

Talented Young Musicians “Carry It On” February 9th

Each season the Charlotte Folk Society highlights the talents of young acoustic musicians who are carrying forward our musical legacy. Please join us to encourage and celebrate these performers at our sixth Young Talent Showcase on Friday, February 9. Their accomplishments, passion, and range of interests are impressive. The concert will begin at 7:30 PM in the Bryant Recital Hall of the Sloan-Morgan Building, Central CPCC Campus, 1220 Elizabeth Avenue.



Avery McGuirt

CFS Gatherings are family-friendly and free, although donations are 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.

Avery McGuirt, as the 2006 winner of the Marilyn Meacham Price Scholarship to the Swannanoa Gathering, is our featured musician. He chose to attend Fiddle Week at Swannanoa and took classes with master teachers Rich-

ard Greene, Matt Glaser, and Andy Stein.

Avery is in seventh grade at Davidson IB Middle School, where he plays clarinet in the band. As well, he plays violin in the Charlotte Symphony Junior Youth Orchestra.

Avery first played fiddle with the McGuirt family band, **Whippersnapper** with sister **Casey** on mandolin, sister **Emmy** singing vocals, and their father, **David**, on guitar.

Avery has been studying bluegrass fiddle with Glen Alexander for almost two years. Glen expects Avery to be a future contender for fiddle contests, citing both his “great technique” and “great passion for the fiddle and the music.” He has performed traditional folk music at churches, festivals, nursing homes, and campgrounds and has taken part in youth competitions at Galax and Fiddlers Grove.

Elene Clemens is fifteen years old and a sophomore at Cannon School in Concord. Subjected to her father’s guitar picking and singing since birth, she has appreciated folk music from an early age.

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Rising Appalachia Plays CFS House Concert March 17th

Sisters Leah and Chloe Smith were raised in Georgia by a fiddling mother and a guitar-playing father and were exposed to traditional Appalachian music at an early age. These young women give evidence in their self-titled debut CD, **Rising Appalachia**, that they well absorbed the ballads and contra dance tunes they were exposed to at home. Influenced as well by music from urban jazz to roots music from around the world, Leah and Chloe have created a style that is truly their own. Add in the unique drumming style and subtle rhythms of Asheville percussionist Forrest Kelly, and their performances take on a driving and hypnotic groove. The musicians of **Rising Appalachia** have traveled throughout this country and beyond, using their rich Appalachian traditions to connect with other cultures.

Please join us on Saturday, March 17, at 7:30 PM when **Rising Appalachia** will perform in a CFS house concert at the home of Salem Macknee and Lee Howard, 14930 Hough Road, in Charlotte. If you know any young folks that you’d like to turn on to traditional music, hearing **Rising Appalachia** would be the perfect way to do so! Admission is \$10 for Folk Society members; \$12 for others. **Reservations are required; space is limited.** Call Salem Macknee at 704-573-0864 to reserve your spot.

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Elene has two wonderful teachers, Kathleen Blackwell Plank (classical) and Sandy Herrault (Irish fiddle). She is particularly interested in learning different types of Celtic music. Elene tremendously enjoyed attending the Swannanoa Gathering.

Cameron Faryadi is from Oakboro, North Carolina. He is thirteen years old and has been taking fiddle lessons from Glen Alexander for four years. He has participated in several fiddle competitions, including Fiddlers Grove and Galax, where he won fourth place in 2005. Cameron's other interests include soccer, computers, and reptiles.

Matt Gilmore is a Charlotte native. He is a junior at Butler High School. When he was eight years old, he got his first guitar and has been playing ever since. He enjoys a variety of music, ranging from simple acoustic guitar to Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton to the new Indie pop/rock genres. He believes that lyrics are just as important as the music that accompanies them. He appreciates Bob Dylan and Connor Oberst (**Bright Eyes**), because, although "their voices aren't *American Idol*, their lyrics have substance." Matt hopes to attend college in a large city in order to be able to pursue music as well as to earn a degree.

Marie Larson Hasty, a sixth grader at Piedmont Open IB Middle School, is eleven and one-half years old. She received her full-

sized violin this past Christmas after taking lessons on a three-quarter-sized instrument for a little over a year. Marie plays in the school orchestra, as well as taking fiddle lessons with Jon Singleton. Her favorite kinds of music are new country and old time. Marie's other interests include writing fantasy and science fiction stories, drawing, and basketball.



Carson Hedberg

Carson Hedberg has been playing the Appalachian lap dulcimer and studying with John Renwick for four and one-half years. She will be thirteen in March and is a seventh grader at Piedmont Open IB Middle School. She played on a school softball team in the fall and is now playing church league basketball. Carson just finished

five performances in a school production of *West Side Story*. In her free time she enjoys reading and listening to Regina Spektor on her iPod.

Maddie Howard, a junior at Northwest School of the Arts, has been involved in the Folk Society for several years, including serving two terms as a Junior CFS Board member. A singer and guitarist, she won the Marilyn Meacham Price Youth Scholarship in 2003. She sings with her mother, CFS Board member Salem Macknee, and her favorite musicians are Elvis and Beck. Right now, she's working hard in graphic design class, AP U. S. History, AP Calculus, AP English, and AP European History, but every once in a while she can be spotted surfacing for air. In her spare time, she's trying to plant broccoli in her backyard.

