

Tickets on sale for third annual Bluegrass at the Ritz with Jake Landers and Friends



SHEFFIELD, ALA. ... The third annual Bluegrass at the Ritz with Jake Landers and Friends music festival is Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Ritz Theatre, 111 W. Third St., Sheffield.

Shows are at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for one show and \$12 for both in advance at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, 411 N. Water St., Tusculumbia, 256.383.0533, and ritztheatre.ticketleap.com and \$8 for one show and \$14 for both at the door.

The festival features Alabama bluegrass legend Jake Landers, who co-founded Dixie Gentlemen and was one of Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys. He played the Grand Ole Opry and co-authored "Secret of the Waterfall" and "The Girl I Love" among other songs. Landers' "Walk Softly On this Heart of Mine" sold more than 22 million copies for the Kentucky Headhunters and was nominated for a Grammy when recorded by Ricky Skaggs and the Dixie Chicks. He is a member of the Alabama Bluegrass Hall of Fame and an Alabama Music Hall of Fame Music Achiever.

Landers again will present an impressive group of artists continuing Alabama's folk-music traditions:

- James Bryan, recipient of the 2011 Alabama Folk Heritage Award and co-author of two songs with Landers. Bryan has recorded two solo albums on the Rounder label and many more with Norman and Nancy Blake as the Rising Fawn String Ensemble. He plays Southern old-time and bluegrass tunes learned by ear as well as vintage tunes from New England and Britain, many collected from rare old tune books or gleaned from his extensive knowledge and archive of 78 rpm records.
- Carl Jones, who plays mandolin, guitar, banjo and fiddle with Bryan as well as with the Rising Fawn String Ensemble, fiddler Erynn Marshall and trio partners Bruce Green and Don Pedi. He was a student in the commercial music program at the University of North Alabama and has taught at music camps around the country. The Nashville Bluegrass Band, Kate Campbell, Rickie Simpkins, Little Windows and a growing list of others have recorded his songs.
- Wayne Jerrolds, Mid-South Fair fiddling champ (dozens of times), songwriter and co-producer of the music for "Walking Tall." (Jerrolds was cast as the feature fiddler in film's square-dance scene). Jerrolds also has appeared on the Ted Mack Amateur Hour, at the Grand Ole Opry, the World's Fair and the TV show "Fire on the Mountain." He was a member of Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys and founding member of the Savannah (Tenn.) Bluegrass Festival and other music festivals.
- Breaking Grass, from northeast Mississippi. Cody Farrar, Britt Sheffield, Thelton Vanderford, Zach Wooten and Tyler Wooten are award-winning musicians who've been performing traditional favorites and original songs at churches, festival and community events for the past four years. In June, 2010, they won the Leon Frazier Memorial Gospel Talent Search. They were named 2011 Bluegrass Band Champions at the state-sanctioned competition held in New Albany, Miss.

Kay Bain returns to co-host the show with Landers. Bain and her late husband Buddy were regulars on the Grand Ole Opry. She currently hosts the WTVA Mornin' Show out of Tupelo, Miss.



