

Junior Sisk and Ramblers Choice

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is pleased to welcome Junior Sisk and his group Ramblers Choice who will be performing at St. Mark's 2019 12th Night Concert. The annual charity event will be held on January 5th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Attic Theater in Fincastle.

Sisk is widely recognized as one of today's top bluegrass vocalists and is a constant reminder that traditional bluegrass is still alive and well. A longtime resident of the Virginia Blue Ridge, his bluegrass pedigree runs deep. Influenced by a father who wrote songs and played guitar and a mother who sang, Sisk first learned to play around age 14. His early influences included The Stanley Brothers, Larry Sparks, and Dave Evans, but he often credits the Johnson Mountain Boys with inspiring him to pursue bluegrass professionally.



Sisk first made his mark in bluegrass as a songwriter in the early 1990s, penning classic Lonesome River Band songs like "Game (I can't Win)" and "Tears are Blinding Me." As a member of Wyatt Rice & Santa Cruz and Blueridge, he helped define the sound of driving, modern traditional bluegrass. Sisk founded Ramblers Choice in 1998, releasing *Sounds of the Mountains* on Rounder Records. After leaving Blueridge in 2006, he reformed Ramblers Choice and began a successful career with Rebel Records.

His 2011 album *Heart of a Song* helped bring the band into the spotlight and eventually was named IBMA Album of the Year in 2012. Its single "A Far Cry from Lester and Earl," which Sisk co-wrote, became a rallying cry for a resurgence of traditional sounds in bluegrass and received the 2012 Song of the Year Award from the IBMA. Sisk was furthered honored when he was named 2013 IBMA Male Vocalist of the Year, while his band earned the 2014 SPBGMA Bluegrass Band of the Year award. In 2016, "Longneck Blues," a collaboration with noted singer-songwriter Ronnie Bowman, was named Recorded Event of the year by the IBMA. Most recently, Sisk received the 2017 Male Vocalist of the Year award from SPBGMA. Sisk now records for Mountain Fever Records. His most recent album is *Brand New Shade of Blue* featuring the hit single: "Whiskey and the Guitar".

As in past years, admission to the concert is free, but because seating is limited, tickets are required. They will be available at the church, and at other locations, beginning in December. Packaged food and cash donations are requested.