



# Mountain Streams Music Celebration

Church-McKee Arts  
Center

Sat, Oct 26, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Featuring  
Dakota Karper, Critton Hollow,  
Buffalo Run, & the WVU  
Bluegrass Band

A homegrown music event benefiting  
WVU Potomac State Athletics &  
Mountain Streams Radio

# **PROGRAM**

## **Welcome**

- ~ Dr. Paul Kreider, Interim WVU Provost & Academic Vice-president, Interim WVU PSC President
- ~ Ed McDonald, Event MC

## **Fundraising Needs**

- ~ Ed McDonald, Manager, Mountain Streams Radio
- ~ Mandi Larkin, PSC Athletic Director

## **Performance: WVU Bluegrass Band**

## **Recognition of Dr. Travis Stimeling & Dr. Philip Faini**

- ~Dr. Chris Haddox & Dr. Paul Kreider

## **Performance: Dakota Karper**

## **Recognition of Dr. John Hawkins & Richard Davis**

- ~ Fred Kesner, Director, WVU PSC Jazz Ensemble

## **Performance: Critton Hollow**

## **Recognition of Dr. Charles Whitehill**

- ~Dr. Paul Kreider & Fred Kesner

## **Performance: Buffalo Run**

## **Closing Remarks**

## PERFORMERS



### WVU Bluegrass Band

The WVU Bluegrass Band, hailing from West Virginia University, is a vibrant ensemble dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich tradition of bluegrass music. Known for their lively performances and mastery of traditional instruments like the banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, the band blends classic bluegrass with contemporary influences to create an engaging musical experience.

Their energetic shows and authentic sound reflect the cultural heritage of Appalachia, making them a beloved fixture in the region's music scene and a symbol of WVU's commitment to nurturing local talent and musical traditions.



## **Dakota Karper**

Dakota Karper was born and raised in rural West Virginia where she grew up surrounded by Appalachian old-time music. From an early age, she took to this music with great abandon. Absorbing as much as possible, she apprenticed under master fiddler Joe Herrmann, spent weeks at Augusta Heritage Center, participated in various music festivals in and around West Virginia, and studied classical violin at the Shenandoah Arts Academy in Winchester, Va.

After spending seven years in Baltimore, Md., Dakota moved back to West Virginia to establish her home base in Capon Bridge, where she now teaches Appalachian fiddle and performs regularly in the surrounding region. Dakota has created a voice of her own that combines clear haunting melodies, driving bow strokes, and settled rhythmic grooves in her repertoire.





## Critton Hollow

Critton Hollow, celebrating 50 years of performing, has brought traditional American music to audiences throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, Ireland, and Scotland. With fiddle, hammer dulcimer, banjo, and guitar, the band performs songs from the first settlements of Appalachia to the best of contemporary American folk music. Their songs express a range of experiences that will make you laugh or make you cry, and occasionally, do both at the same time.

Band members Joe Herrmann, Sam Herrmann, and Joe Fallon combine precise instrumentation, melodic interplay, and three-part harmony to create a warm and engaging sound.



## **Buffalo Run**

Buffalo Run has been featured on Mountain Streams Radio and performed for the Maryland Democratic Inaugural Gala, a zoom-type remote gathering in January of 2020 during the COVID outbreak. The band performs many original songs about local mountain areas and recorded Garrett County Time which was chosen as the official song for the Garrett County (Md.) Sesquicentennial.

Band members include Robert Levee Smith (guitar, harmonica, and vocals); Bob Shank, (hammered dulcimer and banjo); Keith Roberts (four- and six-string electric bass); Hank Schwartz (percussion); and Michael Hall (upright bass).

## HONORING PSC MUSIC PROFESSOR



**Dr. Brian Plitnik**

Dr. Brian Plitnik is an assistant professor of music at WVU Potomac State College. He earned degrees in music from Frostburg State University (FSU) and West Virginia University (WVU). In addition to teaching music at FSU, Brian previously served 11 years as trombone instructor and director of Trombone Ensembles at

WVU, where he completed a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Trombone Performance.

Brian has performed with a diverse collection of ensembles ranging from the WV Public Theatre to the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, and the Morgantown Jazz Orchestra to the Pittsburgh Ballet Orchestra. As a member of the WV Brass Quintet, Dr. Plitnik has performed throughout West Virginia and surrounding areas. He also serves as director of the PSC Community Concert Band, and as producer for the annual PSC Theatre spring musical production.

## HONORING COMMUNITY MUSIC LEADER



**Fred Kesner**

Fred Kesner is a semi-retired teacher and musician. He was a middle school band director in Mineral County from 1977 to 2011 at Ridgeley Middle School and Frankfort Middle School. During his tenure, the Frankfort Middle School bands received superior ratings annually. In 2000, the band was recognized as a WV Honor Band.

## **Fred Kesner (continued)**

Kesner is also the founder of Teal Steel, Frankfort Middle School's popular steel drum band, which brought a unique sound and culture to the school's music program.

