



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2010

Bluegrass Legend Comes to Midcoast

Bay Chamber Concerts presents Ralph Stanley & His Clinch Mountain Boys

Bay Chamber Concerts will present the legendary, Grammy Award-winning, bluegrass musician Ralph Stanley & His Clinch Mountain Boys at the Strand Theatre in Rockland on Sunday, January 24, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. Known as "Dr. Ralph Stanley" in the bluegrass world, Stanley has been making music for over 60 years; in that time he has recorded over 170 albums, is a member of the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Honor, a member of the world-famous Grand Ole Opry and is a recipient of the National Medal of the Arts – the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence. Recognized for his unique style of singing and banjo playing, Stanley's banjo method evolved from the three fingered Scruggs style. Dubbed the "Stanley Style," Stanley's technique is recognized for its remarkably fast "forward rolls," led by the pointer finger. Stanley won the 2002 Grammy Award for Best Male Country Vocal Performance for his work on the Appalachian dirge "O Death," which he sang in the 2000 film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

In partnership with the Camden Public Library, Bay Chamber Concerts will host a showing of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Jean Picker Room; the showing is free and open to the public. In addition, Bay Chamber Concerts will host an Education Extra: Bluegrass Jam Session at the Strand Theatre on Sunday, January 24, 2010 at 12:00 noon. Join in an informal jam session of traditional bluegrass with members of the Clinch Mountain Boys; \$15 per person or bring two cans of non perishable food as a donation for the Camden Area Food Pantry, reservations required.

Tickets for this event are sold out! In event of a sold out concert, Bay Chamber Concerts generally can usually accommodate those wishing to attend. Simply call the office to be added to the waiting list. At 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 24 Bay Chamber Concerts will begin a first come, first served stand-by seating list based on return tickets and no-shows. No-show seats will be filled starting at 2:30 p.m. Call the Bay Chamber box office at (207) 236-2823 for more details.

Stanley founded the Clinch Mountain Boys with his guitar wielding brother, Carter Stanley, in their native southwestern Virginia in 1946. By 1966, the year of Carter's untimely death, the Stanley Brothers & the Clinch Mountain Boys had become one of the most celebrated international bluegrass groups,

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rivaling such titans as Flatt & Scruggs and Bill Monroe. After his brother's death, Stanley had to make the tough decision to continue making music alone – he revived the Clinch Mountain Boys with an older, sadder, less festooned mountain style.

Today, the Clinch Mountain Boys are: James Shelton (guitar), Steve Sparkman (banjo), Ralph's son: Ralph Stanley II (vocal, banjo), Dewey Brown (fiddle), Nathan Stanley (mandolin, vocal) and Jimmy Ivan Cameron (acoustic bass). The Clinch Mountain Boys has featured such prominent musicians as: Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley, Larry Sparks, Curly Ray Cline, Jack Cooke, Roy Lee Centers, Charlie Sizemore and Ray Goins.

Coming up next in the 2009-2010 Performing Arts Series: Bay Chamber Concerts will present the "Golden Dragon Chinese Acrobats" at the Strom Auditorium at the Camden Hills Regional High School on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Direct from Hebei, China, The Golden Dragon Chinese Acrobats represent the best of a time-honored tradition that began more than twenty-five centuries ago. You'll see contortionists; juggling of umbrellas, balls and hats; plate spinning; high ropes; ladder and flag routines; and the incredible Tower of Chairs. Be sure to buy tickets in advance!

Most tickets are \$25. Prime seating is \$45, discounted up to 44% with subscription. A limited number of \$8 tickets will be available for youth ages 18 and under. Bay Chamber Concerts is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization. The media sponsor is VillageSoup.com. For more information, or to purchase subscriptions or tickets, contact Bay Chamber Concerts at (207) 236-2823, toll free at (888) 707-2770 or online at www.baychamberconcerts.org.

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Calendar Listings:

Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Camden Public Library 55 Main St. Camden, ME 04843

Title: "O Brother, Where Art Thou" Showing

Description: See the modern movie version of the Odyssey that won Ralph Stanley a Grammy! Presented in partnership with Camden Public Library. Free and open to the public.

Date: Sunday, January 24, 2010

Time: 12:00 noon

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: Education Extra: Bluegrass Jam Session

Description: Join in an informal jam session of traditional bluegrass with members of the Clinch Mountain Boys.

Price: \$15 per person or bring two cans of non-perishable food, reservations required.

Date: Sunday, January 24, 2010

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: Ralph Stanley & His Clinch Mountain Boys

Description: Grammy Award-winner Ralph Stanley is a legendary bluegrass musician, known for his distinctive singing and banjo playing. Many people know him for his work on the film "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" but he has been making music for more than 60 years – he is a recipient of the National Medal of Arts, nation's highest honor for artistic excellence.

Price: Most tickets \$25. Prime seating \$45, discounted up to 44% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

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