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Press Release

Media Contact

Katrina Harmon

(304) 561-3543

kharmon@theclaycenter.org

Cherryholmes and Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys bring bluegrass to the Clay Center

(Charleston, W.Va.) 4/9/10 – Audiences will have the chance to experience two bluegrass sensations in one incredible evening at the Clay Center when Cherryholmes and Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys perform. Show time is Sunday, April 25 at 7 p.m.

With their captivating vocals and instrumental virtuosity, Cherryholmes has created a sound that has made the world of country music sit up and take notice. Comprised of husband and wife, Jere and Sandy Cherryholmes; their daughters Cia and Molly; and their sons B.J. and Skip, this band has breathed new life into a traditional style of music by combining elements of bluegrass, Celtic, and jazz influences.

As America's new first family of bluegrass, they stormed to the top of the bluegrass world by winning the 2005 IMBA (International Bluegrass Music Association) Award for Entertainer of the Year and earning five total Grammy nominations to date. *The Associated Press* has called Cherryholmes "the hottest new act in bluegrass," while the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* assures that "with this group, the future of bluegrass music is in very good hands."

Ralph Stanley, or Dr. Ralph Stanley as he's known in the world of bluegrass, is a country legend in his own rite. Born and raised in southwestern Virginia, Stanley learned to play the banjo from his mother when he was just a teenager. In 1946, he and his brother Carter formed The Stanley Brothers and performed with their band, the Clinch Mountain Boys, until 1966 when his brother passed away.

Stanley then went solo with the band and hasn't stopped since. He has been inducted into both the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Honor and the Grand Ole Opry. His Grammy-winning song "O Death" was featured in the 2000 film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* *Rolling Stone* describes Stanley as "a master performer without an expiration date," and the *Chicago Tribune* raves, "The timeless air has always been present in the voice of Ralph Stanley."

This performance is part of the Clay Center Presents 2009-2010 season. Tickets are \$20, \$25 and \$35 and can be purchased online at www.theclaycenter.org, by phone at 304-561-3570 or in person at the Clay Center box office.

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