Newberry, he was also a member of the **Tarheel Hotshots**, one of the finest North Carolina old-time bands of the 1990s. Jim lives in Raleigh.

Joe Newberry is a gifted banjo player, guitarist, songwriter, and singer. His powerful and innovative banjo playing has won contests around the country, including first place at the Appalachian String Band Music Festival. A Missouri native, Joe contributes the sensibilities of the traditional music from that region to the **Big Medicine** sound. Joe does solo and studio work, and teaches and performs at music camps and festivals at home and abroad. With Julee Glaub, Joe has been warmly received by Folk Society audiences – in a house concert and on our Gathering and Festival in the Park stages. He can also be heard playing banjo and singing with Bill Hicks, Mike Craver, and Jim Watson - original members of the **Red Clay Ramblers** (www.originalredclayramblers.com). His latest musical adventure is the **Grey Eagles** – a trio with Rafe Stefanini and Jim Collier (www.myspace.com/greyeagles). Joe left his Ozark home a couple of decades ago to settle in North Carolina, and now lives in Durham.

Bobb Head, newest band member, lays down the bass line and shares vocal harmony duties with **Big Medicine**, and every now and then is induced to produce some fine banjo or guitar picking. When he's not playing with **Big Medicine**, you can see him with the **Stillhouse Bottom Band**; with **Dueling Shoes**, a percussive dance ensemble; and the **Deep Phat Friars**, an irreverent southern-fried contra band. He has also performed with a number of pickup bands. Before moving to North Carolina, he played with the **Privy Tippers** in Tucson and, before that, with the **Self-Righteous Brothers** in Houston.

June 7th Celtic House Concert



Henry, Kate, and Jon (left to right)

Folk Society members Rita and Gar Hartmann are hosting a Celtic house concert on Thursday, June 7th, at 7:30 PM. Performing will be Jon Singleton (fiddle and vocals), Kate Minogue (flute, guitar, and vocals), and Henry Lebedinsky (bouzouki, mandolin, keyboard, and vocals). Admission is \$10. The Hartmann home is located at 6915 Olde Sycamore Drive in the Olde Sycamore development in Mint Hill. Call 704-496-4321 to make reservations to hear this stellar trio of musicians. Space is limited.

Jon has been a session master at the Ri-Ra Irish pub for many years, where Kate and Henry often perform with him and the **Acme Celi Band** on Sunday nights. As well, Kate and Henry play with the Boston-based Celtic band **The Beggar Boys** (www.gloucestertimes.com/lifestyle/local_story_348120755). Henry also plays with local groups **Nancy Whiskey** and the **Boys of Buncombe**.

More details about the performers can be found in the May issue of the newsletter and at www.folksociety.org.