

# Celebrating American Music: Saluting our diversity and contributions

Liken it to the grandeur and colors of a great orchestration, the history of American music expresses the diverse voices of people and the dynamics of their cultures. The profound human drama that unfolded and twisted the roots of a growing nation, ultimately impacted American music. It is important to recognize the various musical forms that cultures brought to the changing American canvas.

"The more we understand about musical forms and the elements that constitute the materials of music, the better we are prepared to enjoy music of all kinds. Recognition of the historical context in which music was conceived also enhances appreciation," explains Jean Ferris, author of *American Musical Landscape*.

We can understand any thing with greater depth if we know it's history.

There were people who came to the New World armed

**Louisa Arts  
Center**

**Robin and Linda Williams**

**Saturday, Nov. 15**

**7 p.m.**

**For tickets, call  
(540) 967-2200**

with strong, independent spirits. They met the unknown with an adventurous flair and bravado. There, too, were those whose lives had been sheltered either by wealth or poverty, who confronted their awesome challenges by rising to the occasion.

Music is an integral part of lives in America. It is always present when people are ex-

pressing their struggles and joys, whether in work songs in mines or fields, at family firesides, in marching bands, in worship or in celebration. As a country, we have crossed our own cultural differences with the language of music and created new music in the process.

Dixieland, jazz, blues, Big Band, Broadway, rhythm & blues and rock—each is a gift that enables us to tap into the rhythm of our life and connect with the rhythm of other people's lives and all life. In contrast to the American music showcased to this point, country music's form is more musically simplistic, with the lyrics telling stories of the rural, mountain lives, tracing their cultural history and communicating their news between regions. String instruments, particularly the mandolin with plucked strings, produced a new sound of bluegrass music. Similar to the other genres

of American music, country music was the foundation of bluegrass, rockabilly, Nashville sound, Western swing, honky-tonk, country pop, and folk revival. The music and dance of the immigrants from Great Britain spun a thread into American country music.

This Saturday, Nov. 15, Robin & Linda Williams and Their Fine Group, will perform at the Louisa Arts Center at 7 p.m. Their music is a perfect representation of traditional American country music. You may have heard their music on *Prairie Home Companion* or *The Grand Old Opry*.

Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$8 for seniors 62 and older and students with ID. For tickets, call the box office at (540) 967-2200, open Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or go to [www.louisaarts.org](http://www.louisaarts.org) and order online.

*Submitted by Peggy Weston,  
director of the Louisa Arts  
Center.*