

# Blue Ridge Institute & Museum of Ferrum College

Ferrum College's Blue Ridge Institute & Museum is part of a local heritage rich with singers and musicians. The English scholar Cecil Sharpe collected ballads in Franklin County in 1916. County fiddler Posey Rorer and North Carolina banjo great Charlie Poole picked, partied, and even made moonshine here before starting their recording careers. The Ferrum fiddle and guitar duo William Lloyd and Howard Maxey cut records for the Okeh label in 1927, and in 1936 Herbert Halpert collected tunes in Franklin County for the Library of Congress. With an ancestry that blends English, Scots-Irish, German, and African-American settlers, Franklin County's traditions naturally go far beyond fiddle tunes. Over the years the area has produced talented bluesmen such as Archie Edwards and songsters such as Rabbit Muse. From 1924 through the 1950s, Roanoke's radio stations—heard as far away as Canada—featured live local talent, and numerous Franklin County musicians took part in the string band, bluegrass, and western swing broadcasts.

Franklin County's musical traditions remain strong to this day. The heartfelt praise of gospel groups and the "a cappella" congregational singing of Old Order Baptists and Primitive Baptists inspires listeners each weekend. Public jams and performances for string band and bluegrass fans take place almost daily. For young and old, music is a continued source of Franklin County pride and identity.



Jam at Ted Boyd's Shop



Mattie Jacobs



Starlight Gospel Singers

# The Crooked Road

## Virginia's Heritage Music Trail

From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Coalfields region, Southwest Virginia is blessed with historic and contemporary music venues, musicians, and fretted instrument makers. Historically isolated, the region retained its strong musical legacy by passing traditions down through musical families to an appreciative community.

Old time mountain music, bluegrass, and gospel can be enjoyed all year long and several museums are devoted to showcasing the area's rich musical heritage.

The Crooked Road winds through the ruggedly beautiful Appalachian Mountains and leads you to the major hotspots of old time mountain music, country music, and bluegrass. Alive and kickin' for today's fans, these venues preserve and celebrate musical traditions passed down through generations. Annual festivals, weekly concerts, radio shows, and jam sessions ring out to large audiences and intimate gatherings. Please visit the Crooked Road website to plan your trip to coincide with the current entertainment events.



The Carter Family



Dr. Ralph Stanley

[www.thecrookedroad.org](http://www.thecrookedroad.org)



### MAJOR VENUES

- ★ Blue Ridge Institute & Museum
- ★ The Floyd Country Store & County Sales
- ★ Blue Ridge Music Center
- ★ Rex Theater & Old Fiddlers Convention
- ★ Heartwood
- ★ Birthplace of Country Music
- ★ Carter Family Fold
- ★ Country Cabin II
- ★ Ralph Stanley Museum

— The Crooked Road