Lemonds Express is a family bluegrass band. **Clint Lemonds** plays

banjo and has studied with Jon Singleton for a year and a half. He is eleven years old and attends Alexander Graham Middle School. **Vance Lemonds** plays mandolin and has studied with Jon for two years. He is eight years old and attends Collinswood Elementary School. **Sarah Lemonds** plays fiddle and takes lessons from Sarah Slechta. She is seven and also attends Collinswood Elementary School. Their favorite music is bluegrass!

Nathan Pier is ten years old and is homeschooled. He has been studying mandolin with Jon Singleton for one year. Nathan has been influenced and encouraged by his brother-in-law, Gary Stainaker. His favorite music is traditional and his favorite song to play is **Cluck Old Hen**.

Sam Richardson, age eight, has been playing violin since beginning Suzuki lessons when he was six. He has also been taking piano



Sam Richardson

lessons for about a year and a half. Sam is in the second grade at Selwyn Elementary in Charlotte. He is the son of Laurie and Dillard Richardson. Sam's musical interests are going in the direction of fiddle tunes and he recently began taking fiddle les-

sions with Trent Moody. He has also been known to organize jam sessions with some of his musical friends, and his sister, Susannah, who is a pretty good dancer and singer!

Natalie Royal is a 16-year-old singer/songwriter from Charlotte. She is a sophomore at Providence High School where she sings in

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(*Young Talent, continued from page 3.*)

plays violin in the symphony orchestra, and participates in the school's drama productions. Using guitar, ukulele, and violin accompaniment, Natalie has been writing and performing her own music for a couple of years now – gaining experience at a Tosco Music Party, the Evening Muse, the Orange Peel in Asheville, and the Sylvia Theater in York, South Carolina.



Natalie Royal

Ruth Swallow is ten years old and a fifth grader at Davidson Elementary School. She took two months of banjo lessons from Jon Singleton in the spring of 2005. She's had no instruction since then, but hopes to again have Jon as a teacher. Ruth is a piano student, as well. She attends informal Saturday morning sessions with her mother, Cameron, at Pat's Coffee Shop in Mooresville, where they sing and play along with bluegrass standards. Ruth and several of her friends from her pre-school community meet occasionally to play music together and they are interested in forming the **Schoolhouse String Band**. Ruth's favorite thing to do is to sing and find harmonies, but she enjoys exploring harmonies on instruments, as well.

Gabriel Thamm is twelve years old and is a sixth grade student at Holy Trinity Middle School. He has studied fiddle for two years with Jon Singleton and enjoys contemporary and Irish fiddle music. He has a deep interest in animals and holds the rank of Bo Cho Dan in tae kwon do.

Lacy Toney has been taking voice and guitar lessons from Marianna Landau of the Landau Guitar Company in Harrisburg, North Carolina for three years. She is an honor student in the seventh grade at Northeast Middle School in Charlotte. Lacy has performed in two talent shows at her school, taking third place this year and tying for first last year. She has also performed in numerous open mic events sponsored by Landau Guitar company. Lacy enjoys writing her own songs and performing in public.

CFS Old Time Acoustic Jam February 11th

The Charlotte Folk Society hosts an open Acoustic Old Time Music Jam at the Charlotte Museum of History at 3500 Shamrock Drive in Charlotte. Generally, the jam takes place on the second Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 PM. Please mark your calendars for the next sessions: **February 11th, March 11th, April 15th, and May 13th**. Admission to the museum is free on Sundays. Visit www.charlottemuseum.org for directions.

For more than a year, Ruth Helms has coordinated this jam session. Due to family obligations, she has had to step down. We thank her for representing the Folk Society so well and for making folks feel welcomed!

Hunter Marshall has agreed to be the new jam coordinator. (Thank you, Hunter!) If you have questions, please contact him at 704-296-5555.

March CFS Gathering

Our March 9th Gathering Concert will feature **The Near Misses**, a Charlotte-based, all-female quartet of musicians and songwriters known throughout the Southeast for their awesome four-part harmonies. Shana Blake, Reeve Coobs, Eva Gael, and Etta Lea perform an eclectic blend of originals and covers, drawing on roots-rock, pop, contemporary, folk, country and jazz influences. By the way, Shana Blake is the talented granddaughter of Folk Society members Chester and Dot Lorenze. Visit www.queencitymusic.com/nearmisses to sample both their songwriting and performing talents.



The Near Misses

Member Ads

Pair of 2007 MerleFest Patron Tickets: includes 2 front section reserved seats at Watson Stage, 2 t-shirts, 2 posters, 24 raffle tickets, 2 Midnight Jam tickets; drinks & light refreshments in restricted VIP area & daily backstage access, including 2 meal tickets. \$1250. **Wanda Hubicki at 704-563-7080/phubicki@carolina.rr.**

Folk music instruction available for fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and guitar . . . dobro, even! Jon Singleton has openings for students. All levels welcome. Private instruction with results and a smile! **Contact Jon Singleton at 704-536-4843 or FiddleJon@aol.com**