



Randolph-Macon College

Ashland, Virginia

Press Release -- For Immediate Release

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Five-Time Grammy Nominee and Folk Singer John McCutcheon Celebrates Earth Day with Randolph-Macon College

Ashland, VA – In the past 26 years, ask anyone in the music world who is the most influential hammer dulcimer player in America and one name will come up: **John McCutcheon**. Or, ask anyone who has written, produced and released the most folk music albums during that same span: identical answer.

This April, see **John McCutcheon live at Randolph-Macon College during an Earth Day benefit concert from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 22 at the Blackwell Auditorium** in the Randolph-Macon Center for the Performing Arts, located at 205 Henry Street. **Tickets are \$5 for students with an ID and children 12 and under; \$15 in advance; and \$20 at the door.** Advance tickets are available at the R-MC Bookstore, located at 304 Henry Street, Plan 9 Express at VCU, located at 1111 West Broad Street in the VCU Bookstore, and Plan 9 Music Store, located at 3012 West Cary Street. There will be a \$1 ticket service charge at both Plan 9 outlets.

Deemed “Virginia’s rustic renaissance man” by the *Washington Post*, McCutcheon’s concert audiences will find his blend of song and story, humor and pathos, contemporary and traditional an exhilarating celebration of Americana. Critics reserve their most lavish praise for his mastery of the hammer dulcimer, an instrument on which he is widely recognized as a world master. He has pushed the bounds of the instrument, exposing it to country, rock and jazz audiences.

McCutcheon has produced more than 25 albums, garnered an amazing five Grammy nominations and received every imaginable award in the independent record industry. Raised in Wisconsin, he hitchhiked the Appalachians, armed with a backpack, a banjo and healthy measure of youthful curiosity. From this series of chance beginnings, he discovered a new home, both musically and geographically. Learning at the knees of some of the great traditional masters, McCutcheon perfected the banjo, guitar, fiddle, autoharp, mountain dulcimer and jaw harp. He became a knowledgeable and powerful singer of traditional material, with a wry wit and ear for a good story.

Today, the praise for his song writing – rich in detail and still broad in scope – has put him in the forefront of contemporary singer-song writing. He has become what one Australian paper called “the most overwhelming folk performer in the English language.”

Don't miss the chance to see John McCutcheon live during this special Earth Day concert, sponsored by R-MC's Students for Environmental Action, the Virginia Forest Watch, the Virginia Wilderness Committee, the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Virginia Conservation Network, the R-MC Student Life and Programs Office and the R-MC Office of the Chaplain.

For more information, please contact Holly Clark at (804) 752-3712 or hclark@rmc.edu.

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Founded in 1830 and located in historic Ashland just north of Richmond, Randolph-Macon College is a co-educational, national liberal arts and sciences college with a mission of “developing the minds and character of its students.” The college achieves this mission through a combination of personal interaction and academic rigor. The student-faculty ratio is 11:1 and the average class size is 16 students. Enrollment is kept at approximately 1,150 to maintain this intimate atmosphere. Randolph-Macon College has an outstanding national reputation for its internships, study abroad and undergraduate research opportunities and offers a wealth of social and athletic programs to its students. Randolph-Macon College is the oldest United Methodist Church affiliated college in the nation, a Phi Beta Kappa college and is ranked as a Baccalaureate I college by the Carnegie Foundation and among the top 100 colleges in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.