

Balsam Range in Concert

By Barbara Johnson

Award winning bluegrass band Balsam Range takes the stage on the Crystal Coast on Friday, April 29. Presented by the Rotary Club of Morehead City and hosted by Glad Tidings Church, proceeds from the evening will support Alzheimer's research and local county senior health services.

International Bluegrass Music Awards Vocal Group of the Year for 2017 and 2018, Balsam Range had the top bluegrass album for 2019, "Aeonic," and released their latest album, "Moxie and Mettle," in 2021. The band boasts outstanding acoustic musicians and singers who hail from Haywood County in Western North Carolina. Tim Surrett is pure entertainment as the band emcee, seasoned lead and harmony while holding down the bass line and resonator guitar. He charms with spontaneity, wit and professionalism. A stellar fiddler, Buddy Melton is also one of the most gifted tenor voices in Bluegrass and Americana today. His range and tone give Balsam Range its identifying sound. With his envied guitar style, Caleb Smith has been called "one of the top young guns of guitar." He sings with both power and control, delivering a high-energy song or a tender ballad with equal vocal skill. Darren Nicholson is a gifted mandolin player and harmony singer with tremendous enthusiasm for American heritage music. Grammy Award winner Marc Pruett brings more than 40 years of entertainment experience to the group and brilliantly complements the ensemble with an intuitive, traditional three-finger style that has made him one of music's most admired banjo players.

The concert is at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30) on April 29 at Glad Tidings Church on Country Club Road in Morehead City. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Advance tickets are available online at rotarymhc.org, and sponsorships by businesses and individuals are also available on the website.

Elements of jazz, country, gospel, swing and old-time music are all infused into the fresh sound of this unique southern bluegrass band. To get a feel for their performances, view a video at rotarymhc.org, and for more information about the concert, contact Barbara Johnson at 252-241-2454.



Balsam Range will perform on April 29 at Glad Tidings Church in Morehead City.

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