

Press Release

Carter Family Memorial Music Center, Inc.

Saturday, March 17th, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. the Carter Family Fold in Hiltons, Virginia, will present a concert by the Surefire Bluegrass Band. Admission to the concert is \$10 for adults, \$2 for children 6 to 11, under age 6 free.

Officially formed around a dozen years ago or more when friends Tom Isaacs, Robby Norris, and John Bryan decided to turn their collective passion for bluegrass music into a band, Surefire represents the best bluegrass that the North Carolina High Country has to offer. The band quickly went on to win several local and then regional competitions and awards. Over the next few years, the group performed regionally and made a couple of recordings. They continue to perform as a group and individually.

Tom Isaacs grew up learning about music from his grandmother and other family members. He started playing the violin in school, but found he preferred to play by ear – finding melodies of the mountain music he knew. Soon, he learned to play banjo and guitar, taking his practicing and playing more seriously.

Isaacs then began playing with various groups, eventually leading to gigs with Ralph Stanley II and with Ralph Stanley on fiddle. He also performed through the years with a local friend, Kody Norris, and as the banjo player for Larry Efaw and others.

Robby Norris has been performing around North Carolina since he was a young boy. Norris started on mandolin and was a featured player in the long-standing local bluegrass gospel band Southern Accent for several years. At a young age, he became fixated on bluegrass music, and he soon learned to play all of the instruments in the band, making solo recordings performing all of the instruments and parts. While Norris plays all of the string instruments, his focus is on the mandolin and fiddle – the instruments he plays with Surefire.



Tim Norris will be playing banjo for Surefire. J. M. Trivette will be playing the bass. John Bryan now performs with the Grammy award winning bluegrass band the Grascals. Isaacs and Norris have kept the band active in the High Country with friends. Tim Norris and J.M. Trivette. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/surefirebluegrass> for more information on Surefire. You can also check them out on YouTube.

For traditional bluegrass at its' finest, don't miss Surefire at the Carter Family Fold! Surefire delivers a performance that would indicate they are a band with many more years of experience than they have. Their professionalism, stage presence, and sheer talent will amaze you. Tom, Robby, and the band have played with many other groups at the Fold. They have a bright future in bluegrass music, and we're proud to welcome them back to the Fold.

Carter Family Memorial Music Center, Inc., is a nonprofit, rural arts organization that was established in 1979 to preserve traditional, acoustic, mountain music. Saturday concerts have been held since 1974. The center is family-friendly, and an alcohol and drug free facility. For more information, go to <http://www.carterfamilyfold.org>. Partial funding for programs at the center is provided by the *Virginia Commission for the Arts*, *National Endowment for the Arts*, the *Virginia Tourism Corporation*. To access recorded information on the upcoming Saturday show at the Fold, call 276-386-6054. The Fold is on Facebook – page Carter Fold – and Twitter – @carterfoldinfo. To speak to a volunteer Fold staff member, call 276-594-0676. If we don't answer you right away, we'll get back to you in 24 hours.

