

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MERLEFEST 2011 ANNOUNCES TWENTY ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS

WILKESBORO, N.C. (January 20, 2011)—Twenty additional artists have been added to the lineup for **MerleFest 2011**, presented by Lowe's and slated for **April 28 -May 1**. The newly expanded list of announced artists includes:

Blind Boy Chocolate and the Milk Sheiks

Laura Boosinger

The Corklickers

The Freight Hoppers

**Green Grass Cloggers** 

Buddy Greene and Jeff Taylor

Mark Hembree

Wayne Henderson

**Bobby Hicks** 

The Infamous Stringdusters

Sarah Jarosz

Bill Keith

**Rusty Knox** 

Roberta Kogut

**Lazybirds** 

Beth Molaro

**Bryan Sutton** 

Tone Blazers

**Roland White** 

Brian Yerman and the Yermaniums

For a full list of festival performers, please visit <u>www.merlefest.org</u>. Additional lineup announcements will be forthcoming.

Artists participating in MerleFest 2011 will join host Doc Watson on the campus of Wilkes Community College for a celebration of "traditional plus" music—a term Doc coined to describe

the unique mix of traditional, roots-oriented sounds of the Appalachian region, including bluegrass and old-time music, and expanded to include Americana, country, "plus whatever other styles we were in the mood to play," Doc explained.

"Traditional plus' really carries meaning for us at MerleFest - and as can be seen with the list of newly announced performers, we never lose sight of the 'traditional' part of that phrase," comments Festival Director Ted Hagaman. "By offering a lineup that reflects a wide spectrum of musical styles, we're presenting a festival that appeals to all."

With over 90 artists performing on 14 stages during the course of the event, MerleFest is an entertainment value. Ticket purchases can be made on the web at <a href="www.merlefest.org">www.merlefest.org</a> or by calling 1-800-343-7857. **An early bird ticket discount is available through March 13, 2011.** Additionally, up-to-the-minute information about the festival can be obtained through the festival's e-newsletter and through Facebook and Twitter.

MerleFest was founded in 1988 in memory of Eddy Merle Watson as a fundraiser for Wilkes Community College Endowment Corporation and a celebration of "traditional plus" music. Scheduled for April 28 – May 1, 2011, the event is held on the campus of Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

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