



Virginia Highlands Festival
335 Cummings Street
Abingdon, VA 24210

Contact: Matthew Chambers
(423) 366-6368
Matthew@kindlerstudios.com
Laurie Street
Office:(423) 534-8385
Laurie@KindlerStudios.com

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

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“CREATE” YOUR FESTIVAL SOUNDTRACK
WITH LIVE MUSIC 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 Highlands Festival is rich with a diverse sampling of traditional and modern musical arts. Whether you’re a little bit country or a little bit rock and roll, the party begins at the Abingdon Farmers Market Pavilion with seven days of summer sounds featuring rock, country, bluegrass, gospel, and Celtic music—guaranteed to satisfy fans of all ages! Bring a chair or use one of ours and enjoy great music, the region’s best food trucks, and beer and wine from some of your favorite summer brands. Be sure to check out the new Festival Music pass to enjoy every night of music at a savings!

“The musical lineup for the Virginia Highlands Festival promises something for every generation and music lover,” said Rhonda Mossholder, co-chair of this year’s Music committee. “You will hear the sounds of old and new Country, Rock, Bluegrass, Gospel, Modern Pop, and Celtic floating from the tent at the Abingdon Farmers Market throughout the week. A true melting pot of music events awaits!”

Food vendors are available at all concerts and beer garden will be open for the Friday and Saturday night shows. See individual listing for ticket info. Children under 12 are always free.

Opening Night of Music at the Market Pavilion - Celebrate the premiere event of our live music outdoor concert series on Friday, July 26 with party rock bands From the Edge and

Phantom. Tickets and seating open at 6 PM. Food and beverages (including a beer garden) are available for purchase and the music cranks up at 7 PM. Limited seating available. Bring a chair or use one of ours and camp out with us for a wonderful time! Admission is \$5 cash only. Beer garden and food vendors open 30 minutes prior to show time.

Rounding out this year's live music series:

- Saturday, July 27; 6-9 PM - Celtic Ceilidh
- Sunday, July 28; 3-5 PM – Southern Gospel with Primitive Quartet
- Thursday, August 1; 5-11 PM – Southern Rebellion and Wyldeheart (party rock)
- Friday, August 2; 7-9PM – Folk Soul Revival (Americana)
- Saturday, August 3; 5-11 PM – Johnny Cash tribute band and Kaitlyn Baker (country)
- Sunday, August 4; 2-5 PM – Carson Peters and Bella Raye (bluegrass and country)

Celtic Ceilidh - Following in true Festival tradition, The Appalachian Highlanders Pipe & Drum band will kick things off with exhilarating Scottish sounds and synchronized steps 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 Clanjamphy 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. Admission is \$10 cash only at the gate. Children under 12 are free.

Saturday, July 27, 2019 - 6 - 9:30 PM at the Market Pavilion. Gates open at 5:30 PM. Food vendors and beer garden open at 6 PM.

Primitive Quartet

Back by popular demand, the Festival is excited to welcome the bluegrass gospel of Primitive Quartet! Bring the entire family and lift your spirits with old-time mountain shape-note singing style with four part harmony. Admission is \$10 cash only at the gate. Children under 12 are free.

Sunday, July 28, 2019 - 3-5 PM at the Market Pavilion. Gates open at 2 PM. Food vendors and beer garden open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

Wyldeheart & Southern Rebellion

Whether you're into southern rock, country, or dance music, you don't want to miss this double-header with two of the region's best rock n' roll bands. **Wyldeheart** kicks off the evening with their eclectic mix of rock, country, 80s retro, dance, and original tunes. The second half of

our show brings some good ol' **Southern Rebellion** to the stage, blending old-fashioned country music with the soul of Memphis blues to get your toes a' tapping! Admission is \$5 cash only at the gate. Children under 12 are free.

Thursday, August 1, 2019 - 7-11 PM at the Market Pavilion. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Food vendors and beer garden open at 6 PM.

Folk Soul Revival

Rooted in old-school southern sounds, this band whips up their own version of amplified Americana. **Folk Soul Revival** celebrates the sounds, stories, and small-town values of early folk music with a modern approach to good old-fashioned American folk music. Admission is \$10 cash only at the gate. Children 12 and under are free.

Friday August 2, 2019 - 7-9 PM at the Market Pavilion. Doors open at 6 PM. Food vendors and beer garden open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

Johnny Cash tribute band / Kaitlyn Baker

Enjoy an evening of country music favorites! **Jeff Tankersley** is an old soul who has a passion for bringing Johnny Cash back to life. Tankersley and his band deliver a fun, toe-tapping trip down memory lane. The show is made even more special with songs from friends, June Carter Cash and Willie Nelson. Reminisce about the good ol' days with a modern-day "coal miner's daughter" whose songwriting rivals Nashville's finest. **Kaitlyn Baker** celebrates the heart of Appalachia with her one-of-a-kind musical talent. Admission is \$10 cash only at the gate. Children under 12 are free.

Saturday, August 3, 2019 - 7-10:30 PM at the Market Pavilion. Doors open at 6 PM. Food vendors and beer garden open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

Bella Raye / Carson Peters & Iron Mountain

A True "Country Princess", **Bella Raye** is an up-and-coming country singer/songwriter originally from Bristol, TN, now living and performing in Nashville. She rocks the country genre like nobody's business! Don't miss her debut performance on our Market Pavilion stage!

Returning for the third year, fiddle virtuoso **Carson Peters with the band, Iron Mountain**, for an entertaining evening of old-time, bluegrass, and gospel music. Catch both of these amazing performers as they round out our Festival live music concert series! Admission is \$10 cash only at the gate. Children under 12 are free.

Sunday, August 4, 2019 - 2-5 PM at the Market Pavilion. Doors open at 1 PM. Food vendors and beer garden open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

For band videos, performance times, ticket prices, and more information, visit www.vahighlandsfestival.org to access the Festival's full schedule and download the Festival brochure. Band videos have also been curated into a playlist on the Festival's website.

AND MUCH MORE!

For a complete listing of the 200-plus 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.

###

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>