The Carter Family (A.P., Sara, and Maybelle) grew up in Scott County, and began performing here. A.P. Carter was a composer, collector and arranger with a legacy of family and community music, and an ability to create songs that touched the human spirit. His wife, Sara Dougherty Carter, had a rich and expressive voice that made her a favorite here and among millions in distant places via recordings and “border blaster” radio stations such as XERA and XET. Maybelle Addington Carter (a cousin of Sara’s who married A.P.’s brother Ezra) sang harmony and occasional lead, and became the most imitated lead guitarist in country music history.

Janette and Joe Carter, sister and brother, and children of A.P. and Sara, built the Carter Fold, a performance venue east of here at the Carter home place in Maces Springs. Maybelle and Ezra’s children (Helen, June, and Anita) performed with their mother. June also performed with husband, Johnny Cash; their very favorite place to perform being the Carter Fold. Every Saturday night the Carters are celebrated at the Fold with music and dance from these mountains. There are often international visitors from as far away as Europe and Asia, but here they can become part of a mountain family.
The Crooked Road
Virginia's Heritage Music Trail

From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Coalfields region, Southwest Virginia is blessed with historic and contemporary music venues, musicians, and fretted instrument makers. Historically isolated, the region retained its strong musical legacy by passing traditions down through musical families to an appreciative community.

Old time mountain music, bluegrass, and gospel can be enjoyed all year long and several museums are devoted to showcasing the area's rich musical heritage.

The Crooked Road winds through the ruggedly beautiful Appalachian Mountains and leads you to the major hotspots of old time mountain music, country music, and bluegrass. Alive and kickin' for today's fans, these venues preserve and celebrate musical traditions passed down through generations. Annual festivals, weekly concerts, radio shows, and jam sessions ring out to large audiences and intimate gatherings. Please visit the Crooked Road website to plan your trip to coincide with the current entertainment events.

www.thecrookedroad.org

MAJOR VENUES
- Blue Ridge Institute & Museum
- The Floyd Country Store & Country Store Cafe
- Blue Ridge Music Center
- New River Valley & Old Hiddens Convention
- Bartertown
- Birthplace of Country Music
- Carter Family Field
- Country Cabin #8
- Ralph Stanley Museum
- the Crooked Road