

Press Release
Carter Family Memorial Music Center, Inc.

HILTONS Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., the Carter Family Fold in Hiltons, Virginia, will present a concert by Carson Peters & Iron Mountain. Admission to the concert is \$10 for adults, children 6 to 11 \$2, under age 6 free.

Carson Peters started playing the fiddle at the ripe old age of three when his parents bought him a 1/8 size fiddle. Carson has continued to hone the fiddling and singing talents that God so graciously blessed him with and has won many competitions along the way. At 15 years old, Carson a seasoned performer playing numerous venues with his band Iron Mountain throughout the U.S. and Canada – Dollywood’s Bluegrass and Barbeque, Song of the Mountains, the Carter Family Fold, Silver Dollar City BBQ of Bluegrass, Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival, and Bluegrass Island – just to name a few. Carson has also had the honor of playing on national TV as a guest on NBC’s *the Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Little Big Shots with Steve Harvey*, as well as playing with Jimmy Fortune on the floor of the Tennessee State Senate. On March 28, 2014, Carson’s dream of playing on the Grand Ole Opry stage was realized when he was invited by Ricky Skaggs to come perform with him and his band, Kentucky Thunder. In May of the same year, Carson was asked to make a reappearance at the Opry, but this time with his own band. On July 31, 2014, Carson made his Ryan Auditorium debut playing again with Ricky Skaggs during the 2014 Bluegrass Nights series. Since these appearances Carson and his band have performed numerous times on the Opry Show. In November of 2018, Carson was thrilled to be asked to play fiddle for his buddy Ricky Skaggs when he was honored at the nationally televised 52nd CMA Awards Show. Carson also competed in this season of *The Voice*.



Carson says that winning trophies and getting your name in the paper is “really cool,” but that is not the main reason he works so hard at his music. “It’s all about using the talent God gave me to make people smile!” Carson truly loves entertaining people. He and his parents live in Piney Flats, Tennessee. When Carson isn’t “fiddlin’ around,”

he's just an ordinary country boy who enjoys baseball, basketball, golf, hunting, hot rods, and going to church.

Carson's has been blessed to have a great band, Iron Mountain, to help him entertain audiences performing old time, bluegrass, and gospel music. The band consists of Carson's father, Jamie Peters, Eric Marshall and Ben Marshall of Mount Airy, North Carolina, and Austin Tate of Marion, Virginia. Carson feels truly blessed to have these fine Christian musicians in his band.

Eric Marshall, who plays banjo, was born in Mount Airy, North Carolina, and has loved to sing from his earliest memories. Raised in a region known for its' traditional music, it was natural for him to be drawn to bluegrass. In his early 20s, Eric started playing banjo with his brother in the Marshall Brothers and Highroad Band. Over the past 20 years, Eric has worn almost every hat possible in a bluegrass band. From band leader to side musician, he's best known as a traditional style banjo player, vocalist and songwriter. In 2010, Eric's son, Ben, joined him on stage for the first time and started a new path for Eric's musical journey as a father/son duet where his new name was simply "Ben's Daddy!" These days, Eric continues to share his talent and his bluegrass style performing with Iron Mountain.



Going to his first bluegrass festival at 18 months old, Ben Marshall truly grew up surrounded by music! Stories of Ben being held by his father on stage as the elder would play and sing show how the seed was planted. Ben first started playing at eight years old. He told his dad he wanted to play, so Eric sat Ben on a picnic table at the Galax Fiddler's Convention, stood a bass fiddle up in front of him, and there's been no looking back! With his God-given talent, Ben quickly became known for flawless timing and taste as an anchor for the music he played. Once comfortable with playing, Ben started singing lead and harmony, adding his abilities as a performer. Soon, Ben started playing with the youth group, Oldgrass, which has received numerous awards and realized vast exposure. Now 17 years old, Ben continues to share a love for bluegrass and gospel music as he currently plays bass and sings as a member of Iron Mountain.

Austin Tate, from Marion, Virginia, is 19 years old and plays the mandolin and sings for the band. He began playing music as eight years old. His taste in music ranges from classic rock and old country to bluegrass and gospel. He has played for many local churches, nursing homes, and venues. He has had some great opportunities to play music with some amazing bluegrass artists, including the Queen of Bluegrass – Miss Rhonda

Vincent. When he isn't picking on the bluegrass scene, Austin enjoys watching dirt track racing. Most important to him, he says, is his relationship with God. Austin thanks Him for his ability to play music and also for blessing him with a wonderful and supportive family.

Jamie Peters plays the rhythm guitar in the band and has loved bluegrass music since starting to play guitar at age eight. After a long break from playing, his love for pickin' was reignited when Carson began playing. In any spare time Jamie has from his full time job and picking, he loves restoring and driving old muscle cars. One of the finest musicians around, Jamie is a special blessing to everyone he meets. A true old time southern gentleman, Jamie sets a high standard. He and his family have been a wonderful blessing to the Carter Fold Family.

Be prepared to be amazed by Carson Peters. His talent and stage presence rival the most seasoned of performers. Dancers won't be disappointed because he's as fine a fiddler as any that ever graced the stage of the Carter Fold. There will also be beautiful vocals, instrumentals, and phenomenal gospel music – something for everyone. For more information on the Carson Peters Band, go to <https://carsonandironmt.com/> - the band's web site. You can also see them perform on YouTube. Carson, his family, and his band won our hearts the first time he performed on our stage, and they truly represent all the finest things Appalachia and mountain music stand for. You'll fall in love with them, just as everyone at the Fold has.

Carter Family Memorial Music Center, Inc., is a nonprofit, rural arts organization established to preserve traditional, acoustic mountain music. The Center is family-friendly, and we are a 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. For more information on the center, go to our site on the internet - www.carterfamilyfold.org/. Promotional and other assistance for shows is provided by the *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. The Center is only open Saturday nights, and we are run by volunteer staff.