

Minnesota *Bluegrass* August Festival

August 10-13, 2023
Festival
Program



Rhonda Vincent &
the Rage



Larry Sparks &
the Lonesome Ramblers



Minnesota
Bluegrass.org



Mission Statement:
**To preserve and promote
 bluegrass and
 old-time stringband music
 in and around
 the state of Minnesota.**

Festival Staff

- Event Manager-Dale Gruber
- Event Manager, Reserved Camping -Rudy Marti
- Backstage Coordinator-Greg Landkamer
- Bluegrass Jam Camp-Martha Galep
- Dance Hall Coordinator-Rina Rossi
- Entertainment Tent-Holler Sue & Loren Halvorson
- Family Area Coordinator-Sofia Olesen
- Food Vendor-Ross Robey
- Front Gate Coordinator-Haley Rezac
- Handicap Coordinator-Bill Lindroos
- Headquarters Operation-Bruce Miller
- Hill Top Coordinator - James Lally
- Hospitality-Joshua Youngmark
- IT Coordinator-Nate Hess
- Marketfair-Deb Frandrup
- Marketplace Coordinator-Jeanne Marti
- MBOTMA Merch Coordinator-Christina Hess
- Merchants Coordinator-Abigail Soderberg
- Old-Time Camp Coordinator-Kjell Olsen
- Radios and Golf Carts-Earl Jarosh
- Raffle Ticket Coordinator-Bob Bayers
- Ranch House Live-Doug Chasar
- Reserved Camping-Andy Jukich
- Reserved Camping, Event Manager-Rudy Marti
- Sanitation-Ryan Julien
- Setup and Teardown-John Walsh
- Showcase Coordinator-Ann Iijima, Rina Rossi
- Signs-Ross Vaughan
- Tents and Stages-Tony Stachnik
- Underground Stage-Scott Liebers
- Workshop Coordinator-Ann Iijima
- Workshop Assistant-Addie Maass
- Yoga-Lucy Weberling

www.minnesotabluegrass.org
 Hot Line - 601-651-3694
 (to subscribe and for other information)

Kate Dougherty - Office Manager
info@minnesotabluegrass.org
 P.O. Box 16408, Mpls, MN 55416
Twitter: @mnbluegrass
Facebook: minnesotabluegrass

**Minnesota Bluegrass &
 Old-Time Music Association**

Board of Directors

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president@minnesotabluegrass.org

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- Dale Gruber
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Minnesota
Bluegrass.org

Become a Member

The Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Association is open to everyone. Our members include people who love to listen to music and people who love to make music. As a member, you'll be invited to participate in bluegrass and old-time music events and celebrations. You'll receive discounted prices on admission to events and merchandise, and you'll receive a subscription to *Minnesota Bluegrass* magazine.

Becoming a member of MBOTMA is easy and affordable. Your membership will not only nurture your own interests, but will help to ensure that the bluegrass and old-time music tradition is sustained and grows in Minnesota.

Individual \$35	Includes <i>Minnesota Bluegrass</i> , events discounts for one person, and a free classified ad.
Family \$50	Includes <i>Minnesota Bluegrass</i> , events discounts and a free classified ad.
Band \$75	Includes <i>Minnesota Bluegrass</i> , advance booking information for MBOTMA events, a free classified ad, and listings in the MBOTMA member band directory in print and on our website.
Bronze Level \$100	Includes <i>Minnesota Bluegrass</i> , first-class postage, events discounts, and a free classified ad.
Silver Level \$150	Includes <i>Minnesota Bluegrass</i> , first-class postage, events discounts, and a free classified ad.
Gold Level \$500	Includes <i>Minnesota Bluegrass</i> , first-class postage, events discounts, a free classified ad, and more.
Platinum Level \$1000	Includes <i>Minnesota Bluegrass</i> , first-class postage, events discounts, a free classified ad, and more.

Add \$18 for First Class or foreign postage to individual, family or band membership.

Go to minnesotabluegrass.org

and select the **Membership** tab to join online

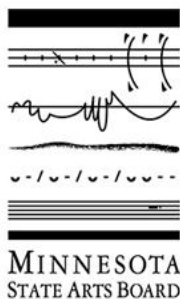
or download a membership form.

Call 601-651-3694 for details

or if you would like to join by phone.

