

Headliner Marty Raybon & Full Circle Wowed Record Crowds at Rogersville Bluegrass Festival

By Rhea Trosper, Writer

Dated: Jul 22, 2009

Heritage Park in Rogersville, Alabama overflowed with bluegrass lovers as Marty Raybon and Full Circle brought record crowds to this small Alabama town for it's 8th Annual Bluegrass Festival on July 17-18 2009.

Marty Raybon, along with a lineup of seasoned bluegrass bands, thrilled the audience with a mix of gospel, traditional bluegrass, country - old tunes and new tunes. The band, Leiper's Fork did a brand new rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in bluegrass – move over Judy Garland! Dancers livened up the show with sprightly flat foot, freestyle and clogging.

Headliner, Raybon and Full Circle wowed the audience with their down-to-earth, natural harmony of voice and strings. The audience was spellbound with the bands' incredible vocals and enthusiasm. Raybon, a talented and humble musician, took time to speak personally to his fans, saying, "I've enjoyed this opportunity to be back home and to meet and greet fans and friends in such a pleasant and congenial place like Rogersville. Folks here really support this event and love the music. I'm especially delighted to be a part of a music event that brings people together in such a congenial atmosphere."

The congregation was hugely appreciative of Raybon's performance and later enjoyed more rousing music from Ray Sparks Band, Dollar Mountain Bluegrass, Carefree Highway, Leipers Fork, Kudzu String Band, Stan Nelson & Hurricane Creek, Valley Road, Runaway Freight, and Harmony Ridge.

Over the years, the festival has seen continued growth and this year saw the biggest crowds yet in attendance. Chamber of Commerce chairperson, Gayle Littrell, said the talent line-up was tremendous, and the town of Rogersville did a wonderful job of providing facilities for the event. She feels that next year's festival should prove to be as successful as those in the past due to the hard work of many volunteers in the community. Mother Nature, obviously a Bluegrass fan, delivered unseasonably cool temperatures and a gentle breeze which wafted thru the beautiful grounds and caused the leaves on the huge old oaks to dance their own lively jigs to the music.

One die-hard bluegrass fan noted, "I enjoy Marty Raybon, not only because he is such a seasoned and gifted performer, but because he is geniune and gives all credit to his maker for his success in the business."

Raybon's new Cd should appeal to a wide range of listeners as he combines his talents in Bluegrass, Gospel, and Country on one amazing project.

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agency
Email [Click to contact author](#)
Phone 615-724-8544
Address 2409 21st Ave. South
Suite 102, Nashville, TN 37203
City/Town Nashville
State/Province Tennessee
Zip 37203
Country United States
Link <http://prlog.org/10288780>



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