

take5

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Jamie Laval plays
White Horse
Black Mountain
Friday, Oct. 2, 8 pm

Jamie Laval returns to Black Mountain

By Jedd Ferris | take5 correspondent

Internationally acclaimed Celtic violinist Jamie Laval moved to Asheville a few years ago, but he doesn't spend much time at home. From orchestral concerts to fiddle workshops to duo gigs, the violin virtuoso is constantly traveling sharing his inventive take on the traditional music of Scotland and Ireland that's refined with classical skills.

A former student of the Victoria Conservatory of Music and winner of the U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Championship, Laval has found a unique way to blend the traditions of folk music from centuries past with the nuance of a first-chair master. Laval returns home to play White Horse Black Mountain in a duo project with guitarist Robin Bullock on Friday night.

Question: Tell me about the show at White Horse Black Mountain.

Answer: I have a self-invented style of rendering really old Celtic music. I dredge the ancient traditional tunes and give them a new spin with updated influences. It can be with different harmonic treatment or a different violin approach. The whole presentation is a little more contemporary. It makes the ancient folk music more accessible and exciting.

Q: Is Robin Bullock playing with you in mostly a supportive role?

A: Essentially yes, but he definitely will be playing a couple of his solo works. He is a consummate performer, and I definitely want to feature his work. The rest of the



Special to the Citizen-Times

Jamie Laval plays Friday night at White Horse Black Mountain.

Want to go?

What: Jamie Laval.

When: 8 p.m. Friday.

Where: White Horse Black Mountain, 105 Montreat Road, Black Mountain.

How much: \$12.

On the Net: whitehorseblackmountain.com.

time he plays a backup role. He has a way of taking my ideas and making them come forth in an explosive way. It's a lot different than just strumming chords behind my melody. It actually catapults my arrangements into a new exciting presentation.

Q: You play in a lot of different formats. Does that keep things interesting?

A: With this genre there are many different ways to explore the music. (It) has

been crafted and then reinvented through many generations. I like the duo format, as well as bigger configurations that have a more orchestral approach. I come from a classical background, so I try to find some crossover. I've also added teaching as a strong component of my career. I visit a lot of schools and do a lot of workshops. I want to influence some younger musicians and show them some things that they might never

otherwise be exposed to.

Q: Can you tell me about your upcoming album?

A: I don't like to just take a quick snapshot of my music. Instead, I treat recording as a compositional tool to craft a broader scope of what can be achieved by playing live. I have been working on this upcoming album for over a year, and it won't be out until after Christmas.

This one will hit the mark of what I am all about musically. I am including four different guitar players and a bagpiper, as well as Ashley Broder on mandolin. It's all of these disparate elements crystallizing into one large work.

Jedd Ferris writes about entertainment for take5. E-mail him at jedd.ferris@gmail.com.