Funding for *Minnesota Bluegrass* is provided in part by a grant

from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and private donors



Welcome

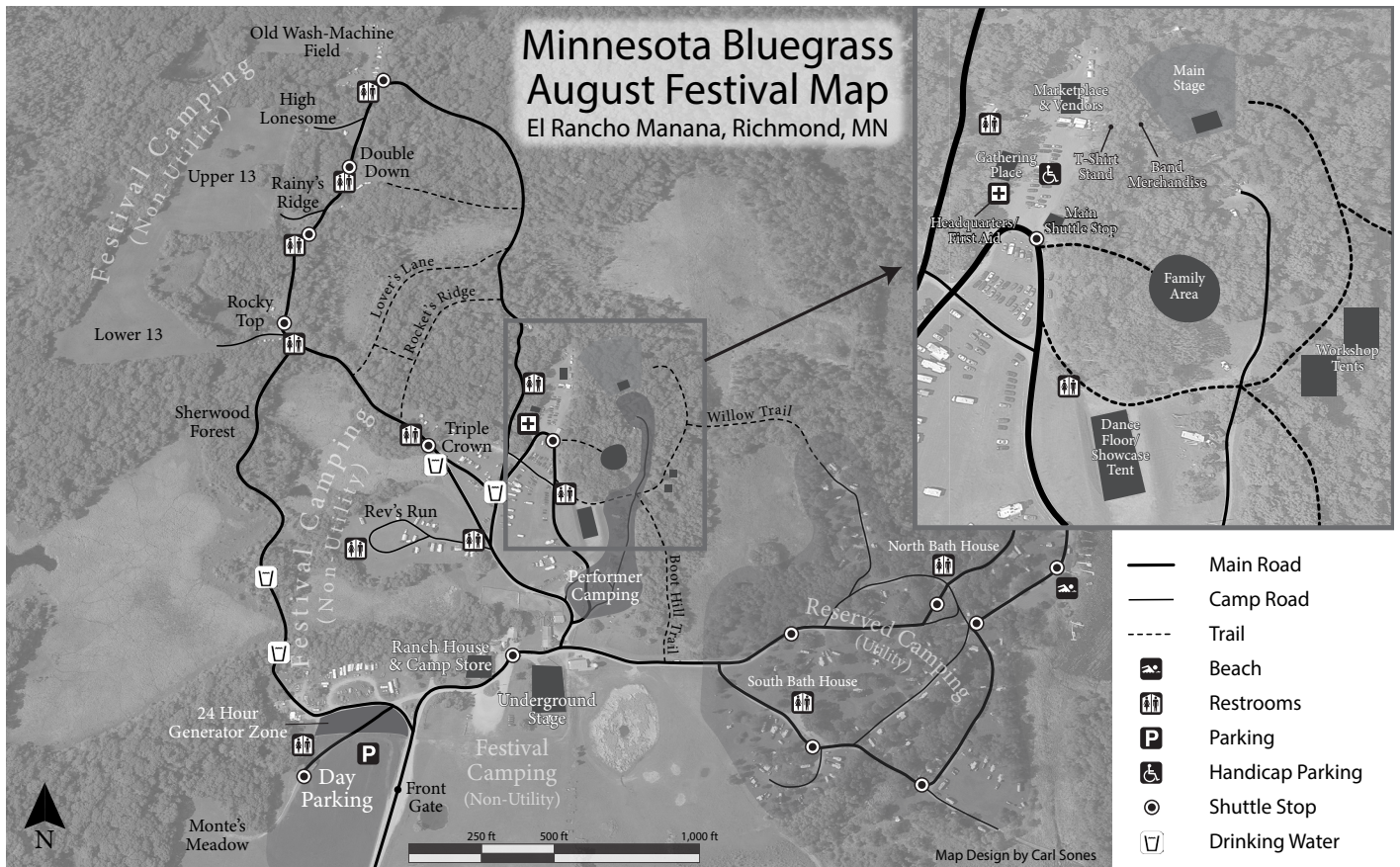
Welcome to the 42nd annual Minnesota Bluegrass August Festival. This event is produced by the non-profit Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Association and has now been nominated five times as Event of the Year (2005, 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2014) by the International Bluegrass Music Association in Nashville. This is the big one!

