

Press Release

Carter Family Memorial Music Center, Inc.

HILTONS - Saturday, July 14th, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., the Carter Family Fold in Hiltons, Virginia, will present a concert by Kristi Stanley and Running Blind. Admission to the concert is \$10 for adults, \$2 for children 6 to 11, under age 6 free.

Born and raised in Pikeville, Kentucky, Kristi Ison Stanley was brought up among the rich history of bluegrass and country music, immortalized along the famous Country Music Highway. From her upstairs bedroom, Kristi recalls spending hours singing along with the legendary Dolly Parton and dreaming of becoming a big star. She recorded her own renditions of Dolly's songs, singing them over and over again until every note was perfect and then garnered the nerve to let her parents listen in. It was Kristi's Mom that convinced her that she was good enough to consider singing for a bigger audience.

At 15, Kristi performed on the live radio show, Home Spun Country. The disk jockey, Tim Michaels - a musician as well - was quite impressed with her talent. Soon after that, Tim and Kristi formed the band Sandy River, opening for national acts like Kenny Chesney, Billy Ray Cyrus, and Ricochet. Kristi continued to perform with her band throughout high school at music festivals, weddings, talent shows and on radio stations, as well as the Virginia/Kentucky Opry and the Mountain Arts Center.

The highlight of her career came when she was asked by Dr. Ralph Stanley to be a part of the Grammy-nominated album "Clinch Mountain Sweethearts". She joined not only her hero, Dolly Parton, but other stars including Pam Tillis, Sara Evans and Chely Wright on the project. Kristi, just 18 years old, sang "I'll Never Grow Tired of You" with the bluegrass legend himself, and was both honored and humbled by the experience.



There are people that go through their entire career and not have the opportunity to meet, much less record with, a true icon like Dr. Ralph Stanley!" ~Kristi

Kristi met her husband, Ralph Stanley II, while on vacation with her family in Nashville, sitting in at a taping of Prime Time Country, with then host Gary Chapman. Ralph II spotted Kristi in the audience while performing onstage with Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, and they later met at the meet and greet following the show. Two years later, the couple married and they now have two beautiful children Taylor Stanley and Ralph Stanley III. While staying home full time with her family has been a blessing, Kristi feels it's time to start performing again and has already entered the studio to start working on an exciting new album.

"In the music business, as in life, you never know what may happen, but as long as I can continue doing what I love, I will be happy. Hopefully, I will be given the opportunity to showcase, as many others before me, that it is possible to love and take care of your family as a first priority, and pursue a career in the music with integrity, dignity and class at the same time". ~Kristi

Kristi is backed by her band Running Blind. The band's members are Randy Blevins, Tommy Austin, Vickie Austin, Ashley Davis, and Travis Houck. Randy, a self-taught musician is no stranger to the bluegrass circle. Receiving awards in North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee both individually and as a guitarist in competitions, he plays guitar and does harmony vocals with the group. Tommy Austin is also well-known in bluegrass circles and to Carter Fold audiences. Having played and recorded with six bands, Tommy has most recently played with his wife, Vickie, in Appalachian Trail. Having traveled the U.S. and the world performing, Tommy's playing mandolin with Running Blind and helping out with vocals. Vickie Austin grew up at the Carter Fold and began her career singing from a young age with her dad in church. Starting out with the Twin Springs Bluegrass Band, Vickie has been playing in Appalachian Trail with her husband Tommy for the past twelve years. Vickie has done commercials, movie roles, recordings, and has won songwriting awards. She plays upright bass and does vocals with Running Blind. Ashley Davis has been performing and playing fiddle since age 15. Having been part of three bands previously, Ashley is excited to be part of Kristi's band. Ashley is also well-known to and well-loved by Fold audiences. Travis Houck has also performed with several bluegrass bands and many award-winning bluegrass artists. He graduated from ETSU's Bluegrass, Old Time, and Country Music Program and has his advertising degree from ETSU. Having done work on bluegrass projects that have been nominated for Grammys, Travis is proud to be playing dobro and lending his talents to Running Blind.

This performance will be Kristi's first at the Carter Family Fold. Kristi's husband Ralph II has graciously continued the tradition his father began of performing often at the

Fold. Ralph Stanley and his brother Carter were among a few bands known to have been booked by A.P. Carter to perform at the music shows he started in what he called “The Park” in the 1950s – an outdoor venue at the foot of Clinch Mountain. Ralph II has been a good friend to the Fold and to Rita, and we’re always happy to have him perform. We feel sure Kristi and her band Running Blind will be welcomed warmly and loved by our Fold family as well. The Carters and the Stanleys represent the best music our region has to offer and have been good friends for many years. Come on out and join us for this special performance and give Kristi and her band a heart-felt welcome to the Fold. You know the music will be the very best. There will be dance tunes, amazing vocals, some tremendous instrumentals – something to suit everyone’s taste. Don’t forget to bring your dancing shoes. Be sure to bring all your family and friends as well. To learn more about Kristi and her band, go to www.krististanley.com/.

Carter Family Memorial Music Center is a nonprofit, rural arts organization established to preserve traditional, acoustic mountain music. The center is a family-friendly, drug and alcohol free venue. In addition to the performance area, we maintain the Carter Family Museum and the A.P. Carter birthplace cabin. Both the cabin and the museum are historic landmarks and are open from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and later at performance intermission on Saturdays. For more information on the center, go to our site on the internet – www.carterfamilyfold.org/. Partial program funding for programs is provided by the *Virginia Commission for the Arts* the *National Endowment for the Arts*. and technical assistance are provided by *Virginia Tourism Corporation*. To access recorded information on shows coming up at the Fold, call 276-386-6054. We can be found on Facebook – page Carter Fold – and Twitter – @carterfoldinfo. To speak to a Fold volunteer staff member, call 276-594-0676. If we don’t answer you right away, we’ll get back to you in 24 hours.