The Carter Fold, located in the scenic hills of southwestern Virginia, is a hidden gem that captures the soul of Appalachian music. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024, this intimate venue celebrates the legacy of the Carter Family, known as “The First Family of Country Music”, whose impact on American music still echoes throughout the southwest Virginia hills and the world. Nestled in Hiltons, Virginia, this vibrant venue comes alive every Saturday night with fiddle and banjo tunes inviting experienced and beginner dancers alike to fill the floor. But there’s more to the Carter Fold than just music. It’s a place where history lives on, where stories are shared, and where traditions are preserved. The Carter Fold is a must-visit destination for all music enthusiasts traveling along Virginia’s Crooked Road.
The Crooked Road, Virginia’s Music Heritage Trail, winds for some 300 miles through the southwest corner of the state, from the Blue Ridge into deeper Appalachia, and is home to lush green landscapes, rolling mountains, and winding roads that lead you to the heart and soul of Appalachian music. The communities and people along The Crooked Road are steadfast caretakers of their traditions. As you explore the trail, you’ll encounter cozy music venues like The Floyd Country Store, Country Cabin, and Carter Family Fold, where the art of music takes center stage most days throughout the year. You’ll discover museums celebrating the region’s rich musical history, like the Blue Ridge Institute, Birthplace of Country Music Museum, Blue Ridge Music Center, and the Ralph Stanley Museum.

A journey along Virginia’s Crooked Road connects you to a simpler lifestyle where music, dancing, and gathering with old and new friends alike is at the heart of every mountain town. As the Crooked Road celebrates its 20th anniversary, come visit these vibrant communities, dance to a tune, share a story, relish a home cooked meal and enjoy the beauty of the mountains... you’ll understand why early music makers found their inspiration from these hills and why Southwest Virginia’s communities are deeply connected to these living traditions.

1. The Country Cabin
2. The Ralph Stanley Museum
3. The Carter Family Fold
4. The Birthplace of Country Music Museum
5. SWVA Cultural Center & Marketplace
6. Rex Theater/Galax Old Fiddler’s Convention
7. Blue Ridge Music Center
8. County Sales
9. Floyd Country Store
10. Blue Ridge Institute & Farm Museum

Learn more about Virginia’s Crooked Road at Virginia.org/ CrookedRoad.
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In historic Gloucester, a thriving arts district awaits you… In June, the Gloucester Arts Festival hosts a Plein Air Invitational with the best artists from around the country. Become a Festival Patron to enjoy exclusive events with the artists. And, all are welcome to our free, open to the public art experiences like our Symphony Under the Stars and Village Arts Day.

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