

Steep Canyon Rangers to play at Porter Center

Brevard College and Mountain Song Productions will present an evening with the Steep Canyon Rangers at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16 at the Porter Center for Performing Arts.

This show marks the beginning of a new partnership between the College and Mountain Song Productions, producers of Mountain Song Festival. There will be a pre-show reception with complimentary beverages starting at 6:30 p.m.

"It seems appropriate to have the Rangers inaugurate the new beginning for the Porter Center; local artists with strong connections to the community and national recognition, celebrating 10 years as a band," said John Felty, talent buyer for the Porter Center.

The past year has taken the Steep Canyon Rangers to new heights. During that time, their latest record, *Deep In The Shade*, stayed on the Billboard Bluegrass Top Ten for 18 weeks. Along with actor/banjoist Steve Martin they have headlined Merlefest and Bonaroo, and appeared on *Late Night with David Letterman* and *Austin City Limits*. Known for their smooth vocals, smart songwriting, ferocious instruments and jaw-dropping harmony, the Rangers are

bringing bluegrass to music lovers across the USA and around the world.

The Steep Canyon Rangers include Brevard College alum Mike Guggino '98 (mandolin), Charles Humphrey III (bass), Woody Platt (guitar), Nicky Sanders (fiddle) and Graham Sharp (banjo). A true band of brothers, the Steep Canyon Rangers have developed from college picking buddies in Chapel Hill, N.C. to one of the premier acoustic ensembles of the day. For the last 10 years they have dedicated themselves to creating a new and powerful brand of bluegrass that is distinctly their own.

The Rangers have shown a willingness to take bluegrass beyond its traditional borders, performing 120+ shows a year, ranging from bluegrass venues to rock and roll festivals, from opera houses to the Grand Ol' Opry. In 2006, the International Bluegrass Music Association named the Steep Canyon Rangers Emerging Artist of the Year.

"This show will be really nice in that we get to perform a whole show without the time constraints we usually are under in a festival setting," said Woody Platt of the Steep Canyon Rangers. "It gives us the chance to try out new material and also gives the opportunity for the

audience to experience the full spectrum of our performance. This makes for a special evening with the hometown crowd."

All seats are reserved and tickets for the performance are available at Rockin' Robin Records, Celestial Mountain Music and online at www.theportercenter.org. To order by phone call 800-514-3849.



The Steep Canyon Rangers are scheduled to play at the Porter Center on Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. For ticket information go to www.theportercenter.org or call 800-514-3849.

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- **December 9-10 (Friday):**
8:00 am to 11:00 pm
- **December 11 (Saturday):**
8:00 am to 6:00 pm
- **December 12 (Sunday):**
Noon – 11:00 pm
- **December 13 (Monday):**
8:00 am to 11:00 pm
- **December 14 (Tuesday):**
8:00 am to 6:00 pm

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Southerners remember SC secession

Charleston, SC plans to hold Secession Ball to honor Confederate soldiers

By Zack Christy
Staff Writer

It's hard to imagine the brighter side of the Civil War, but several states have shown initiative in doing just that. Events will range from a ball in the port of Charleston, a former slave port, to a mock swearing in of Jefferson Davis as president of the Confederacy.

According to the blog site for Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Dec. 20 ball in Charleston will highlight key moments from the signing of South Carolina's Ordinance of Secession 150 years ago, an act that severed the state's ties to the Union and put the nation on the path to the Civil War.

Supporters say it honors those who stood up for their rights. Others, such as the South Carolina state chapter of the NAACP, plan to protest the ball.

It does raise an eyebrow to celebrate one of the darkest moments in American history, but as Michael Givens said "We in the South, who have been kicked around for an awfully long time and are accused of being racist, we would just like the truth to be known."

Ty Foxx, a local resident whose family has lived in Western North Carolina since before

the Revolutionary War, said, "It can be hard to rationalize such actions, but those of us who lost family in the Civil War haven't forgotten."

Foxx went on to describe the circumstances of his Great, Great Grandfather's death in the Civil War, in which "Yankee cowards" shot him in the back while he was trying to transport food to his family. "I'm not on board with slavery, not at all, that was horrible, but at the same time I do support the South's right to secession, and honoring the soldiers that fell. You celebrate WWII and Vietnam, why not the Civil War? Americans died in that war, right?" said Foxx.

Many supporting the secession parties exemplify Foxx's comments and continue to claim that the parties are not in favor of slavery, but are in remembrance of soldiers who fought and died in the Civil War. The states putting these parties are hoping for increased tourism revenues and to bring about a reverence within the United States for the South.

It is an interesting prospect, but it is not without controversy and is being met with strong opposition from the NAACP. South Carolina's NAACP president Lonnie Randolph said "I can only imagine what kind of celebration they would have if they had won."