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March 6, 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bringing Classical Music to Life:
Local Bluegrass Band The Black Canyon Boys
To Join the VSA Chorus at March Concerts**

Montrose, CO – The Valley Symphony Association (VSA) presents, “Heaven & Bluegrass: Singing the Sacred,” on Saturday, March 30 at 6:30pm, and Sunday, March 31, at 3pm, at the Montrose Pavilion. Concerts are presented in partnership with season co-partners Cimarron Wealth Management and the David Mize Family along with concert partner Budget Blinds.

Presenting a mix of ethereal choral music and bluegrass, this concert is full of feel-good music that explores and combines these two expressions and forms of spirituality. Local Montrose bluegrass band, The Black Canyon Boys, will join the VSA Chorus and Conductor Katy Kristoffersen for both performances.

Born in the heart of the San Juans and formed in 2023 in Montrose, The Black Canyon Boys are a high-energy, mountain-grass band and the brainchild of Anthony Mainiero, David Lutz, and Karl Topper.

“The Black Canyon Boys bring joy, vitality, and an incredible presence to the stage,” Kristoffersen said.

“Partnering with local musicians is of great importance to our musical community, and it is extra special for this concert, as it truly embodies the inherently collaborative nature of bluegrass,” Kristoffersen said.

“On stage, you’ll see the musical fruits of our country’s ancestral roots, as professionals and amateurs perform together,” she said. “This is a live, modern example of how the best music education works: by playing side-by-side with experts and teachers. It’s a living metaphor of the core value of the VSA: there is a place for everyone in the arts.”

“With expressive and unique takes on traditional bluegrass, modern jam grass, and anything in between, we know our way around the musical landscape,” Mainiero said. “Your feet will be stompin’ and you’ll be rompin’ at this concert—it’s going to be a great time.”

In addition to original works by The Black Canyon Boys, pieces will include selections from the 2000 film, “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” and will also feature VSA Orchestra violinist Li Gomez.

Gomez was recently selected to the prestigious All-State Orchestra, the first Montrose High School string player ever to earn the honor.

“That our Heaven & Bluegrass concert takes place on Easter weekend feels exactly right, considering the nature of the music,” Kristoffersen said. “We offer settings of deeply spiritual texts that explore human suffering, mortality, joy, devotion, reverence, and the human desire for meaning.”

The Black Canyon Boys continue to write material at a consistent rate, some of which will be featured during the Heaven & Bluegrass concert. Their debut body of work is projected to be released later in 2024. For more information, visit TheBlackCanyonBoys.com.

The VSA is a regional all-volunteer performing arts organization in its 52nd season. From high schoolers to retirees, musicians from all ages and walks of life hail from throughout the Uncompahgre, Grand, Gunnison, and North Fork Valleys and come together to bring classical music to life on the Western Slope.

For information, visit the VSA on Facebook [@valleysymphonyassociation](https://www.facebook.com/valleysymphonyassociation) or at ValleySymphony.net. Tickets for all season 52 concerts at the Montrose Pavilion are also available online; in Delta at Clubb's (417 Main St); and in Montrose at season co-partner Cimarron Wealth Management (1731 E Niagara Rd) and Colorado Smiles (601 S 3rd St). Other inquiries may be directed to 970-765-8323 or info@ValleySymphony.net. Help support the VSA's new YouTube channel, “Valley Symphony Association - Montrose, Colorado,” by subscribing.