We are pleased to offer you a huge variety of exciting activities crammed into four days and three nights. There is so much more than the 30 hours of main-stage, so we hope you will check out all the other stage areas and the campground, too. There will be dances, instrument showcases, jams, and even bluegrass karaoke in the Showcase Tent. There will be fun and games and music in the Family Area. There will be 20 hands-on workshops in the Workshop Area, new and exciting music at the Underground Stage, casual performances on the Marketplace Stage, late-night shows at the Ranch House Live, plus The Gathering Place, and all the campground jam sessions! There will be dozens of food and merchant booths to visit. It will be impossible to do it all (but you can try).

These activities are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. We also owe our thanks to our sponsors and our 400 volunteers (yes, 400!). Thank you all for keeping us going.

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Festival First Aid

To make the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival the safest possible for you and your family, we have professional medical personnel on duty 24-hours from 6:00 PM Thursday through 4:00 PM Sunday. If you need assistance or advice for minor medi-

cal needs, come by the medical service station located adjacent to the festival headquarters tent, and just across from the main shuttle stop. For more serious problems we have a First Responder service that will come and assist you. You can contact any of the festival volunteers

at the various entertainment venues if you need help. For purposes of making your own 911 call you should know that you are at El Rancho Mañana, 27302 Ranch Road in Richmond MN.

Volunteers Needed

The Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival depends on volunteers to serve your needs and fill more than 350 time slots to keep this festival operating smoothly. Prior to the festival, the volunteer MBOTMA Festival Staff does the planning and preparatory work.

During the festival volunteers take tickets, sell shirts, watch the gates, provide handicap services, set up the grounds, and clean up afterwards.

Can you help us? Please stop by the Festival Headquarters and check out the volunteer schedule for openings. And

don't forget to thank all the volunteers you see. For their efforts they receive a specially designed volunteer shirt, and they make new friends, learn new skills, and have fun too!

FESTIVAL RULES & POLICIES

- **New rule: No outside food or beverage allowed in the concert area.**
- No outside food or beverages are allowed in the main concert/vending area. You may be asked to open backpacks, purses, lawn chairs for inspection upon entry.
- Under the terms of admission, you enter the grounds on your own responsibility and assume all related risks. All federal, state, and local laws will apply.
- Wristbands must be worn on wrists at all times.
- Admission to the festival grounds will be permitted Thursday through Sunday, August 10-13 between 9 AM and 11 PM only. Pre-festival admission to the grounds will be permitted Sunday, August 6 between 2 PM and 10 PM and Monday through Wednesday, August 7-9 between 11 AM and 10 PM. The gate will be closed to admission at all other times.
- All vehicles shall be parked in one of three places: 1) day parking (if you are attending for the day); 2) your campsite (if you are staying overnight), or 3) in handicap parking (by request only). All vehicles in day parking lots must be removed by midnight each day. Vehicles left overnight may be towed.
- Campfires are only allowed in campground provided fire rings or suitable off-the-ground fire containers. Where fire rings are not installed you must provide your own suitable off-the-ground fire container. Fires must not be left unattended.
- No firewood will be allowed to be brought into the campground. Campfire wood will be available for purchase on the grounds.
- No roping of sites is allowed in the rough camping area. Tents or vehicles must occupy space.
- Generator hours are 9 AM to Noon and 5 PM to 7 PM daily. No generator running is allowed at other times except in 24-hour generator area. Generators must be spark arrested and meet guidelines for use within Minnesota State Parks. Old Wash Machine field is a generator free zone where no generator use is allowed at any time.
- Excessive noise, use of foul language, or other rowdy behavior will not be tolerated and will be grounds for ejection.
- The Family Area should be considered a family affair. Please attend events with your children. No alcohol allowed in the Family Area.
- No gas or electric powered cycles, dune buggies, go-carts, ATVs, or other personal vehicles are allowed on the grounds. If you have special accessibility needs, please contact the festival Headquarters at the festival so we can best accommodate your needs. Use of private motorized handicap vehicles is allowed under certain conditions.
- Use of bicycles is limited to daylight hours only.
- The swimming beach is for camper's use only. No lifeguard is on duty, please supervise your children. The beach closes at dusk. No glass, vehicles, or pets are allowed on the beach.
- The main concert area including the food court, the Family Area, all public tents and buildings, and the trolleys, are non-smoking areas (Cigarettes, cannabis, vaping).
- Absolutely no fireworks of any kind are allowed on the festival grounds or in the campgrounds.
- No outside food or beverages are allowed in the main concert/vending area. You may be asked to open backpacks, purses, lawn chairs for inspection upon entry.
- Pets are not allowed in the main concert/vending area. Pets must be leashed or enclosed in campers or cages in all other areas. Pets are not allowed on the beach. All debris from your pet must be picked up. The MBOTMA Festival reserves the right to ask that any pet be removed from the premises if there are any problems or disturbances, especially barking.
- You may leave your chair in place all weekend, however the MBOTMA Festival will not be responsible for chairs or other items left unattended in the concert area, and if you leave the concert area we consider it to be "Minnesota nice" to allow others to occupy your chair until you return. Please, no sun umbrellas in the concert area.
- All individuals entering to camp on Thursday are required to have a Th-Su ticket package. Individuals entering to camp on Friday are required to have at least a Fr-Su ticket package. Individuals entering to camp on Saturday are required to have a Sa-Su ticket package. No camping will be allowed with single day tickets.
- The rough camping area will not be open until 2:00 PM on the Sunday prior to the opening of the festival. Prior to Thursday night rough campers are subject to a per-night fee of \$15/person (with a maximum of \$30, payable to El Rancho Mañana.
- All campers under 18 years of age must camp with, and be supervised by, a responsible adult.
- Monte's Meadow, and other portions of rough camping adjacent to the day parking area, are designated as a quiet camping area. Noise, including instrument playing, will not be allowed after 10 PM in these areas.
- Campers - Please bag your garbage in yellow bags, aluminum in white bags, and leave along the road to be picked up nightly between 6 PM and 8 PM.
- No Guns Allowed.
- No drones allowed except with Kevin Ward's permission.