Beyond his middle school accomplishments, he has directed the Potomac State College-Community Jazz Ensemble since 1996 and served as the PSC Concert Band director from 1996 to 2006. Kesner owns and teaches at Pan Jammin' Steel Drum Studio in Keyser, and continues to perform as a trumpet player with local bands, including Queen City Funk & Soul and Not Reely Dan.

## **REMEMBERING PSC MUSIC PROFESSORS**



**Dr. Travis Stimeling**

In addition to being a professor at West Virginia University, Travis was a musician, music producer, musicologist, ethnomusicologist, scholar of commercial country and Appalachian traditional music, editor, coauthor, and author of more than ten books and numerous articles. Travis founded the West Virginia University Bluegrass & Old-Time Ensemble in 2014 to show that Appalachian music was just as important and worth studying as the classical music filling the halls of the music school.



**Philip Faini**

Philip established the first marching band at Potomac State College. Following his work at Potomac State, he was hired to teach in the Music Department at West Virginia University. He served as a graduate assistant and then moved through the ranks of assistant, associate, and full professor, and then as the Dean of the College of Creative Arts, and Dean Emeritus.





### **Dr. John Hawkins**

John taught music courses and served as a professor for 34 years. His students often spoke of him as their favorite professor and he acted as a mentor to many, leaving them both encouraged and inspired to continue their educational journey. A

phenomenal piano player, he organized and performed with the Potomac State Jazz Singers while also performing with the Potomac State College Community Band. John produced numerous large-scale productions, including, *Cats*, *Footloose*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.



### **Richard A. Davis**

Richard began his career in music education in 1963 at Potomac State College as professor of music until his retirement with 39 years of service. He was the director of the Potomac State Singers, later becoming the Potomac State College Community Chorus, and directed many local choruses for ecumenical church services in the area.



### **Charles Whitehill, Ph.D.**

In addition to serving as chair of the music department at Potomac State, Charles Whitehill also chaired the Division of Arts and Humanities for many years. He was twice named “Outstanding Professor of the Year”. He founded the PSC College/Community Concert Band and Jazz Band, spending tireless hours at competitions. Dr. Whitehill was one of the founding members of Highland Arts Unlimited, Inc.

## **GOLD SPONSORSHIP**

**In Support  
of  
Appalachian Music  
Dr. Paul & Rebecca Kreider**



## SILVER SPONSORSHIPS



Patty Fest Inc.



### *Our Mission Statement*

Situated among beautiful surroundings, Potomac Memorial Gardens is regarded as a dedication to the beautification of this community.

When you make a selection here, you have paid to the deceased your highest tribute.



## BRONZE SPONSORSHIPS



Highland Arts Unlimited, Inc.



**Thank You for the Individual Contribution  
from  
Mrs. Ann B. Miltenberger**



# DECORATION SPONSORSHIPS



Cherry Brook Farm

Mt. Storm, West Virginia



# Future Events at Church-McKee Arts Center

## Johnny Staats & the Delivery Boys

**Date:** Sun, Nov 3

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Cost:** \$20 (At the door or in advance on EventBrite.com).  
Free to children under 18 and PSC students with PSC ID.



Johnny Staats is a bluegrass mandolin, guitar, and violin player, born and raised in West Virginia. He has been featured on NBC's Today Show, CBS Evening News, CNN, and People Magazine. He has appeared on the Grand Ole Opry.

"The Delivery Boys" are Butch Osborne on banjo, Ray Cossin on fiddle and vocals, Doug Cossin on guitar and vocals, David Vaughn on bass and vocals.

~~~~~

## PSC Community Jazz Ensemble

**Date:** Thu, Nov 7

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Cost:** *Free* and open to the public.

## PSC Community Concert Band

**Date:** Tue, Nov 19

**Time:** 7:30 p.m..

**Cost:** *Free* and open to the public.

## PSC Spring Musical:

### ***Anastasia–The Musical***

#### **Dates & Times:**

Fri, Mar 14 & Sat, Mar 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Sun, Mar 16, at 2:30 p.m.

Fri, Mar 21 & Sat, Mar 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Sun, Mar. 23, at 2:30 p.m.

**Cost:** More information coming soon.

Stay tuned!



# DONATE NOW

Thank you for attending this special concert benefiting the WVU Potomac State College Athletics Program and the community radio station, Mountain Streams Radio, and for joining in the celebration of amazing Appalachian music! During this evening of fantastic music and camaraderie, please take the opportunity to make an even more meaningful impact on the community by donating to support the WVU Potomac State College Athletics Program and the Mountain Stream Radio Station. No amount is too small!



To donate, scan the QR code or go to:  
[go.wvu.edu/psc-athletics-mt-streams](https://go.wvu.edu/psc-athletics-mt-streams)



# Thank you!!

Thank you for attending this evening's  
performances provided by:

- ~ WVU Potomac State College
- ~ Mountain Streams Radio WKYW FM 102.9
- ~ WVU College of Creative Arts & Media
- ~ WVU Music Business & Industry  
Programs

