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Friday
NOV 19
7:30 pm

STEEP CANYON RANGERS

Grammy-winning bluegrass band



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James Otten Dentistry

At James Otten Dentistry, we believe that everyone should have an opportunity to choose personalized, enduring and life-enriching care because, like the performing arts, a beautiful healthy smile not only enriches our lives today but lasts forever.

There will be no intermission during this performance.

Steep Canyon Rangers are Asheville, North Carolina's Grammy winners, perennial Billboard chart-toppers and frequent collaborators of the renowned banjoist (and occasional comedian) Steve Martin. The group released three albums in 2020, all on Yep Roc Records. The Grammy-nominated *North Carolina Songbook* is a recording of their live 2019 performance at Merlefest in Wilkesboro, NC, in which they performed a selection of songs by North Carolina songwriters (Ola Belle Reed, Doc Watson, James Taylor, Ben E. King and others). *Be Still Moses*—perhaps their most singular musical partnership to date—has the band teaming with Philadelphia soul legends Boyz II Men and their hometown Asheville Symphony to completely overhaul the Rangers' original "Be Still Moses," which was first recorded on their 2007 breakout album *Lovin' Pretty Women*. The album includes re-imagined versions of Steep Canyon's previously released original songs performed with an orchestra. Their most recent release of all original music, *Arm In Arm*, came out in October 2020.

"Every song on *Arm in Arm* captures the North Carolina group's innovative spirit, weaving in jazz, gospel, folk and even rock phrases, creating an intimate and intricate sound that challenges, cajoles and comforts." — *No Depression: The Journal of Roots Music*

The group includes Woody Platt on guitar and vocals, Graham Sharp on banjo and vocals, Mike Guggino on mandolin/mandola and vocals, Nicky Sanders on fiddle and vocals, Mike Ashworth on drums and vocals, and Barrett Smith on bass and vocals.

Steep Canyon Rangers have been on a journey that is uniquely their own. The band started in college at UNC-Chapel Hill, then dove headfirst into bluegrass in its most traditional form. Over the years, they have risen to the top of the bluegrass genre, headlining top festivals such as Merlefest and Grey Fox Bluegrass—and then were discovered by Steve Martin, famous actor and banjo player. Martin has taken the Rangers on a decade-long tour, introducing them to hundreds of thousands of new fans and giving them prime-time TV exposure. This has helped Steep Canyon Rangers become the most recognizable modern name in bluegrass music. The band has also continued to tour extensively on their own, without Martin, and have expanded their genre to include country and Americana with the addition of a drummer and an incredibly versatile bassist to accompany the original core band. The Rangers are big players in the bluegrass, country and Americana scene today. They are often compared to predecessors like The Band, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and the modern Zac Brown Band.