Shuttles

You may have noticed various shuttles at the festival. There are three main routes. One runs through the reserved camping area, one to the day parking lots and the south half of rough camping, and the third covers the north half of rough camping. All routes end at the main venue area drop off point within easy walking to the Main Stage Concert Area, Marketplace Stage, Showcase Tent, Family Area, Workshop Area, and the Gathering Place. The shuttles are free. But please, children should ride only when accompanied by an adult, no dogs are allowed, and no smoking either. There are racks for your coolers, instruments, and lawn chairs. Look for the shuttle signs. Trolley stops are marked



Photo: Pat O'Loughlin

with a big "T" on the published festival maps. Shuttles will operate from 5 PM to midnight on Thursday, 10 AM to mid-

night on Friday, 10 AM to midnight on Saturday, and 9 AM to 3 PM on Sunday.

Yoga

Lucy Weberling, Festival Yoga Inner Smile Promotions, will be leading Yoga sessions each morning at this MBOT-MA Festival - as she has for the past 14+ years. Over 80 festival goers have taken part in the 10:00 AM sessions each year, stretching the body, calming the mind, and energizing the spirit. Lucy is a 500-hr certified professional yoga instructor, educated at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Lenox, Mass. Lucy is also a bluegrass musician, a member of the IBMA Leadership Bluegrass class of 2008, and a long-time festival goer, so she is well versed in the rigors of festival lifestyle: long hours, little sleep, and lots of picking. Bring your mat and stretch, relax, and rejuvenate Friday and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM at the Showcase tent. Enjoy live accompanying music by the Yogabillies. Guess the members of the band??



Photo: Pat O'Loughlin

Stop by the Gathering Place

The Gathering Place always seems busy even though there are few things scheduled there. That is because it is a central meeting place for folks to join a jam session or just get together. It is a place for folks interested in bluegrass and old-time music to gather and get to know one another. All are welcome to stop in so please come join us. Our facility is available for you to ask questions, make new acquaintances, or meet with old friends. Pickers - bring your instruments. Listeners - come by and visit. No experience or requirements needed to have a good time. Newcomers to the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival are especially welcome. Here are a few scheduled activities you'll find at The Gathering Place.

Some of the highlights:

2pm on Friday: "Jam With The Band," The Pales Ales Bluegrass Band. You are invited to partake! If you've ever wanted to play some music with this band, here's your chance.

