

## Black Mountain Musician and Peace Fellow David LaMotte to perform at Black Mountain Center for the Arts' 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Series in October

Internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter David LaMotte will perform his last concert in his hometown, Black Mountain, NC, on Friday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m. as the final concert for the 2008 Black Mountain Center for the Arts' Fourth Friday Musical Heritage Series. To accommodate a larger audience, BMCA has scheduled the concert at The Watershed, at 207 W. State Street. Tickets are \$20, and will go on sale October 1. To purchase tickets, call the Black Mountain Center for the Arts at 828/669-0930.

LaMotte's concerts are warm, entertaining and varied, including image-rich songs, engaging storytelling, humor, an occasional poem and impressive instrumental guitar work. His music has been described by the *Washington Times* as "guitar-spanking open-tuning grooves as well as gentle folk-tinged pop."



This concert is part of LaMotte's year-long farewell tour. Recently named as a 2008 Rotary World Peace Fellow, he has announced that, after 2000 concerts on four continents, he will stop touring at the end of this year to devote his primary focus to another of his lifelong passions, peacemaking. LaMotte will pursue a Masters in Peace Studies at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, then move into peace work full-time.

"It's sort of strange, I admit," says LaMotte. "Things have never been better with my music career, but I have a sense that this is what I'm supposed to do now, and I have to go with that. Folk singers talk a lot about following your heart, and I'm trying to practice what I preach."

Songs from LaMotte's tenth and most recent CD, *Change*, took four awards in the 2006 Songwriter's Association of Washington's annual Mid-Atlantic Song Contest, including the Silver in the Instrumental category and the Gold in Folk. It also reached #11 on the Folk-DJ chart in late 2006. Mary Sue Twohy of XM Radio says, "*Change* breathes with artistic freedom and creative acumen. Truly a joy to listen to... many times." Guest vocalists include John Gorka, Tom Kimmel and Tish Hinojosa.

LaMotte is also the co-founder and volunteer director of a non-profit organization, *PEG Partners (Proyecto para las Escuelas Guatemaltecas)*, which he founded with his wife in 2004. PEG works in partnership with Guatemalan communities to improve schools. LaMotte recently returned from a visit to several projects in Guatemala that PEG has supported. Because of his work in Guatemala, he was nominated as a "Hero of Humanity" in *World Ark*, a publication of Heifer International. He has also been named a "Madison World Changer" by his alma mater, James Madison University.

In his 20-year career, LaMotte has played many venues in Black Mountain and Montreat, and was one of the very first performers to play in BMCA's Musical Heritage Series, in 2005. It is only fitting that his final concert in Black Mountain be a part of the same series. Tickets for the show are \$20. The UpBeat! 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Musical Heritage Series is to showcase primarily the musicians of the Swannanoa Valley. It is presented in collaboration with Acoustic Corner and the Swannanoa Valley History Museum. Concerts are held the fourth Fridays from January through October. ###

**Additional information and press photos can be found on the David LaMotte website**

**<http://www.davidlamotte.com/promedia.html> or by calling Lower Dryad Music at (800) 995-6825.**