

The YAM Young Appalachian Musician News -O-GRAM

Spring 2024

March Kidsfest is Just Around the Corner!

The month of March brings to mind the beginning of Spring and renewed enthusiasm as tiny plants and flowers burst forth. We are revived and excited about all that is to come! To YAM folks, March is also the month of our beloved Kidsfest! Our enthusiasm is in seeing our Yammers getting up on the stage and blooming as they demonstrate to an excited audience all they have learned this YAM Year on their fiddles, banjos, mandolins, guitars, and a ukulele or two! All nine schools and three evening program sites in our YAM Program will be represented.

The date for **Kidsfest** this year is **Saturday, March 16th**. There will be Appalachian Games, an Instrument Petting Zoo, A Talent Show, food trucks, and vendors. This will be a day to bring your entire family out for a fun-filled day!



YOUNG APPALACHIAN MUSICIANS KIDSFEST

HAGOOD MILL HISTORIC SITE

MARCH 16TH 2024
10AM-4PM



A Magical, Mystical Winter Jubilee

Images courtesy of
G. Nicholas Hancock



Bluegrass and Company

Saturday, January 20th, 2024, definitely evoked the feel of winter, with the bitter, biting chill in the air as attendees and performers alike made their way into the Fine Arts Wing at Pickens High School for the Winter Bluegrass Jubilee, the annual indoor music festival presented by POSAM (Preserving Our Southern Appalachian Music) and YAM (Young Appalachian Musicians). However, there was absolutely nothing crisp about the cozy feeling emanating inside the audience-filled auditorium as one of our own YAM alumni, Lilly Svrlinga took the stage to angelically sing The National Anthem.

Following were three of our YAM alumni bands, showcasing our finest! Bluegrass and Company, featuring Alyssa White on the guitar, Malachi Ellenburg on the fiddle, Elijah Ellenburg on the banjo, and James McDowell, guest performer from Hendersonville, NC on the mandolin. This band glistened and shined as they presented each selection in its splendid form!

The magical snowball effect continued when Creekwater Collective took the stage, showcasing once again another of our YAM alumni's talented bands! Lilly Svrlinga demonstrated her skill on the guitar, as did JonPaul Sepulveda, Ayden Chappell on the banjo, and Judson Stone on the mandolin. Judson's dad accompanied the group on the upright bass. The selections played by this group warmed one much as a woolen comforter would, while snuggled in front of a crackling fire!

The splendor of the SPPKids (Sweet Potato Pie Kids) enamored the audience with their charm as they presented their selections. They have earned the elite status as YAM's showcase band, having auditioned and

been selected to represent the entire YAM Program! This year's SPPKids are Lilly Chappell, Ava Garrison, Luke Pilgrim, Seth Pilgrim, Ella Tetor, Whitman Tetor, and Madi White, instructed by Mary and Josiah Roper, Co-Directors.

Comforting, ear-pleasing, three-part harmony might be the best descriptives for the YAM alumni group, The Wilder Flower, who were the last performers of our local bands. This all-female group, Danielle Yother, Molly Johnson, and Madeline Dierauf definitely mastered the skill of perfect harmony, with a crystal-clear tone, a personable onstage presence that immediately put the audience at ease, and entertained as well as relaxed, as these girls presented a variety of tunes. Norbert McGettigan, III, accompanied the trio on the upright bass.



Creekwater Collective

Together, they magically spellbound the audience from beginning to end!

There were other exciting offerings that added a cozy, warm atmosphere that spread throughout the day. The talented guest bands presented workshops for those interested in knowing more about their instruments of



Winter Jubilee continued..



Sweet Potato Pie Kids

choice - At announced times, workshops in guitar, banjo, and mandolin were presented by John Meador, Eli Johnston, and Ron Inscore. Jamming Rooms were also available throughout the day for interested musicians, a concession stand manned by SPPKid parents, 120 volunteers stationed throughout the building to assist as needed, and access to hot chocolate, coffee, teas, and other snacks were made



The Wilder Flower

available to our many volunteers. In addition, the Green Room was packed with delicious offerings for our guest bands, extended time volunteers, and was combined with the Thank You Room for our many donors, sponsors, funders, partners, and VIPs.

