

PRESS RELEASE CONCORD, N.C.

The Cabarrus Arts Council is gearing up for the 2011-12 Davis Theatre season. I told you about the *On Stage at the Davis* performances a couple weeks ago, so I'll concentrate on the *Brand New Opry* and *Footlights* series.

Tickets for all performances go on sale July 1.

Tickets are available at www.CabarrusArtsCouncil.org 24 hours a day and at the box office Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in person or via telephone, 704-920-2753.

BRAND NEW OPRY

There will be five evenings of the popular *Brand New Opry* bluegrass show this year, including two Christmas shows. Hosted by local bluegrass virtuoso Jeff Whittington, the *Brand New Opry* features the Brand New Bluegrass Boys and talented guest musicians in a show modeled on the Brand New Opry. The dates for this year are Thursdays, November 17, December 8, December 15, January 12 and February 16. Due to high demand, we are offering the Christmas show twice this year. All *Brand New Opry* shows are at 7:30 and tickets are \$10 plus applicable service fees.

FOOTLIGHTS SERIES

Footlights is a diverse series that presents outstanding performers in our region for fun, casual evenings at the Davis. The 2011-12 season will include three shows: **Route 66 on Thursday, September 22**; Jim Avett on Thursday, March 29; and Clyde Derberry on Thursday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to all *Footlights* shows are \$10 plus applicable service fees.

Route 66 is a local favorite band that plays covers of rock and roll classics from the 1960s to today. They played recently at *Union Street Live* in downtown Concord and at Three Sisters Vineyards as part of the Georgia Wine Festival. They will play their fourth benefit concert for Hospice and Palliative Care of Cabarrus County in November. Members include Jim Carriker (bass), Shane Atwell (guitar/vocals), Jet Taylor (drums), Bob Wade (guitar/vocals), Jeff Carroll (vocals/harmonica), Christine Nichols (vocals/guitar) and John Culbreath (fiddle/guitar/banjo/mandolin/vocals).

Avett is a singer-songwriter and guitarist who plays folk, country and gospel as he tells stories through his songs. The son of a pianist mother and father of Scott and Seth Avett of the Avett Brothers, he has played music all his life but put performing on hold to work as a welder, farm and raise his family. He has recorded two CDs, *Tribes* and the gospel album *Jim Avett and Family*. Recently, he has toured up and down the east coast and played in Nashville in support of *Tribes*.

Derberry is influenced by rock and roll, R&B and gospel – anyone who has ever written a song and especially writers/performers who uplift and engage the listener! The Mooresville singer-songwriter and guitarist sings songs that reflect the world we live in and his hope to make sense of it. He grew up in a musical family (his mother played on the Grand Ole Opry as one of the Cornwell Sisters) and says he was hooked on music from the time the Beatles came to America.

Tickets for the *On Stage at the Davis* flagship series also go on sale July 1. The season includes Emile Pandolfi, classically trained pianist, Saturday, October 1, \$36; *A Christmas Carol*, one-man drama, Saturday, November 5, \$32; *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Broadway classic, Friday, February 3, \$49; Sagapool, vibrant Canadian band, Saturday, March 17, \$39; and *Adam Grow Comedy and Quiz Show*, stand-up comedy quiz show, Saturday, April 21, \$40. All performances are at 8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.CabarrusArtsCouncil.org or call 704-920-2753.