



## IN THIS ISSUE

2nd Saturday

String Recital

Drama Camp

Arts Academy

Creativity Corner

## Robin & Linda Williams in Concert

Thanks to a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, Highland County Arts Council is thrilled to welcome the inspiring and talented duo of Robin & Linda Williams. Come on out to the Highland Center after a great Saturday at the Maple Festival to hear this popular folk duo on Saturday, March 9 at 5 p.m.

Robin and Linda, known for their strength and variety of their performance, are closing in on a five decade-long career that has included 24 personal recordings, thousands of concerts on three continents, a Robert Altman directed movie, and hundreds of performances on NPR's *A Prairie Home Companion* and other radio and television shows. Their musical *Stonewall Country* was a staple for Lexington's Lime Kiln Theatre. As live performers they are second to none and are at home on whatever stage they find themselves, be it a tiny coffee house or bar, or a large, storied concert hall or festival or one might add, the Highland Center. As gifted songwriters, Robin and Linda have earned the respect of their musical peers, their songs having been recorded by such well-known artists as Mary Chapin Carpenter, Tom T. Hall, Tim and Mollie O'Brien, Mary Black, The Seldom Scene, and Emmylou Harris, to name a few.

Their recording successes are widespread. Their CD, *A Better Day A-Coming*, spent the summer and fall of 2021 in the top 10 of the FAI Folk Radio Charts with their single of the same name ending the year as the number 3 Top Song, the album ending the year as the number 11 Top Album, and Robin and Linda ending as number 13 on the list of Top Artists. The success of the second single, "The Old Lovers Waltz," helped spawn a music video which, to date, has generated thousands of views.

Robin and Linda Williams' return to Highland County is sure to be a popular show. Admission is \$15, with a \$5 discount with a Maple Festival key chain. Enjoy Highland County's unique maple farms and artists, then come hear a great evening of music!

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# STRING SOLO RECITAL



Have you ever wondered about the violin, viola, cello and string bass students coming in and out of the Highland Center during the late afternoons and evenings during the week? These students are part of the Allegheny Mountain String Project, a string program that began in 2010 and has now been around for 14 years. You've seen the string players perform at the Highland Farmer's Market each summer, and at the Veteran Day Celebrations at the school, in the school Annual Christmas Program, or even marching in the Highland Fair Parade! These students are from the Highland Studio, under the direction of Gretta Sandberg, and are part of a larger string program that covers not only Highland, but Bath and Allegheny Counties, as well as some students from West Virginia. There are, at present, 57 students enrolled in the Allegheny Mountain String Project (AMSP). Come out to hear the Highland Studio Solo Recital on Sunday, March 3 at the Highland Center at 3:00 p.m.

The AMSP began with two string teachers who believed in the magic of string playing and wanted to start a program here in the mountains. Gretta Sandberg, a teacher who had taught high school orchestras and elementary string programs for 44 years in the public schools partnered

with Jaime McArdle, a violinist, who had come to Bath County and wanted to teach. The program was initially under the financial sponsorship of the Garth Newel Music Center. After several years, the AMSP became part of the educational programs of Garth Newel. The program is a comprehensive string education program, including private lessons, group lessons, chamber music ensembles, and has included a youth orchestra for all children of school age within driving distance of activities in Allegheny, Bath, and Highland Counties. AMSP students learn to play a wide variety of musical styles, from bluegrass to Bach, based on the guidelines of the American Music System which includes American and Appalachian folk songs and fiddle tunes for early instruction. Instructions are given on violin, viola, cello and string bass. Scholarships are available through funding from the Allegheny Foundation, Bath County Arts Council, the Community Foundation of Central Blue Ridge, the Highland County Arts Council, the Bolar Ruritan Club, and private donations. AMSP believes that everyone should have the opportunity to gain experience in playing a string instrument, no matter their financial situation. Activities take place at the Garth Newel Music Center, the Highland Center in Monterey, and various locations in Covington, Millboro and Clifton Forge.



Gretta Sandberg, Instructor for Highland Studio, Allegheny Mountain String Project, has started string programs in Northern Virginia and in Indiana, where she first started teaching. Each program has been a new experience in distinct locations, as the circumstances for each program have been different. The one connecting factor is that the enthusiasm and dedication to string playing is the same everywhere. What a joy it is to see young people (and adults!) find a new way to look at life through their string playing!

For more information: [www.garthnewel.org](http://www.garthnewel.org)

For lessons: [grettasandberg@gmail.com](mailto:grettasandberg@gmail.com)

# Arts Academy 5th Season



The Highland Arts Academy will return for its fifth season, with a revamped line-up of exciting workshops. The Highland Arts Academy is a program of the Highland Arts Council. The purpose of the Council is to promote the arts and provide cultural enrichment for the community. Through the workshops, the Council seeks to make Highland a more creative environment for learning and experiencing art on a personal basis. In alignment with the Arts Council five-year strategic plan for 2024-2029, the Arts Council will work to focus on performing arts. Workshops will feature drama, music and dance, for a wide variety of ages and ability levels.

