



NEWS RELEASE

USDA FOREST SERVICE

For Immediate Release

Rocky Mountain Region

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DENVER, *July 6, 2007*— Do you care about historic preservation? Do you enjoy clapping your hands, stomping your feet, and maybe even singing along to lively old-time music? If you do, you won't want to miss two performances in the Leadville/Twin Lakes Village area on August 11th and 12th.

Celebrating High Country Ranching through Song is a two-day event highlighting Colorado musicians, and conducted in historic settings. The concert series promotes the legacy of country and "old time" music. On Saturday August 11, the Fiddlin' Foresters and Gary McMahan will play at the historic Hayden Ranch just outside of Leadville, CO. The Hayden Ranch, nestled at the foot of Mt. Elbert, dates from the 1860's and was used briefly as part of the U.S. Army Remount Station. On Sunday, August 12, the Fiddlin' Foresters and Jon Chandler and the Wichitones will play at the Twin Lakes Historic District in Twin Lakes, CO. The community of Twin Lakes is the site of the Lakeside Ranch, the Historic Interlaken Resort, and the 1880s era Adobe House.

Colorado cowboy and entertainer [Gary McMahan](#) is a walking page of American history. A native of Greeley, he has made his living doing everything from cowboying to guiding to performing. His colorful background has set Gary in good stead to practice his heart's desire: to write, perform, and record the stories, poems, sings and humor of his Western heritage, becoming one of the most dynamic and sought-after writers and performers in his field. Gary's songs have been recorded by stars like Ian Tyson, Chris Le Doux, and Riders in the Sky. And, he has recorded three critically acclaimed albums himself. His most recent album received the most prestigious award in Western music: a National Cowboy Hall of Fame Wrangler Award. Gary's poems have been published by the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada. He has played hundreds of cowboy poetry gatherings, banquets, festivals, and concerts throughout the U.S., Canada, and Australia.

[Jon Chandler and the Wichitones](#) embody the musical and historical spirit of Colorado. Jon Chandler is widely regarded as one of American Music's premier singer-songwriters and one of the country's best western authors. A seventh generation Coloradan, Jon's western novels, songs and poems serve to keep the frontier ethic passed down from his ancestors alive. Butch Hause, an Emmy-nominated recording engineer, has spent several decades working with the "King of Cowboy Poetry" Baxter Black. Ernie Martinez contributes his many talents to several Colorado blue-grass bands, as well as teaches strings at the Swallow Hill Music association and the Olde Towne Pickin' Parlor in Arvada. Jon Chandler's CD "Keepers of the Flame" is an award-winning musical tribute to America's ranchers, farmers, and rural communities. Jon has performed before a congressional Earth Day reception hosted by the Secretary of Agriculture. His ballad "He Was No Hero" was recently the subject of a feature article in *True West Magazine*. He is the voice behind a variety of public service announcements and television spots from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Montana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.

The [Fiddlin' Foresters](#) are the official old-time string band of the US Forest Service, providing messages of conservation education and public lands stewardship through lively and entertaining musical performances. Using songs of the American west, novelty tunes and appropriate visuals, the contributions our public lands make to the American economy, landscape, and culture are highlighted. The group has received several prestigious awards for unique interpretive musical programs. They have performed at the 2002 Winter Olympics, the National Western Stock Show, and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

These events are sponsored by [Colorado Preservation Inc.](#), Twin Lakes Improvement Association, [Colorado Mountain College](#), and the [US Forest Service](#). They are funded, in part, by the Colorado Council for the Arts. Admission to the concerts is \$6.00, children are free. Proceeds benefit Historic Preservation efforts in the Leadville/Twin Lakes Village area.

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