

Arts & Life

Concert Review: Roy Chapman rocks the house

by Zack Harding
Arts & Life Editor

This past Tuesday the 11th, the Porter Center at BC hosted a benefit show for local musician Roy Chapman, which featured the honoree, Carolina Blue, Shannon Whitworth, and the Steep Canyon Rangers.

The show opened up with Carolina Blue, which featured Roy Chapman himself on fiddle (not violin). The whole group played well, and a special nod goes to mandolinist Tim Jones whose playing was speedy and tasteful, but Chapman's powerful showmanship really highlighted their performance.

Following them was singer/

songwriter Shannon Whitworth and her back-up band. The group played some old-time country and Appalachian roots music, including some tracks off of Whitworth's new cd, *No Expectations*. The title track from that disc proved to be the strongest from her set, and a truly well-written song.

The Steep Canyon Rangers headlined the event, and they proved to be an undeniably powerful force in the bluegrass world. They really have it all: great songs, fiery musical chops, obvious dedication and love for what they are doing, and one of the most dynamic and energetic stage personas

that I've come across.

Throughout their performance the group would swap stage positions and microphones, taking turns at harmony duties and lead breaks. The constant movement, coupled with the excellent playing invoked a sense of fun and partying that aren't normally associated with bluegrass.

It is also of note that the band really orchestrates their songs, not content to simply swap leads and rhythms back and forth. Mandolinist Mike Guggino and fiddler Nicky Sanders fill out each song with constant melodies and instrumental washes not just

during their lead breaks, but doing the verses and choruses.

Some of the best tunes of the night include the haunting "Call The Captain" and the harmony bit at the end of the new gospel tune "Be Still Moses". The group finished out with the title track from their new album *Lovin' Pretty Women*.

At the end, the stage flooded with most of the musicians who played throughout the night as Roy Chapman led them through a couple of top-notch bluegrass tunes, finishing with "Orange Blossom Special". The show was a one of a kind experience, and not soon to be forgotten

Christmas Jam coming to Asheville

by Zack Harding
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This December 15th, Warren Haynes will be hosting the 19th annual Christmas Jam at the Civic Center in Asheville, and it promises to bring a slew of other music related events into the town.

Recognized as one of the foremost music events in the south and drawing fans from across the United States and other countries, the Christmas Jam offers a music experience like no other. This year the concert is being headlined by Peter Dinklage, Jackson Browne, G Love, Bruce Hornsby, Stockholm Syndrome, Grace Potter & the Nocturnals, and, as always, by Haynes's own group – Gov't Mule.

This year will also feature other artists such as legendary P-Funk keyboardist Bernie Worrel, ex Drive By Truckers member Jason Isbell,

songwriter Kevn Kinney, Audley Freed and Col. Bruce Hampton.

Many of the artists performing at the Jam this year will be playing at other venues throughout Asheville, such as Jack Of The Wood, and the Stella Blue, on the 14th and 15th.

The Fine Arts Cinema will be showcasing various films over the two days for the concert as well. On Friday the 14th at 4:00 p.m. they will be playing the documentary *I Know I'm Not Alone* which features world-renowned musician and human rights activist Michael Franti as he takes a trip through Iraq, Palestine and Israel to document the human cost of war.

At 9:30 p.m. the Fine Arts Cinema will be showing Les Claypool's mockumentary *Electric Apricot: Quest for Festeroo*, which is a spoof on the jam-band world and all of the cultural eccentricities and

tendencies that go along with that scene. The famous bassist, known for his work with Primus, wrote, directed and acted in the movie which also features the likes of Bob Weir, Mike Gordon and Warren Haynes himself.

The Christmas Jam is a one of kind event that those who are close to Asheville are very lucky to have. The revolving free-form organization of the

show always guarantees several once in a lifetime musical collaborations. Consider a couple of years ago when the encore jam featured country star Marty Stewart, Trey Anastasio of Phish, Bill Kreutzman of the Grateful Dead, and Warren Haynes.

With possibilities like that, and all of the other events that are going on, Asheville is set to have one great big party.

