

# The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release

**emf**  
**Eastern Music Festival**  
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**CROWD PLEASERS: STEEP CANYON RANGERS  
RETURN TO THE EMFfringe STAGE**

Greensboro, NC- EMFfringe gladly welcomes back North Carolina natives: **The Steep Canyon Rangers**. After a highly successful appearance during last year's season, the award-winning blue grass quintet returns for a special performance on **Saturday, July 18, 2009**. The surely entertaining event will take place **at 8pm** at **Triad Stage** (232 South Elm Street, Greensboro, NC 27401). Tickets, already nearly sold out, may be purchased for \$22 by calling the EMF Box Office at Triad Stage at 336.272.0160 or 866-579-TIXX, or online at [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org). An After Party at *Level 2 Restaurant & Lounge* (113 South Elm Street, Greensboro, NC 27401) will follow the concert. EMFfringe ticketholders get free admission by showing their ticket stub.

Strongly committed to the roots of folk and American Music, the Steep Canyon Rangers cleverly know how to please the audience while keeping their musical tradition. The band has built a reputation as an engaging acoustic quintet seasoned by constant touring. In 2009 Steep Canyon Rangers have been performing with banjoist (and comedian) **Steve Martin** to sold-out crowds. Before being nominated for two International Bluegrass Music awards in 2008, including Album of the Year for *Lovin' Pretty Women*, Steep Canyon Rangers were named Emerging Artist of the Year in 2006 at the IBMA awards ceremony in Nashville, TN. The group has been regularly featured on the Grand Ole Opry, as well as major U.S. Bluegrass and Americana music festivals such as MerleFest, Telluride, GreyFox, DelFest, and RockyGrass. EMFfringe is thrilled to bring back the Steep Canyon Rangers this season! [www.steepcanyon.com](http://www.steepcanyon.com)

### **More about the Steep Canyon Rangers**

The Steep Canyon Rangers' deep dedication to bluegrass is heard in every note they play. With a sound firmly rooted in bluegrass tradition, they draw musical elements from Honky-tonk, classic Country, Bluegrass and Blues.

While the Rangers are committed to a more traditional Bluegrass style, the band is determined to bring their music to the next generation of fans. They performed Rock clubs, Jam Band festivals and other non-traditional venues, winning new converts at every turn.

The Rangers are: Woody Platt (guitar and lead vocals), Graham Sharp (banjo, harmony vocals), Mike Guggino (mandolin and harmony vocals), Charles R. Humphrey III (bass and harmony vocals) and Nicky Sanders (fiddle and harmony vocals). Constant touring, rehearsing and active songwriting keeps them busy through t120+ shows performed each year.

### **More About Eastern Music Festival**

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Gutiérrez, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular EMF*fringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Dossett, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. EMF*kids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. EMF*jazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe on the Fall each autumn. Single tickets and FlexPasses on sale now. [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org); Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos). EMF*fringe* is sponsored in part by The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, YES! Weekly, Natty Greene's Pub & Brewing Company, Audio & Light, The Martha and William Murray Foundation, and Print Works Bistro.

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org), or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

*The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized*

*teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.*

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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