Keep an eye out on the white board



Photo: Pat O'Loughlin

at the Gathering Place for other Jam With The Band opportunities throughout the weekend.

12pm on Saturday: Brian Wicklund will host a Learn to Play Bluegrass Fiddle workshop.

1pm on Saturday: Meet the MBOT-

MA Board Q&A. We know you have questions, so please, bring them.

2:00pm on Saturday: David Vincent will host, Want to Build an Instrument? What you need to know.

3:00pm on Saturday: "Jam With The Band," The Platte Valley Boys

Ranch House Live

What Is It? Ranch House Live is an informal open mic series. This is a chance for you and your friends to put together a few tunes to perform on the Ranch House Live stage. The idea is to strut your bluegrass, old time, or related stuff in a casual and laid-back environment. The emphasis is on friends, fun, and good music, not perfection. The sets will be 25 minutes each, allowing for five minute setup time.

Where Is It? Ranch House Live is held in the El Rancho Mañana Campground Ranch House (campground office) located near the main entrance to El Rancho Mañana. It will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings from 7pm to midnight. This is the venue that you can sit down inside and order a beer and food. There is also a new outdoor deck with fireplace and speakers. The wait staff will be available to serve



your needs so invite all your friends to this unique venue.

How Do I Sign Up? Sign-up is available on the MBOTMA website at www.MinnesotaBluegrass.org. Two slots per

night are held back and are only available at the Ranch House. During the festival you can sign up for any remaining times at the Ranch House after 6 pm for each day.

Lots to Find in the Market Place



Photo: Pat O'Loughlin

Inside the main concert area you will find our Market Place area and merchants alley. The food vendors are grouped around our Market Place Stage and our merchants are selling wares along merchant alley (in the back of the concert area). And while you are eating this great food under the shade of the Market Place tent you can enjoy entertainment before and during the breaks in the main stage music on our Market Place Stage.

On Thursday many of our food vendors will be open for business, and you'll be right there when the main stage show starts at 6pm. Rusty Playground (5pm) will be providing entertainment, so bring the family and enjoy the first day of the festival in the Market Place.

There will also be entertainment Friday and Saturday mornings and afternoons during the main stage dinner break. There will be some exciting

groups playing at the Market Place, including Rosby Corner, Harper's Chord, The Teacher and the Mailman, The Hummin' Birds, and Rozy Daze. Check the program schedule for exact times.

The list of food vendors at the Market Place is wide ranging. You can start off your day with a cup of coffee or hot cocoa and some yummy waffles from Crystal's concessions. Doc E's BBQ has brisket and pork ribs, mac and cheese, and cowboy beans. Xtreme Cuisine will have Philly cheese steak, chicken sandwiches and cheese curds. At the Pizza Barn you'll find pizza, cheesy bread, frozen lemonade and smoothies with bars and cookies for desserts.

Burritos, tacos, quesadillas, tortas and nachos will be provided at the Taqueria Bravo trailer. Grillin Meats has 100% grass fed beef and pork hotdogs and hamburgers, along with fries and chicken strips. Our host, El Rancho

Mañana, also has a stand that sells pop, water, chips, candy and ice cream novelties. New this year Bad Habit Brewing Company will be providing beer. Enjoy your beer responsibly.

In addition to delicious food, there is a string of merchants around the back of the main stage concert area.

Sue Pick offers women's dresses, rope sandals, and rings. Marnie Keith, with Good Vibration Bags, offers silk bags to protect your favorite instruments, along with silk scarves and many other silk related items. True Bloom Wellness provides federally and Minnesota approved CBD gummies and CBD tinctures. Kathy Bough has her unique jewelry made from 100 yr + old flatware. She also has bracelets and bandannas.

Look for more last minute additions to our vendor row.

The Family Area



Photos: Pat O'Loughlin

The Family Area has become a festival tradition for many of the families that attend the festival. In addition to the stage shows intended for a wide range of ages, there are games, contests, and craft projects too.

Each day the Family Area will start at 10:00 AM with a kid friendly area for play. One of the highlights of the Family

Area will be the “Absolute Beginner Instrument Workshop” at 10:30 AM both Friday and Saturday mornings. This is a hands-on activity for all ages and anyone can join in. Our friends from Sloughgrass will teach and even loan you an instrument to learn a tune on. At 11:30 AM you can play the tune you’ve learned in the big circle jam with everyone else.

