

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 3/4/15

Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV

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JOHN DEVINE AND STEVE HICKMAN IN CONCERT AT THE ICE HOUSE

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV – Toe-tapping music that makes you want to dance resounds when local favorites John Devine and Steve Hickman bring their traditional sounds to the Ice House on Friday, March 13. The Morgan Arts Council presents this concert of varied traditional styles starting at 7:30 p.m.

John Devine has been singing and playing guitar for dances, concerts, school programs and workshops for over thirty years. He has traveled and played extensively both independently and with numerous folk artists and groups, including Steve Hickman, Ralph Gordon, Fiddlestyx and Blue Bamboo.

John Devine and Steve Hickman entertain with fiddle tunes, funny songs with beautiful harmonies, and amazing hamboning (rhythmically slapping the body), for which Hickman is renowned. The music they play is highly varied, from sophisticated turn-of-the-century music to the laid-back songs of country living. Their repertoire includes original tunes as well as songs from old-time and folk traditions. The duo has performed together from the east to west coast, into Alaska, and across the Atlantic.

“Both kids and grownups are delighted by these two fine musicians,” said Jill Klein Rone, Adopt-a-School program coordinator for MAC. “They always have audiences laughing, clapping and singing along.”

The concert is part of a series of presentations in the Morgan County schools by John Devine and his wife, Leslie Devine-Milbourne. Pre-K through second grade students participate in traditional circle and partner dances as they listen to traditional mountain music and also sang folksongs. John and Leslie are the founders of Wind Dance Farm and Earth Education Center in Berkeley Springs and have been involved in traditional music, dance and education for thirty years. “It’s so fulfilling to share these cultural traditions with the school children and watch them find such enjoyment in their heritage,” said Devine-Milbourne.

Grant support for this program comes in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and local hotel/motel taxes. Admission is \$5; tickets are available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis. The Ice House is at the corner of Independence and Mercer Streets. For more information, call 304-258-2300 or check online at www.macicehouse.org.