

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute

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J.E. Broyhill Civic Center Welcomes Bluegrass Legend Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys.

Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys will grace the stage of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's J.E. Broyhill Civic Center on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

Ralph Stanley tours and performs with the vigor and flair of a rock star but his voice is from another time, not of this century. Nor of the last one, for that matter. Its stark emotional urgency is rooted in a darker time, when pain was the common coin of life and the world offered sinful humanity no hope of refuge. Preserved in the cultural amber of remote Appalachia, this terse, forlorn sound is the bedrock of Stanley's inimitable style.

Now 81 years old, Stanley has been performing professionally since he and his older brother, Carter, formed a band in their native southwestern Virginia in 1946. Between that date and 1966, when Carter died, the Stanley Brothers and the Clinch Mountain Boys became one of the most celebrated bluegrass groups in the world, rivaling in popularity such titans as Bill Monroe and Flatt & Scruggs.

After Carter's death, Stanley shifted the band's musical emphasis from hard-driving bluegrass to an older, sadder, less adorned mountain style. As a bandleader, he nourished such young and promising talents as Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley, Larry Sparks and Charlie Sizemore, all of whom eventually graduated to distinguished solo careers.

While he has long been revered by enthusiasts of folk, bluegrass and country music, Stanley has lately been commanding the kind of honors due a musical original. Some of those honors include:

- 2008 - he was selected by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia as the 2008 Outstanding Virginian.
- 2004 -The Virginia Press Association named Stanley "Virginian Of The Year"
- 2003 - Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album.
- 2002 - Grammys for Best Country Male Vocalist Performance and Album of the Year
- 2001 - profile in the *New Yorker*, written by novelist David Gates,

- central figure in the D. A. Pennebaker/Chris Hegedus 2000 documentary, *Down From The Mountain*.
- January 2000 - first artist of the new millennium to be inducted into the historic Grand Ole Opry.
- Holds the Living Legend award from the Library of Congress
- First recipient of the Traditional American Music award from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- 1976 - honorary doctorate in music from Lincoln Memorial University
- Stanley was chosen to be the closing act for the 2002 Down From The Mountain Tour, a sold-out series of concerts inspired by the success of the *O Brother* album. The Clinch Mountain Boys are James Shelton, Steve Sparkman, Ralph Stanley II, Dewey Brown, and Nathan Stanley.

Don't miss bluegrass legend Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 7:30 pm. Tickets for the show are \$21 for adults and \$12 for children. For more information or for tickets, call the Civic Center Box Office at 828-726-2407 or visit www.broyhillcenter.com.

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