Following this musical "high", the guest band, Shannon Slaughter and County Clare came on stage with its exceptional sound, and following was the headliner band, Authentic Unlimited, the IBMA 2023 Vocal Group of the year and the IBMA New Artist of the Year Award, that literally "rocked the house" with their ear-tingling, pleasing sound! Just like icing on the cake, our YAM alumni and SPPKids were invited to play onstage

with the headliner band, and one could see through the sparkling eyes and beaming smiles that this engendered mutual enjoyment for the young artists and well as members of the headliner band. One would think it absolutely could not possibly get any better, but then the curtain opened for the finale, and there sat approximately 100 YAM students, all dressed in their YAM t-shirts, and they all started playing on cue the sweetest little rendition of "Little Liza Jane" you've ever heard! A magical, mystical moment in time!

This wonderful day would not have been possible without the aid of our many sponsors, The South Carolina Art Commission, The School District of Pickens County, Blue Ridge Electric, Pickens County, Justin Winter and Sotheby's International Realty, Pickens Railway Company, The Corner Drug, 291 WLHR Lake Hartwell Radio, Cornerstone Christian Music Store, Moo's Creamery, Pickens Animal Hospital, WNCW88.7, Heidi's Hot Dogs, Electric City Bluegrass, Memorial for Martin Acevedo, Hiott Printing, Oolenoy Bluegrass, and individual sponsors: Michael Hull, Ray and Chris Sanders, Terry Posey, Virigina Matthews, Sharon Fennell, Claudia Brown, Janie Scheer, Thomas Stokes, Allen and Linda Crenshaw, Gary and Donna Nations, and Ron Addis.



Shannon Slaughter and County Clare



Authentic Unlimited

Welcome Back, Logan!

Meet the “newest member” of our YAM Administrative Team! Logan Redding is new to his positions this year with YAM, but he is certainly no stranger! In fact, Logan began his musical career as a rising 5th grader attending TAM YAM Camp. By 6th grade, Logan had auditioned for and been accepted into the YAM Performing band, the SPPKids. After he graduated out of SPPKid, he played with a group, called Left Lane, and then on to Tugaloo Holler.

His first position as YAM instructor was at A R Lewis Elementary School, where he thrived as an instructor and leader, winning the affection and attention of his students. He had a unique way of keeping the students’ attention, and if their minds began to wander, he would tactfully redirect them without them even realizing that was what he was doing. Later on, Logan also became an instructor at several of the Afterschool Programs, the Evening Program, TAM YAM Camp, and then he also began teaching privately. Following high school he was accepted into the Citadel to continue his education in business and participate in the Army ROTC program. While at the Citadel Logan became a member of the world-renowned Citadel Gospel Choir, The Citadel Leadership Scholars Program, a member of the Campus Outreach Ministries, and The Army National

Guard. He graduated from the Citadel with a BS in Business and a BA in Spanish. He works full time for the Army National Guard, but also makes time to contribute to YAM in a major way through his helping to organize events such as Winter Jubilee, the monthly JAM in Six Mile, events at Oolenoy Community House, the upcoming middle/high school camp, assisting with writing grants, and he also instructs banjo classes.

He is married to Stephanie, also a recent graduate of the Citadel, and they live in Pickens with their bulldog named Chona. His interests include trout fishing, cooking, jamming with bluegrass friends, and working for YAM.



Spring YAM night at Oolenoy



Attention all YAM students and parents! We had an amazing turn out for our Winter YAM Night at the iconic Oolenoy Community House on January 5th! If you missed it, don't be too sad because we are excited to announce our Spring YAM Night at Oolenoy! On March 9th, 2024, 7 to 10 pm, YAM will be partnering with Bluegrass at Oolenoy to enjoy a night dedicated to our YAM kids! There will be music, jamming, snacks and drinks, special announcements, and so much more! Admission is completely free! Come on out and witness the outstanding community dedicated to our kids and Bluegrass Music! 5301 Dacusville HWY, Pickens SC.

Camp For Middle and High Schoolers Takes Center Stage!

Calling all Middle and High Schoolers! We are so excited to announce our inaugural Saturday Music Camp for Middle and High Schoolers! In an effort to expand the program to still benefit those kids that aren't quite so little anymore, we will be hosting our first ever, one day, music camp at Hagood Mill Historic Site on April 13th just for you! This camp will be hosted by local music professionals such as Zach Carter from Backline, Stephen Hudson and Joseph Welborn from Tugalo Holler, and more! This will be a day entirely focused on music with classes going in depth on timing, tone, backup techniques, and more. There will also be workshops devoted to vocals and sound system engineering! For more information on pricing and registration, please call or text (864) 508-4212.

YOUNG APPALACHIAN MUSICIANS SATURDAY MUSIC CAMP FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

YAM Evening Programs are Unique!



