

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Music From The Crooked Road Featured at Virginia Highlands Festival

Abingdon, Virginia – Music From The Crooked Road will be featured at the Virginia Highlands Festival on Sunday, July 30 from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Abingdon Market Pavilion stage.

Four groups will be featured throughout the day: Gravel Road is a youth bluegrass band hailing from the Floyd/New River Valley area of Southwest Virginia; The Yates Family Band, from Konnarock Virginia, plays a unique variety of old time, bluegrass, Americana, and original songs; Hollow Ground is a dynamic traditional bluegrass and gospel music group from the mountains of Virginia; and Tune Town – an energetic old time string band known for their dance melodies and mountain songs. Each group will perform two sets as follows: Gravel Road – 1 PM & 3 PM, The Yates Family – 2 PM & 4 PM, Hollow Ground – 5 PM & 7 PM, and Tune Town – 6 PM & 8 PM.

The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail celebrates the traditional music that has been kept by families and communities of Southwest Virginia since colonial times. Settlers of this mountainous region since the 1700's have brought various ingredients – a cappella gospel music from German tradition that lives in the Old Regular Baptist churches today; spirituals, emotive singing and a musical gourd we now call a banjo from African tradition; and ballads and fiddles brought by the Scots-Irish and English. Mixed together, these ingredients have produced one of the richest musical traditions on earth. The variety of it is amazing – old time string bands, a cappella gospel, blues, 300 year-old ballads, bluegrass, and more! It is a music tradition that is as vibrant today as it has ever been.

Please plan to join us for a day of Music from The Crooked Road at the Virginia Highlands Festival. While you are there, learn how to make traditional Appalachian crafts from 'Round the Mountain artisans who will demonstrate hewing, quilting, spinning, weaving, and woodworking under the Pavilion from 12:30-6:00 PM. Artisans include: Gary Carroll, Rodney Hopkins, Katie McLaughlin, Joan Bear Minnick, Jennifer Newcomb, and Laura Post.

The Abingdon Market Pavilion is located at Cummings Street and Remsburg Drive, Abingdon, VA 24210. Tickets are \$1 - \$3. More information can be found at www.vahighlandsfestival.org or by calling (276) 623-5266.