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The Freight Hoppers and Connie Regan-Blake

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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September 29, 1997 at 8pm
Modlin Center for the Arts

Camp Concert Hall
Booker Hall of Music

The Freight Hoppers
*Old-Time String Band*

and

Connie Regan-Blake,
*storyteller*

Selections will be announced from the stage.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.
About the Artists

Meet The Freight Hoppers, the most exciting and entertaining old-time string band to emerge in 25 years. Rounder Recording artists The Freight Hoppers possess that rarest of all gifts, the ability to connect directly and personally with any audience. The Freight Hoppers have been performing regularly at the Great Smoky Mountains Railway since 1993, and that has honed them into an extraordinary performing unit. The insistent dance rhythm and inherent energy of string band music combined with their engaging vocals and peerless ability to entertain make The Freight Hoppers an act that can take any stage—folk and bluegrass festivals, concerts, alternative rock clubs, arts councils, square and contra dances, schools and more. 1997 delivers a big breakout for The Freight Hoppers with performances at major festivals including Strawberry, MerleFest, RockyGrass, Winfield, Wheatlands and LEAF, leading dance events like Mentone and Bugstomp, and at hip clubs such as Manhattan’s Knitting Factory.

On March 30, 1996, The Freight Hoppers performed live on Garrison Keillor’s acclaimed radio show A Prairie Home Companion, which is aired throughout the country and in Europe by Public Radio International. The band entered their “Talent From Towns Under 2000” contest and was chosen from among 492 entrants.

In October 1996, Rounder Records, the largest independent record label in the country, released The Freight Hoppers’ latest recording, Where’d You Come From, Where’d You Go?, on CD and cassette. A second project for Rounder is already being planned. The Freight Hoppers’ previous recording, Going Down The Track With A Chicken On My Back, remains available on cassette.

Based in Bryson City, North Carolina, The Freight Hoppers bring to life the musical culture of the Appalachian mountains. They play a high-energy style of old-time music consisting of fiddle, banjo, guitar, and stand-up bass. This music

The Freight Hoppers
David Bass, fiddle
Frank Lee, banjo/vocals
Cary Fridley, guitar/vocals
Jim O’Keefe, bass
pre-dates bluegrass and was originally played as music for old-time square dances, or purely for personal or social enjoyment. Many of the songs and tunes they play come from recordings made in the 1920's or 30's by bands such as the Skillet Lickers from Georgia, Grand Old Opry star Uncle Dave Macon from Tennessee, or singers such as the Carter Family from southern Virginia. Other material comes from mountain fiddlers who are still playing tunes passed down through the generations in rural areas of the mountains.

Live, The Freight Hoppers deliver a non-stop program mix of fast-paced fiddle tunes, traditional songs, mountain clogging (David fiddles and dances at the same time!), and Appalachian jokes and folklore. The band and its members have won awards at the Galax Fiddler's Convention in Mount Airy, North Carolina, the Maury River Festival in Rockbridge, Virginia, and the Appalachian String Band Festival in Clifftop, West Virginia, where the group won First Place Traditional Band in 1996.

Few ensembles in any style of music can match the energy or entertainment abilities of The Freight Hoppers. Very few bands can take their music successfully into so many different venues, winning over audience after audience. The Freight Hoppers are simply the best at what they do.

Connie Regan-Blake, storyteller

Connie Regan-Blake is one of America's most celebrated storytellers, perpetuating and preserving the Southern legacy of the spoken word. She has captivated the hearts and imaginations of audiences around the globe with her powerful performances and workshops. Both as a solo artist and a member of the acclaimed Folktellers duo, her performances have enchanted audience members and school children of all ages in North America, Europe, and Asia. Ms. Regan-Blake delivers the wonder, magic, and humor of Appalachian life through stories old and new. She has been featured on five award-winning recordings and two videos produced by PBS. Her work has been praised by *New Age Magazine*, *School Library Journal*, *Southern Living*, on NPR's *All Things Considered*, and CNN.

Through Connie Regan-Blake's numerous TV and radio appearances on *Good Morning America*, NPR,
NBC, and CNN, thousands have fallen in love with the tales of the Appalachian Mountains and those who have lived there for generations. She has appeared at major festivals including North Carolina’s Mountain Dance & Folk Festival, the folk festivals in Chicago, Philadelphia, Edmonton and Vancouver, Piccolo Spoleto, and the National Folklife Festival at the Smithsonian, among many others. Ms. Regan-Blake has also appeared at Wolftrap, NCTE and numerous educational and storytelling conferences.

As a founding member of NAPPS (the national storytelling association) and a frequent host and featured performer at the annual festival in Tennessee, Ms. Regan-Blake is recognized as a pioneer in bringing storytelling to a national audience.

Ms. Regan-Blake resides in Asheville, North Carolina.

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**CURRENTS**

the new-music ensemble in residence at the University of Richmond

Fred Cohen, director

presents

*Pierrot lunaire*

by Arnold Schonberg (1912)

and other works from the Expressionist and Abstract Expressionist eras

with guest soprano

Christine Schadeberg

Nov. 6, 1997, 8:00 pm

Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music

Free and open to the public
Reckless
by Craig Lucas
University Players
October 2-4, 1997, 8pm and October 5, 1997, 2pm
Jepson Theatre
Fleeing for her life from a hitman hired by her husband to kill her on Christmas eve, Rachel’s incredible journey to a new life proves just how quixotic and "reckless" fate can be. This is a wildly witty and intelligent satire on personal relationships in America at the end of the millennium.
Adults $7, Non-UR Students/Sr. Citizens $6, UR Students FREE

Faculty Jazz Combo
Michael Davison, trumpet
Russell Wilson, piano
Clarence Seay, bass
Howard Curtis, drums
with guest artist Chris Vadala, saxophone
Wednesday, October 8, 1997, 8pm
Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music
University of Richmond trumpet professor Mike Davison will be joined by jazz faculty members Russell Wilson (piano), Clarence Seay (bass), and Howard Curtis (drums) for an evening of jazz originals and standards. The group will also feature saxophonist Chris Vadala.
Tickets not required.

Shanghai Quartet with the Chester String Quartet
Wednesday, October 15, 1997, 8pm
Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music
The University of Richmond’s Quartet-in-Residence appears with the Chester String Quartet, whose engaging style and deep sense of musical commitment have brought them rave reviews from audiences and critics throughout the U.S. and abroad. In this concert, the two quartets join forces in a performance of the Mendelssohn Octet in E flat major for four violins, two cellos and two violas. The program also features works by Mozart and Barber.
Tickets are free, but reservations are required.

Special Thanks...to Ellen Bradley in UR’s Publications Office for being the Modlin Center’s official proofreader.