



Virginia Highlands Festival
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High-resolution photos may be downloaded from the
website www.VaHighlandsFestival.org

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19th ANNUAL CELTIC CEILIDH ON SATURDAY, JULY 27 AT THE 71st ANNUAL VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS FESTIVAL

**TEN DAYS OF ARTS AND CULTURE
FESTIVAL DATES: July 26 - August 4**

ABINGDON, Va./June 17, 2019/ – The 19th annual Celtic Ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee) returns on Saturday, July 27 and takes over the Market Pavilion at 6 PM, with gates opening at 5:30 PM. Celtic music has long been a fan favorite at the Virginia Highlands Festival, and this year's lineup promises a night of rousing drums and soaring melodies.

Following in true Festival tradition, The Appalachian Highlanders Pipe & Drum band will kick things off with pomp and pageantry as they march into the Market Pavilion.

Sandra Parker, Celtic harpist, vocalist, and founder of the Festival's Celtic concert series, will perform traditional and original songs. Her new CD "Call of the Faerie" has been featured on NPR's "Celtic Clanjamphry and Harpestry" and is a collection of traditional and original tunes that explore Faerie legend and lore.

Jennifer Cutting and her OCEAN Orchestra brings soaring vocals and fiery bagpipe and fiddle tunes in their own American take on Celtic folk-rock. With it's buoyant beats and soaring Celtic melodies, OCEAN provides an uplifting soundtrack for traveling on life's changing seas. Lose yourself in dreamy reverie, or cut loose and dance to the propulsive beat of electric jigs and reels.

Don't forget to stop by the beer garden and savor treats from the region's best food trucks along with beer and wine from some of your favorite summer brands.

For a complete listing of the 250 Festival activities happening from July 26-August 4, including registration requirements, advance ticket purchases, parking and trolley info, and more, visit www.vahighlandsfestival.org or pick up a program guide at Food City locations near you.

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About the Virginia Highlands Festival: Founded in 1948, the Virginia Highlands Festival is an annual, ten-day event devoted to the celebration of Southwest Virginia heritage and rich Appalachian tradition. Held in historic Abingdon, Virginia, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Festival attracts thousands of visitors each year. The Festival was selected as the “Best Art Event” by the readers of *Virginia Living* magazine in 2019, recognized as a Top 20 Event by the Southeastern Tourism Society and was named as Blue Ridge Country’s Best Non-Music Festival in 2018. The 71st Virginia Highlands Festival will run from July 26-August 4 (Antiques Market July 27- August 4) and feature live concerts, a juried arts and crafts show, and an antique market, as well as workshops, lectures and tours. To learn more about the Virginia Highlands Festival and this year’s events, please visit <http://www.vahighlandsfestival.org>