

## **CELEBRATION OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC ✂ OCTOBER 26-29, 2006**

### **2006 Festival Musicians:**

**Greg and Emily Beasley** – a father-daughter duo from Xenia, Ohio, with roots in Wolfe County, Kentucky. Greg is a storyteller who also plays guitar, banjo, and fiddle and harmonizes with his twelve-year-old daughter, Emily. Emily has a true passion for old time and gospel music. She is also a guitar player, and started singing with her dad at three years of age. Greg has performed for over 25 years and has been instructing acoustic stringed instrument workshops at several Miami Valley Schools. He has won several awards for his work in the arts, including the 1999 “Culture Builds Community” Award in Dayton, Ohio and the 2002 Sinclair Community College “Appalachian Unsung Hero” award.

**Berea College Bluegrass Ensemble** – this group has recently toured in Japan, Ireland, and Mexico and plays for many Berea College events, including convocations and dances. This year’s band includes Jake Krack on fiddle, Megan Vaught on mandolin and lead vocals, Matthew Bailey on guitar, Will Haizlett on bass, and faculty leader Al White on clawhammer banjo.

**Fred J. Hay** will be the symposium speaker for the 2006 Celebration. He will include sound clips in his discussion of “Appalachian Music: Black Musicians and Black/White Musical Exchange in Appalachia.” With a Ph.D. from the University of Florida and an M.L.I.S. from Florida State University, he is Professor and Librarian of the W. L. Eury Appalachian Collection at Appalachian State University. His publications include *African American Community Studies from North America* (1989); *“Goin’ Back to Sweet Memphis”: Conversations with the Blues* (2001); and “From Activist to Academic: An Evolutionary Model for the Bibliography of Appalachian Studies” (*Journal of Appalachian Studies*, 1997). Hay edited three issues of the *Black Music Research Journal* (2005) devoted to Appalachia and co-edited *Documenting Cultural Diversity in the Resurgent American South* (1997), which was awarded the American Folklore Society's Brenda McCallum Memorial Prize. His scholarly interests include African Appalachia, ethnography, documentation and bibliography, and folklore.

**Jake Krack**, now a 21-year-old senior at Berea College, has played fiddle for over 15 years, and earned the 2006 Red Foley Memorial Music Award for his musical contributions to the social life of the campus community. He was featured when he was a freshman in the 2003 CTM with his mother Dara on backup guitar and has played in every Celebration since as part of the Berea College Bluegrass Ensemble. He has many CDs to his credit, both solo and with other artists.

**Jake** will be playing with the **Whoopin-Hollar String Band**, winners in the old-time band category of the 69th annual Galax Fiddlers Convention in Galax, Virginia, and the 2006 Appalachian String Band Festival for their lively, hard-driving music. The personnel includes Jake Krack on fiddle, Dennis Hall on guitar, Dallas Hall on mandolin, Peco Watson on banjo, and Jesse Morris on bass. They are from West Virginia and Virginia, met at fiddler’s conventions, and recently recorded a CD called, “Git-R-Done!”

**Lewis and Donna Lamb** – a father-daughter duo from Paint Lick, Kentucky, they are well-known locally as a mainstay of the traditional music community. With Lewis on the fiddle and Donna on guitar and vocals, they play for dances, concerts, Elderhostels, and festivals and host the popular

Thursday evening jam sessions in Berea. They have played at most of the past Celebrations, including the first one in 1974. Donna has written many songs in a traditional vein.

**Mariachi Mi Mexico** – originally from Mexico City, Mexico, this mariachi band is now based in Lexington, Kentucky, and Atlanta, Georgia, playing at many restaurants and festivals in the area. Along with the popular songs requested by American audiences, they play the more traditional *sones* from Jalisco and Colima (a mixture of Spanish, Mexican, and African traditions), *huapangos* from San Luis Potosí, as well as *boleros* and polka music that have been written for and adapted by Mexican mariachi bands. The band includes Oscar Velazquez on guitarrón, Erik Velazquez on trumpet, and Marcos Velazquez on vihuela.

**Sue Massek** – a founding member of Reel World String Band, Sue plays clawhammer style banjo, singing traditional and original songs. Originally from Kansas, Sue spent many years as an artist-in-residence in the Kentucky schools and learned much of her banjo style from West Virginia and Kentucky musicians, especially Blanche Coldiron and Lily May Ledford. She currently lives in Willisburg, Kentucky, working at the Kentucky Foundation for Women in addition to her busy music schedule.

**Nat Reese** – born in Salem, Virginia, in 1924, he now lives in Princeton, West Virginia. He grew up in the coal camps of southern West Virginia, surrounded by gospel, swing, and blues music, and plays a mixture of country blues and Delta blues. He was recognized by the state of West Virginia in 1995 with their highest folklife award, the Vandalia Award, presented each year at the state folklife gathering. He has just completed a CD as part of “The Crooked Road,” Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail. Nat has performed at several previous CTM, in 1980, 1991, and 1998.

**Erin Cokonougher Stidham** was born in Michigan, but her home and heart have been in Letcher County, Kentucky, since she was four years old. As a teenager, she was a student at the first Cowan Creek Music School and was calling dances by the end of the week. She was able to apprentice to master caller, **Charlie Whitaker**, through a 2004-2005 Kentucky Arts Council Apprenticeship Grant and called dances with him at the 2005 Kentucky Folklife Festival. She is a Dean’s List sophomore at Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky, and inflects traditional dance calling with her own very contemporary sense of style.

**Charlie Whitaker**, from Blackey, Kentucky, is a popular and active dance caller throughout eastern Kentucky, specializing in Kentucky running sets. He has a long history of spirited calling, beginning in the late 1950s when he was a teacher at the Pine Mountain Settlement School. He started folk dance clubs for students there, and later at Alice Lloyd College. He is a mainstay caller at the Carcassonne Community Center and has appeared with those dancers for several years at the Kentucky Folklife Festival and the 2003 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.



The Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet, has provided funding for the 2006 Celebration with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.