

For Immediate Release

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April 10, 2006

### **New CD Announced from James Christian and Oriskany Strings**

Local old-time band The Oriskany Strings have just released a new CD on the Catawba label, featuring the songs of James (Junior) Christian, a well-known local musician and songwriter from New Castle. The CD is called *The Train Don't Run Here Anymore*, after the title song written by Christian. A portion of the proceeds from sales of the CD will be donated to the Craig County Rescue Squad.

The songs written by Christian reveal a man of faith with a big heart and a deep love of nature. Many of them express a longing for simpler days and rural life and have themes that will resonate with residents of this area of Virginia. The varied collection features gospel songs, love songs, and even "history" songs. The nostalgic title song, "The Train Don't Run Here Anymore," is about the old steam train that used to run from Eagle Rock to New Castle, hauling iron ore, mail and passengers, and about the lifestyle that disappeared with the train and the mining company that supported it. The CD cover has a photo of the old steam train and the insert has old photos of the New Castle, Eagle Rock and Oriskany train stations.

"Junior is best-known for being the lead singer and guitar/banjo player with the Craig County Boys for over 30 years, but not so many people know that he is also an excellent songwriter," said Carol Lewis of the Oriskany Strings. "He is a real poet! He plays with our band when his schedule permits, since our lead singer Gene Guilliams had several strokes and is not able to play guitar anymore. On this new release we wanted to feature some of the many songs Junior has written, and also show off his great country voice and guitar playing, with the Oriskany Strings backing him up with our harmonies and instruments. Even though most of the songs on the CD aren't really old ones, Junior's music does have an old-time sound. It's a different type of project for us, and we're very pleased with how it turned out."

The CD also has three songs by other songwriters, old favorites that fit in well with Junior's songs, according to Lewis. "We hope *The Train Don't Run Here Anymore* will appeal to our audience and also to the many fans who like the Craig County Boys' music," she said. "Although this CD is not a traditional bluegrass sound, it's sweet-sounding music with a definite old-fashioned flavor."

*The Train Don't Run Here Anymore* will be available for purchase for \$15 at a number of local stores, at Oriskany Strings performances, and on the internet at [www.oriskanystrings.com](http://www.oriskanystrings.com) and at [www.cdbaby.com/oriskanystrings4](http://www.cdbaby.com/oriskanystrings4).