

FOLKWAYS TENT (Tentative schedule subject to change)

11:45 AM Owe My Soul to the Company Store: Looking at Coal Mining Through Song

In this workshop Carrie and Michael Kline, singers and folklorists from Elkins WV, will share songs and writings based on traditional themes and testimonials documented in the coal fields over four decades, and what this largely oral record tells us about free enterprise in an extractive mountain region and the ruthless reign of terror imposed on local citizens by a “winner take all” industrial economy. The songs embody the spirit of workers and working families coming together for support and union in the face of unspeakable oppression by outside forces. They echo a wild and terrifying past, connecting us with earlier struggles and organizing efforts and the lamentable conditions that brought about the labor movement. The songs remind us of our own fearful and uncertain times and our on-going need to stand together. Which side are we on?, the songs ask.

12:50 PM Joe Duffey Dance Company with Old Pitch

Joe Duffey Dance is a new Irish-based percussive dance company that delivers energetic, rhythmic performances to audiences across the region. Created by champion Irish dancer Joe Duffey, the group is committed to exploring choreography that synthesizes percussive dance of all forms and seeks to foster collaborations between a diverse range of dance artists. Performances feature Joe’s innovative approach to Irish dance, resulting in a fusion of traditional Irish footwork with the speed and dynamism of other styles such as tap and clogging. Dance tunes provided by Old Pitch, featuring mountain Maryland resident Jeff Thomas.

1:45 PM Appalachian Dance Workshop

With the Barnstormers and the RockCandy Cloggers

Bring your hard-soled shoes and learn the basic steps of Appalachian flat footing. The RockCandy Cloggers are experienced instructors, having taught and performed regionally and internationally. Traditionally, many of the tunes that became or remained popular in Appalachia and the U.S. were dance tunes. Audience participation is encouraged. All skills are welcome!

2:30 PM One Vision Many Voices

Video Screening and Community Quilt Unveiling

For the past year, the Appalachian Independent, www.appindie.org, has been working on a “One Vision, Many Voices,” project funding in part by the Maryland Humanities Council and the Allegany Arts Council. A number of programs, presentations, and films have been produced as part of the project—all designed to encourage regional residents to consider the questions: “What do we most value in the region and how can we retain those values while moving toward a more sustainable future?” In addition to participating in key discussions, multiple regional residents contributed quilt squares depicting their visions of the region. From those squares, area quilters have crafted two King-Sized Quilts to be unveiled at the Festival. Additionally, based on the content of those quilt squares along with the documentation of the community discussions, the mountain residents and children from Frostburg’s Beall Elementary worked with the internationally recognized folk duo Magpie to write a song, “Wherever Rivers Flow,” honoring our mountain home. Come see the screening of the song’s video by filmmaker and Frostburg native Mike Snyder.

3:20 PM The Mountain Dance Trail Project

Square dance culture has been losing ground over the last 50 years. But West Virginia is a special place, and has held on to traditional dancing in small towns and communities across the center of the state. The idea behind the Mountain Dance Trail, a documentary project, is dedicated to honoring, embracing and promoting these dance traditions, as well as preserving Appalachian old-time dance in its localized forms. Join Becky Hill as she discusses her work with this project. Through videotaped interviews with callers, musicians and organizers, and video documentation of dances, Gerry Milnes, folk art coordinator of the Augusta Heritage Center, and Hill are capturing the West Virginia dance tradition.

4:10 PM Tri State Arts Young Musicians Showcase

The Tri State Community School for the Arts, based in Cumberland, is dedicated to nurturing the creative spirit within our community by providing opportunities for creative expression for all people through education, experiences, and events. Partnering with DelFest and WFWM, the school has been encouraging young musicians in traditional music, assisting them in procuring scholarships to the DelFest Academy. Come meet some of these musicians and witness their inspiring progress and commitment.