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Bluegrass Returns to the Peace Center with
Bluegrass at Peace 2009

***Featuring Performances by Del McCoury, Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder,
and Rhonda Vincent and The Rage***

GREENVILLE, SC (October 6, 2009) — Bluegrass is back! Some of the top stars in traditional, Newgrass and Bluegrass will be at the Peace Center for the 2nd Annual *Bluegrass at Peace* Festival, October 30th to November 1st, in downtown Greenville. This year's festival features an impressive line-up of performers who have collectively won 17 *Grammy Awards*, 65 *International Bluegrass Awards*, and 7 *Country Music Awards*.

Headliner concerts will include Bluegrass legends ***Del McCoury*** (Friday) and ***Ricky Skaggs*** (Saturday), as well as multi-award winning Bluegrass star, ***Rhonda Vincent*** (Sunday). Other featured performers include: ***Seldom Scene, Claire Lynch Band, Nashville Bluegrass Band, Blue Highway, Kruger Brothers, and Mountain Heart.*** *See full schedule of performers below*

The festival will also feature a full schedule of free outdoor concerts by regional bands throughout the weekend, as well as barbecue, jam sessions and other family-friendly events. Individual "Day Passes" for the festival are on-sale now (see pricing below). They provide access to all of the Concert Hall performances listed below.

Pricing

\$30-Friday Day Pass

\$55-Saturday Day Pass

\$30-Sunday Day Pass

\$35-Single Ticket for Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder.

The 2009 Bluegrass at Peace Festival includes the following events:

Friday, October 30th

Peace Concert Hall

6:30 pm Seldom Scene
9:00 pm Del McCoury Band

Peace Center Amphitheatre

5:30 pm Lonesome Road Band
7:45 pm 5th String Band

Saturday, October 31st

Peace Concert Hall

1:30 pm Claire Lynch Band
4:00 pm Nashville Bluegrass Band
6:00 pm Blue Highway
9:00 pm Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder

Peace Center Amphitheatre

2:45 pm High Windy
5:15 pm Bailey Mt. Cloggers
7:30 pm Lonesome Road Band

Sunday, November 1st

Peace Concert Hall

12:30 pm Kruger Brothers
2:45 pm Mountain Heart
5:00 pm Rhonda Vincent and The Rage

Peace Center Amphitheatre

1:45 pm Him's
4:00 pm Appalachian Fire

Tickets are on sale now. For tickets, call The Peace Center's Box Office at 864-467-3000 or 1-800-888-7768 or order online: www.peacecenter.org.

About Del McCoury(October 30th)

Vince Gill says it simply, and maybe best: "I'd rather hear Del McCoury sing *Are You Teasing Me* than just about anything." For fifty years, Del's music has defined authenticity for hard core bluegrass fans-count Gill among them-as well as a growing number of fans among those only vaguely familiar with the genre.

Born in York County, PA seventy years ago, Del McCoury would once have seemed an unlikely candidate for legendary status. Bitten hard by the bluegrass bug when he heard Earl Scruggs' banjo in the early 50s-"everybody else was crazy about Elvis, but I loved Earl," he says with a chuckle-McCourney became a banjo picker himself. He got his first taste of the limelight when he joined Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys in early 1963; the Father of Bluegrass moved McCoury from the banjo to guitar, made him his lead singer, and gave him a lifetime's worth of bluegrass tutelage direct from the source in the course of little more than a year.

The first big sign of change came in 1981, when McCoury's 14-year-old son, Ronnie, joined the Dixie Pals as their mandolin player. Banjo playing younger brother, Rob, came on board five years later, and by the end of the decade, the three McCourys were ready to make a move. "We came to Nashville in 1992," Ron recalls, "and it was dad's idea. He'd been watching bluegrass on TNN-Bill Monroe, the Osborne Brothers, Jim & Jesse-and thought it was the place to be, that we'd have a new outlet there, where we could get some more attention. And without a doubt, moving to Nashville and just going for it turned out to be really big."

Del got the ball rolling early in the decade with three consecutive *Male Vocalist of the Year* awards from the prestigious International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA), and in 1994 the quintet began an astonishing streak of top *Entertainer of the Year* honors that would earn them nine trophies in an eleven year stretch.

Yet even as they reach out to almost unimaginable audiences, Del's music retains its signature characteristics. "What I most admire about someone like Del," says Gill, "is that he's one of the last patriarchs who really played the music in its authentic way. And even though he's willing to bend a little bit, to be out there playing at jam band festivals and things like that, it doesn't sound like what the new people do with bluegrass. He's done a great job of bringing new songs into the fold, but when he sings them they sound like 1959 or 1962 again. It still has the element of

his voice, and the authenticity never goes away, never changes. And even after doing it for fifty years, he's at the top of everybody's list of what's going on today with bluegrass."

About Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder (October 31st)

Sometimes in life, things come full circle. That's the story of Ricky Skaggs. By age 21, he was already considered a "recognized master" of one of America's most demanding art forms, but his career took him in other directions, catapulting him to popularity and success in the mainstream of country music. Now the road has brought him back to where it all began - bluegrass music.

2009 marks Ricky's 38th year as a professional musician, and this fourteen-time Grammy Award winner continues to do his part to lead the recent roots revival in music. Known affectionately today as bluegrass music's official ambassador, Ricky has brought the genre to greater levels of popularity in the past few years than the father of bluegrass music, the legendary Bill Monroe, could ever have imagined. With eight consecutive Grammy-nominated classics behind him, all from his own Skaggs Family Records label (*Bluegrass Rules!* in 1998, *Ancient Tones* in 1999, both *Soldier of the Cross* and *Big Mon: The Songs of Bill Monroe* in 2000, *History of the Future* in 2001, *Live at the Charleston Music Hall* in 2003, *Brand New Strings* in 2005, and *Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder Instrumentals* in 2007), bluegrass music is undoubtedly in good hands, with the masterful Skaggs at the helm.

About Rhonda Vincent and The Rage (November 1st)

Rhonda Vincent was born July 13, 1962, in Kirksville, Mo., where she still lives. Her musical career started in her family's band as a child. After appearing on the TNN series *You Can Be a Star*, she was hired to play in Jim Ed Brown's touring band. (Alison Krauss temporarily replaced her in the Vincent family's band.) Throughout the 1980s, Vincent accepted numerous female vocalist honors from the Society of the Preservation of Bluegrass Music Association (SPGMA).

In the 1990s, Vincent signed to Giant Records in Nashville, hoping for crossover success in the country market. After two albums failed, she chose Rounder Records for a series of critically acclaimed traditional bluegrass albums. *Back Home Again* arrived in 2000 and *The Storm Still Rages* in 2001. The International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) awarded her its female vocalist award in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003. She also captured the IBMA's entertainer of the year award in 2001. *One Step Ahead*, which features many songs she co-wrote as well as a duet with Krauss, was released in 2003.