Did you know that you don't have to be in elementary school or public school to take YAM classes? YAM offers evening program classes

at three locations in Pickens County for students of all ages (even adults!) at low costs where students can learn guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, ukulele, dulcimer, and claw hammer banjo! At just \$50 per month, you can participate in one of our outstanding evening programs, taught by some of our amazing YAM instructors, in Pickens, Six Mile, and Easley! This is a great option for homeschool students who want more extracurricular activities, our older friends who want to pick up a new hobby, or even our students already in the afterschool

YAM program who want extra instruction during the school year or during the big break from March to October! Reach out to Pauline Blackston at blackspm1@outlook.com to get started today!



TAM YAM CAMP

July 8-12 & 15-19, 2024

From Our New Camp Director, Tiffany Short



I am so excited to announce it is time once again to plan for our annual TAM YAM Camp. For the past fourteen years this traditional arts and music camp has been a HUGE success. I am so blessed to be a part of this experience.

Each year, students who are rising 3rd graders through rising 9th graders have gathered for a week of amazing music instruction, traditional Appalachian activities, jamming together, and listening to amazing performances by peers, instructors, and special guests.

Students from across Pickens County to across the United States come to the Holly Springs Center in Pickens, South Carolina for this amazing camp. Over the years the TAM YAM Staff have seen campers go on to become instructors themselves, play and sing in their own bands, win competitions, and even appear on national television. Most importantly all campers can carry music with them to adulthood. We have also seen campers become TAM YAM Camp counselors

and instructors passing on what they learned first as a camper. Another particularly important observation of TAM YAM camp is the lifelong relationships that are formed during the week.

If you have a student in your life that would benefit from our TAM YAM Camp, we would love to spend a week with the student sharing our passion for music and the history of Appalachian culture through daily activities. Our facility is set up perfectly for all gathering together, having lesson space for all instruments, and having access to classrooms used for the School of Mountain Arts. Each camp week ends with a talent show that gives every student the opportunity to perform and show how he or she has progressed during the week.

For more information about the TAM YAM Camp please contact Tiffany Short tdgshort@gmail.com.



Checking in with the SPPKids...

January has been a busy month for the Sweet Potato Pie Kids! On top of our weekly rehearsals, we have had a few opportunities to jam and perform as well. On January 5, most of the Sweet Potato Pie Kids attended the "YAM Night" jam at Oolenoy Community House. We had so much fun! Soon after, we performed on Channel 7 "Your Carolina" to help promote the Winter Bluegrass Jubilee. It got us really excited to play at the Winter Bluegrass Jubilee, which ended up being so exciting! We even got to perform with award-winning band "Authentic Unlimited" at the end of the day!

We have a couple of really exciting performances coming up in the Spring! We will be performing at Rhythm on the River in Powdersville on May 4th and Artisphere Festival in Downtown Greenville on May 12th. We would love to see you there!



Images courtesy of G. Nicholas Hancock

Support the Young Appalachian Musicians Program By Joining YESIYAM 2024

YESIYAM is a booster club dedicated to promoting community interest and cultivating support for the Young Appalachian Musicians program. At a time when many school systems are cutting programs, YAM is reconnecting children with their musical heritage by teaching them to play in the traditional way of the Southern Appalachians, by ear. The program has experienced phenomenal growth and your contribution will help ensure the continuity of the excellent instruction the children have come to expect.

- Instrument Sponsor \$100
- After School Sponsor \$250
- Student Sponsor \$500
- Class Sponsor \$1,200
- School Sponsor \$3,000
- Organizational Sponsor \$5,000

For more information about the levels of sponsorship, how the money is used, and the benefits for the donor, go to yam.upstate.com/donate. Additional details are also available from Betty McDaniel at (864) 878-4257 or by emailing yam.upstate@gmail.com.

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This newsletter dedicated to supporting the Young Appalachian Musicians program is provided at no charge to all YESIYAM members. The letter is published through volunteer efforts and the support of Preserving Our Southern Appalachian Music, Inc. and other sponsors. Designer: Jennifer Bryan

The Young Appalachian Musicians program is sponsored by Preserving Our Southern Appalachian Music, Inc. (POSAM) a charitable non-profit organization and all contributions are tax deductible. To join the booster club, YESIYAM, or otherwise contribute to the program, donations may be sent to: POSAM, c/o Betty McDaniel, 792 Holly Springs School Road, Pickens, SC 29671. For further information call (864) 878-4257 or e-mail yam.upstate@gmail.com.