3rd Space, a workspace and gallery for artists to create, collaborate, and engage the community for art education and enjoyment in downtown Monterey will offer workshops in many art mediums such as basketry, pottery, stained glass and more. 3rd Space and the Arts Council will work together to provide a full spectrum of artistic enrichment for the community. Stay tuned for more information on workshops and registration coming soon!



**SAVE THE DATE**

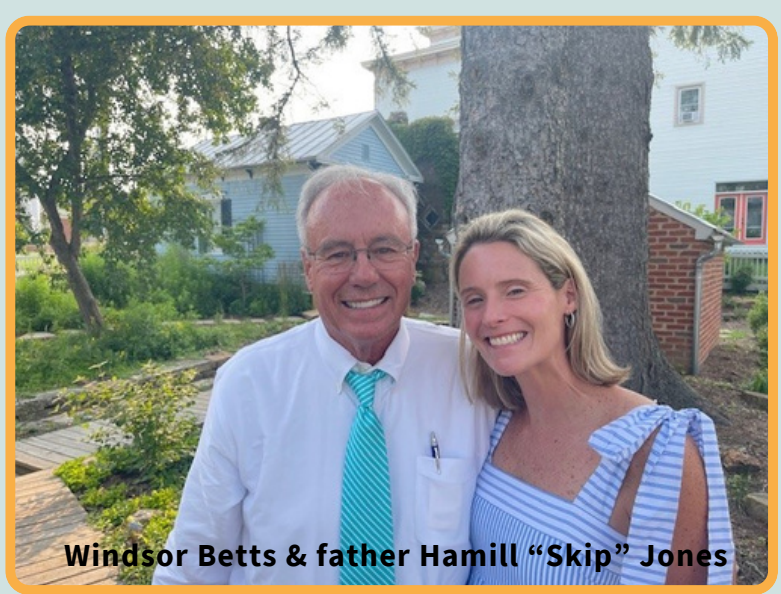
**Youth Drama Camp**

**June 17-21 ~ Show on June 22, 2024  
Monterey, VA**

**Stay tuned for more information!**

# Creativity Corner

Windsor Betts



**Windsor Betts & father Hamill "Skip" Jones**

"The arts, like sports, are two worlds that unite all – dance, music, art, each can reach the core of our souls, inspire us, devastate or lift us up, but most importantly, unite us all." Windsor (Jones) Betts certainly understands the power of art to connect a community, and how essential this is to remote, rural communities like Highland County. As a member of the Arts Council and board chair of The Highland Center, she dedicates her time to facilitating the arts and culture in Highland County.

Windsor was born in Richmond, graduated from St. Catherine's School in 1997, and was a part of the Richmond Ballet's intensive training track for 10 years. In 2001 she graduated from Connecticut College, where Martha Graham founded American Dance Festival, with a double major in English and History and a minor in Dance. She received her law degree from Campbell University in 2005. Windsor is a commercial litigation paralegal who has worked on teams representing companies like Ford Motor Co., Boeing, Olympus, and Liberty University and specializes in international arbitrations involving hundreds of millions of dollars. She also is on the Richmond Office Pro Bono Committee, runs the Protective Order Program and works on multiple pro bono cases.

Windsor's connections to Highland County run deep, seven generations prior to her have lived in Highland County. She is a great, great granddaughter of Charles Pinckney Jones, for whom The Charles Pinckney Jones Charitable Trust is named. The Trust was created by Mary Hille McCoy, Windsor's first cousin twice removed. Windsor's father, Hamill "Skip" Jones, has been a landowner in Highland County for over 50 years; he also restored the fire tower on Jack Mountain near Monterey. Like the arts provide a bond, Highland County provides a bond as well. "My dad has dedicated countless hours to Highland County and I will be forever grateful for each moment he takes to pass down his wisdom. While I am never not connected in some way to Highland County as Chairman of the Board of The Highland Center, I am in Monterey as often as possible to attend events and to spend cherished time with my dad. Highland County is our bond and a connection to his father whom I never knew," says Windsor.

The arts have always been an important part of Windsor's life. Saying "While I loved sports and was highly competitive, dance has always been a part of my spirit. Through ballet, I found a world in which I could combine intense athleticism and the challenge of demanding standards with a world of hope, dreams, joy and passion." Ballet was foundational in her life. She has done summer intensive programs at Ballet Met in Columbus, Ohio and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. Windsor spent years training with Malcom Burn, former Ballet Master at The Richmond Ballet, and the late Arnott Mader who like Mr. Burn not only danced with the greats of their time, but were two of the best. Her dance experience also included working with Gemze de Lappe, a protégé of Agnes de Mille, and taking classes with and dancing in The Nutcracker with Philip Neal, who at that time was a principal with The New York City Ballet.

The arts are an integral part of life in Highland County, and Windsor dedicates much of her time to support the arts. A supporter of the Arts Council, she "appreciates the Arts Council vision to share the arts with everyone in Highland County," and works to support the Council in that vision through her efforts as The Highland Center board chair, to provide a space that fully supports the needs of the Arts Council.

# THANK YOU

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ENDOWMENT  
for the **ARTS**  
arts.gov

Without the support of the following organizations, the Highland County Arts Council would not be able to provide the programming that is its hallmark.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts The National Endowment for the Arts  
The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge  
The Little Swiss Fund The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation

