



Advance Program Notes

The Okee Dokee Brothers

Saturday, October 10, 2015, 3 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

The Okee Dokee Brothers

As childhood friends growing up in Denver, Colorado, Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing were always exploring the outdoors. Whether it was rafting down their neighborhood creek or discovering hiking trails through the Rocky Mountains, Mailander and Lansing were born adventurers. Now, as the Grammy Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers, they have put this passion for the outdoors at the heart of their Americana folk music.

Mailander and Lansing record and perform family music with a goal to inspire children and their parents to get outside and get creative. They believe this can motivate kids to gain a greater respect for the natural world, their communities, and themselves. The three-time Parents' Choice Award winners have garnered praise from the likes of NPR's *All Things Considered* and *USA Today* and have been called "two of family music's best songwriters." Their nationwide fan base is drawn to their witty lyrics, strong musicianship, and unique folk style. By appealing to the musical needs of the entire family and recognizing that kids deserve quality music, The Okee Dokee Brothers are working full-time to advance the family music genre.

Can You Canoe?

As childhood friends, Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing spent summers at their neighborhood creek building makeshift rafts, fishing for crawdads, and dreaming of great river adventures.

Now, as The Okee Dokee Brothers, they have realized these boyhood dreams on none other than the great Mississippi River. On June 1, 2011, they began a canoe trip in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and continued down the river for the next 30 days until they arrived at the St. Louis Gateway Arch. During their month-long journey on the Mississippi, they camped, canoed, filmed, and, most importantly, composed the songs that make up their album for kids and families.

Can You Canoe? is the first CD and DVD in what The Okee Dokee Brothers are calling their Adventure Album Series. Produced by Dean Jones in his Rosendale, New York, hay-bale studio, the record highlights guest appearances from Garth Hudson (The Band), Elizabeth Mitchell (You Are My Flower), and Morgan Taylor and Rachel Loshak (Gustafer Yellowgold).

Through the Woods

The Okee Dokee Brothers have put their passion for nature at the heart of their Americana folk music and their ambitious Adventure Album Series.

In May 2013, The Okee Dokee Brothers embarked on their second adventure, a month-long trek on the Appalachian Trail. They camped, hiked, met mountain musicians, and wrote the songs to make up their next CD/DVD for families, *Through the Woods*. As a follow-up to their Grammy Award-winning album, *Can You Canoe?*, the new record invites listeners along for a journey full of camping, old-time mountain music, and many miles of hiking!

The music was recorded with producer Dean Jones in his hay-bale studio near Woodstock, New York, and emulates the instruments and styles heard in traditional old-time Appalachian music. The record features Hubby Jenkins (Carolina Chocolate Drops, mandolin and bones), four-time Grammy Award winner David Holt (Doc Watson, *O Brother Where Art Thou?*; mouth bow and gut string banjo), Rosie Newton (old time fiddler and singer), and two-time Grammy Award winners Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer (mountain dulcimer / cello banjo).

The songs on the album span from literal references of hiking the trail (Through the Woods, Walking with Spring) to broader subjects with mountain culture (Jamboree, Hillbilly Willy, Black Bear Mama). To top it all off, Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing add some deeper reflection on life through their more universal songs (Lighten Your Load, Out of Tune, Tiny Little Life).

The 50-minute supplemental film tells the story of The Okee Dokee Brothers' trip through educational segments, camping shenanigans, music videos, interviews, and pristine nature scenes. All the hiking, camping, and songwriting was filmed on location in the Appalachian mountains.

Visit okeedokey.org for nationwide tour details.

Engagement Activities

Friday, October 9, 2015

THE OKEE DOKEE BROTHERS

Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, Street and Davis Performance Hall

The Okee Dokee Brothers perform for students in kindergarten through fourth grade from the City of Radford and Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Roanoke Counties.

Saturday, October 10, 2015, 2 PM

BUILD AN INSTRUMENT: SPOONS!

Cube

Before the performance by the Okee Dokee Brothers, families will create their very own percussion instruments, found in American folk music and jug bands: spoons!

A special thanks to the West End Center for their partnership with the Center for the Arts, which is generously funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation. Special thanks also to the Pre-Kindergarten-12 Insight Group.

In the Galleries

BEYOND REAL: STILL LIFE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

September 3–November 15, 2015

Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery, Sherwood Payne Quillen 71' Reception Gallery

Artist Spotlight: David Halliday

David Halliday's photographic still lifes draw attention to the overlapping of art and everyday life in simple, elegant arrangements of food and kitchen items. He carefully composes each image like a painting, paying close attention to texture, balance, and color. Influenced by Renaissance still lifes and artists such as Caravaggio (1571–1610) and Paul Cezanne (1839–1906), as well as his own culinary experiences, Halliday brings a sense of grandeur and beauty to life's unadorned objects.

Halliday lives and works in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Hudson, New York. Born in New York, he studied photojournalism at Syracuse University before putting photography on hold to work in restaurant kitchens in Manhattan and the French Quarter. Over the last two decades his work has been shown in a number of solo and group shows in galleries from Louisiana to Texas, New York, and California.

Also on view:

PHILIP TAAFFE

September 3–November 15, 2015

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday-Friday, 10 AM-6 PM; Saturday-Sunday, 10 AM-4 PM; closed for Virginia Tech home football games.

Please visit artscenter.vt.edu for events and more information.