

David Holt and the Lightning Bolts

David Holt and the Lightning Bolts were electrifying. One of the highlights of our festival. With amazing musicianship and wonderful variety, they entertained everyone. Some of the best America has to offer.

Gstaad Country Music Festival 2002
Gstaad, Switzerland

David Holt and the Lightning Bolts delivers old-time music with a new time jolt. With over ten different instruments including: banjo, fiddle, bottleneck blues guitar, mouth bow and even paper bag the Lightning Bolts present an entertaining and dynamic show filled with humor, stories and music.

Four-time **Grammy winner** David Holt has assembled a group of stellar musicians and entertainers: Laura Boosinger, Josh Goforth, David Cohen and Jeff Hersk who bring to life the joy and spirit of mountain music. Every concert sizzles with music learned directly from musical greats like Doc Watson, Tommy Jarrell, Grandpa Jones, Roy Acuff and the oldest person in the world, 123-year-old Susie Brunson. Using large black and white photographs taken by David of his mentors the audience hears the true life stories behind the songs and tunes.

David Holt and the Lightning Bolts is a concert band that all ages will enjoy.

Their new CD was recently #1 on the Roots Music Charts. The wide diversity of material, styles and instruments gives the Lightning Bolts the spark that keeps their music fresh, fun and fired up.

David Holt:

For over thirty years, David Holt has been living in the Blue Ridge Mountains collecting and performing the songs and stories of the old-time mountaineers. He has learned this treasure trove of music directly from musical greats like Fred Cockerham, Byard Ray, Grandpa Jones, Roy Acuff and the oldest person in the world, 123-year-old Susie Brunson. David is a four-time Grammy Award winner. Winning two Grammys last year with Doc Watson for their 3 CD set "Legacy."

He is known for his folk music and storytelling recordings, his numerous programs on PBS including *Folkways* and *Great Scenic Railway Journeys*, *Riverwalk Jazz* on public radio, and for his popular concerts performed throughout the country. He was founder and director of the Appalachian Music Program at Warren Wilson College from 1975-1981. He is a three-time winner of **Frets** magazine readers' poll for "best old-time banjoist." **Southern Living** magazine recently featured David as a "Southerner Making a Difference."
www.davidholt.com

Laura Boosinger-

Laura came to the Swannanoa Valley in 1976 as a student in the Appalachian Music Program at Warren Wilson College. She was one of David Holt's most outstanding students and upon graduation became a full time performer of mountain music. Says Boosinger, "I became acquainted with a variety of families for whom traditional music was a natural part of their lives. My relationships with Quay and Sue Smathers, and the Luke Smathers String Band of Haywood County, became lasting friendships that I count as some of my most valuable." Laura took David's place as Luke's banjo player in 1984 and played in his band for the next 13 years. Her recording "Down the Road" celebrates the music of the region's great musicians. Today, Laura Boosinger gives back the music she has gathered to the many young people she works with in schools throughout the South. She is director of the Madison County Arts Council, Madison County, NC. www.lauraboosinger.com

Josh Goforth

Josh was raised around traditional music in rural Madison County, NC. He has become one of rising stars of acoustic music and a Grammy Nominee. David met Josh when he was a fourteen-year-old student in Madison County. Josh is a descendent of many of the same people David learned from when he first came to NC in 1969.

After high school he went to East Tennessee State University to study music education, and to be a part of ETSU's famous Bluegrass and Country Music Program. In 2000, he played fiddle for the movie "Songcatcher," both onscreen and on the soundtrack. He has toured extensively with a variety of ensembles, including the ETSU bluegrass band, with David Holt and Laura Boosinger, and with several bluegrass bands including Appalachian Trail, Carolina Road, Open Road, and The Josh Goforth Band. He has performed all over the United States as well as Europe and Asia. In 2000, 2003, and 2005, he was named Fiddler of the Festival at Fiddler's Grove making him the youngest ever 3 time winner. This secured him the title "Master Fiddler"

www.joshgoforth.com

Jeff Hersk

The upright bass became Jeff's obsession about 10 years ago, after much less satisfying careers in auto body repair, rural homesteading, and computer programming. He played guitar for many years, performing in rock bands in Canada and California in the '70s, but now finds that he was meant to be a bassist. Jeff replaced Zeb Holt (David's son) when Zeb moved to NYC to work for NBC.

Byron Hedgepeth

Byron Hedgepeth, is among the most versatile percussionists in the southeast, performing and recording regularly with a wide variety of artists across genres from jazz to classical to old-time music.