



**Southern Rail Express**



**The Little Switzerland Cloggers**



**Square Dance Calling by  
Ellen & Eugene Ratcliffe**



**Mudhole Control**

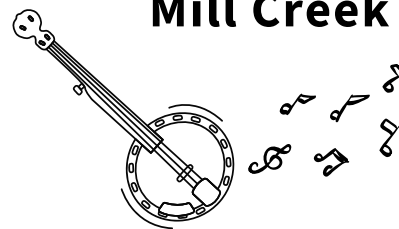


What an absolutely incredible Maple Festival. Across both weekends, we were thrilled to welcome a combined total of 500 attendees!

Back to back weekends of entertainment, talented dancers, remarkable singers, seriously impressive musicians, and a very tired arts council board!



**Mill Creek Cronies**



Stay up to date on  
Arts Council  
events at

[highlandcountyartscouncil.org](http://highlandcountyartscouncil.org)

Email

[highlandcoarts@gmail.com](mailto:highlandcoarts@gmail.com)

Like us on Facebook  
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## O! Highland - The Appalachian Ode Project Community Writing Workshop

Help write the official-unofficial ode to Highland County!

Join a series of free creative writing workshops where community members come together to write poetry, share ideas, and celebrate Highland County.

Workshop Dates

April 9 • April 16 • April 23

All workshops and the final community poetry reading will take place at  
The Highland Center

Youth Workshop

Ages 11-17

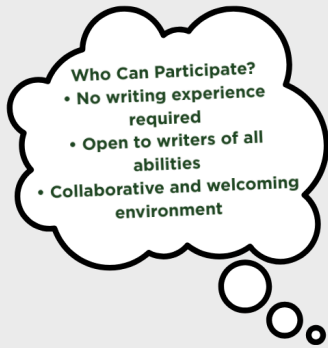
4:00 PM - 5:15 PM

Adult Workshop

Ages 18+

5:30 PM - 6:45 PM

Register by visiting our website:  
[highlandcountyartscouncil.org](http://highlandcountyartscouncil.org)



## Appalachian Ode Project "O! Highland"

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>



## The Highlands Community Orchestra

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 3pm

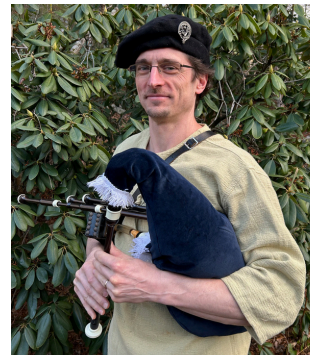


The Highlands Community Orchestra have an exciting Spring Concert planned. Please see below, for a letter from Gretta Sandberg about their upcoming concert!



**The Highlands Community Orchestra**  
**Sunday, April, 19 2026**  
**Highland Center, Monterey – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Pendleton County High School – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Free admission – donations gratefully accepted!**

**By Gretta Sandberg**  
**President, Highland County Arts Council**  
**Director, The Highlands Community Orchestra**



### **The Highlands Community Orchestra Celebrates America's Big Birthday!**

**To commemorate the 250th birthday of the United States of America, the Highlands Community Orchestra will honor the impact that immigrants have made on this country with the music that they brought with them from their homeland and the music that has been created by them here in the USA.**

**Our April 19th concert will start off the celebration with the music right here in our mountains. Who brought their music with them and where did they come from? We will devote the majority of this concert on the predominantly Scotts-Irish music of the immigrants in this area. To help us with our celebration, the Highlands Community Orchestra will have two guests and one group of students joining the orchestra – Josh Blount, associate pastor at the Living Faith Church in Franklin, WV, Alice Shumate, singer & songwriter in Highland County, VA and a group of students from the Highland Studio of the Allegheny Mountain String Project.**

**Josh Blount will be joining the orchestra playing the small pipes, which are a smaller version of bagpipes as the name suggests! What an opportunity to get a real bagpiper to play with us in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!**

**Inspired by the beauty of Highland County, Alice Shumate composed and recorded her wonderful tune, “Highland”, in 1991. I heard Alice sing this tune many times with her band, the Mountain Aires, and was captivated by the simplicity and beauty of the tune itself. I decided to have this tune orchestrated for us to perform. Our very own Alex Hummel, of the French Horn section in the orchestra, did the orchestration of this piece. There is no music written down for “Highland”, so Alex listened to this piece in the background of a Highland County Chamber of Commerce video about the beauties of Highland County on the Chamber’s website and transcribed the music from listening to the video. We are honored to have Alice perform with us!**

**Our last group of guest musicians, who will appear with us at the April 19th concert, will be members of the Highland Studio of the Allegheny Mountain String Project, under the direction of Kelley Mikkelson. Six students will join us for our salute to the Scottish immigrants of the area. The music ‘of the people and for the people’, continues with our young musicians learning the joy of playing and performing with others, something that has been a mainstay of American culture as we pass on traditions through our music.**

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**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 Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge  
The Little Swiss Fund    The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation



**THANK  
YOU**



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## Rhythm Road May 9<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

Come on out and relax with friends to the original tunes, jazz and blues of Rhythm Road. JoAnn Morrell-guitar, bass and vocals. Ernie Morrell-keyboard and harmonica. Don Consul-bass, guitar and vocals. Mike Fleming-Saxophone. Tom Murray-Drums and percussion.

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A vibrant watercolor background with a white torn-paper effect in the center. To the right is a paint palette with various colors and a brush. In the bottom left corner are three colorful theatrical masks.

# Save the Date

*Youth Drama Camp- June 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>*  
*Artists' Weekend- June 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>*  
*Wet Paint Show- June 21<sup>st</sup>*

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# THANK YOU

Be sure to sign up for our newsletter, and follow our social media pages, so you don't miss the latest news, events and performances! To donate, simply scan the QR code, or follow the donation link.

We appreciate your generosity!



[Donation Link](#)

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COUNTY  
ARTS  
COUNCIL**

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