

Franklin Area Folk Festival Musical Performers Plus an Opportunity for YOU to Shine!

By Theresa Ramsey

13th Annual Franklin Area Folk Festival, "A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage"

Saturday, August 19, 2017 from 10 am to 4 pm

Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center (51 Cowee School Drive, Franklin, NC)

Performances of mountain music, gospel and bluegrass tunes exemplify a very important cultural heritage of our Appalachian region. At this year's Franklin Area Folk Festival, the day will be filled with melodic sounds from the past as music is shared at various venues throughout the school. Some of the entertainers include: *Dear Brother*: a progressive bluegrass band based out of Asheville, NC featuring original songwriting, instrumentals, and three part harmonies; *Limited Distance*: a traditional bluegrass and gospel music band from Franklin, NC whose members jam frequently with SEBA (Southeastern Bluegrass Association); *Kornbread Kreek*: a blend of musicians from around the state form this band known for their an old-time and mountain music style; *Nikawsi Dulcimer Players*: a local group that performs both instrumental and vocal Appalachian melodies; *John Hawk and Phil Myers*: this mountain dulcimer duo team will perform traditional songs; and in town at the Classic/Antique Car & Tractor Show and Shuttle Site, located at 17 W. Palmer Drive, *JimBob* (Jim Hite and Bob Blanton) will entertain us during the day with Americana tunes and old familiar favorites.

A new venue at this year's festival is the Songwriter's and SEBA Jam Tent, which will be located near the front of Cowee School. This tent is the place where **YOU** are invited to bring an instrument, pull up a chair and join in during the jam time. Select members of this group will move throughout the day to give a special performance at other locations, i.e. Outside stage, Inside stage, Rickman's Store, etc. Be sure to pick up a program that will list times and places to catch these specific performances if they are not playing at the Jam Tent.

KIDS through the age of 18: Youth are invited to participate in the Mountain Youth Talent Contest. The purpose of this contest is to discover, develop and encourage talent in youth in traditional Appalachian music, storytelling and dance and provide an opportunity for young people to perform on stage before an audience. In hopes of encouraging a continuing "sense of place" for our young musical mountain youth, Jackson County 4-H and Catch the Spirit of Appalachia (CSA), a heritage organization, are providing outlets for this local talent. The Mountain Youth Talent Contests are designed for amateur talent. The Franklin Area Folk Festival is the third site for a contest and the final show will be at Mt. Heritage Day at Cullowhee on September 30, 2017. **The deadline for registering for the Franklin site is August 11. Details can be found at jackson.ces.ncsu.edu or go to the schedule page of the festival site FranklinFolkFestival.com.**

At this time, other entertainment scheduled during the day includes Bill Coburn's Border Collie Demonstrations, 25th NC Infantry Civil War Re-enactors Camp, marching maneuvers and musket firing, Front Porch Interviews, Women's History Trail Stories from the Past plus more!

Come learn about the culture and folkways of our Southern Appalachian Mountains by engaging in one of the many living history experiences, a trademark of the Franklin Area Folk Festival, "A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage." This FREE event is co-sponsored annually by the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County and the Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center with support from many other organizations. For more information visit: **FranklinFolkFestival.com** or call **(800) 932-5294**. The festival is made possible by grant funding from the Franklin TDA, the Franklin/Nantahala TDC and donations (at this time) from these businesses/individuals: Macon Farm Bureau, Margaret Ramsey, United Community Bank, Kenneth & Susan McCaskill, Joe & Theresa Ramsey, Suminski Family Books, Frogtown Market, The Moberg Group, Bob McCollum "The Music Doctor" Piano Tuning, Anne Hyder, Stan & Evelyn Southard, and Mark & Dale West.