Feel free to stick around and jam some classic bluegrass tunes with the Halvorsens at the Family Jam after.

The family friendly stage shows start around noon each day. On Friday we’ll see Carver Creek, The Waverly Girls, and the Reynold’s Family Band. On Saturday we’ll see Sloughgrass and Makin’ Bacon. The Family Area Talent Show will be back on both Friday and Saturday at 1:00 PM. One act will be selected each day to do a “tweener” spot on the main stage later in the day. And we intend to create various categories for all runners-up that highlight their particular talents and foster a positive experience for all participants. New this year, there will be a sign-up for a Family Area Live open-stage event. Gather your friends new and old to play a song or two for everyone in the Family Area.

Watch for many additional activities to be posted on the board just outside the Family Area. There will be ongoing activities like crafts, face painting, and various games from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, and games and crafts until 12:00 PM on Sunday. Come join our family!



Photo: Pat O'Loughlin

Workshop Area Preview

MBOTMA again is pleased to present a series of “hands-on” workshops, offering opportunities to learn from talented national and regional musicians. Participants will take their instruments out of their cases and learn new skills, techniques, and tunes. Each workshop has one or two instructors and ten pre-registered participants, who will get chairs in the workshop circle. Participants may reserve a spot by signing up ahead of time at the workshop table starting at 9:45 am the day of the workshops.

Most workshops will be designated as beginning, intermediate, or advanced level, while others will be appropriate for all levels. Beginning level workshops are intended for players just starting out, and



Photo: Pat O'Loughlin

intermediate and advanced level workshops are intended for those with more experience. You will be able to sign up for only one workshop each day. If you are not one of the registered participants

or you don't have an instrument, you are welcome to “audit” the workshop by observing from the back.

See the schedule for times and descriptions of the workshops.

Showcase and Dance Tent

We're looking forward to a great year in the Showcase & Dance Tent. Kicking things off both Friday and Saturday will be the usual yoga. Come stretch out with Lucy Weberling after a long night of picking. Then stick around for some great showcases, including a Fiddle Showcase with bluegrass fiddlers Layla Contafio (Dave Adkins Band) and Wally Hughes (Larry Cordle Band), and old-time fiddlers Tricia Spencer (Spencer & Rains), Joe Decosimo (Rocky Creek Ramblers), and Dedo Norris (Rocky Creek Ramblers - Dedo is the bass player for Rocky Creek but also is a great fiddle player), hosted by Chris Silver. Also on Friday will be an old-time jam with Howard Rains and Tricia Spencer, and a square dance with the Waxwing Stringband - the resident band of the Waldmann Brewery Tuesday night jam. We're very excited to have Corey Mohan calling the square dance Friday night. Corey is such a fun caller and it's been a while since we've had the opportunity to enjoy his calling.

Saturday the focus is dance and song, with a Songwriting Showcase with Larry Cordle, a MBOTMA Songwriter showcase hosted by Tom Peschges



Photo: Pat O'Loughlin

(participants includes Yvonne “Boom” Bilotta Burke, Brent Fuqua, Tom Furrer, Kim Monson, Tom Peschges, and John Whitehead), and a Meeting House sing-a-long with Sherry Minnick. Also on Saturday, Dance Hall coordinator Rina Rossi will be teaching a square dance calling 101 workshop for anyone wanting to learn to call a simple and fun square dance. Dancers are needed too, so if you want to come by and be a demo dancer for the new callers, please do. You might just end up learning to call too! Since it was so fun last year, we're doing the Upper Midwest Folk Fiddlers Happy Hour Dance again this year featuring polkas, schottisches, waltzes, and other Upper Midwest dance styles. And

of course, another roaring square dance Saturday night with the Rocky Creek Ramblers and Rina Rossi calling. All are welcome, no experience necessary. Just show up ready to have a great time to stellar music.

Finally on Sunday morning, the most important part of the weekend - the dance floor tear down! MBOTMA needs about 12 or so folks with good backs who can help unscrew the dance boards and load them onto pallets for storing till next year. We'll provide water, snacks, gloves, and tools, but if you have a drill and a star bit that you can bring, please do! It usually takes about an hour or an hour and a half to get it all packed up so we can use it again next year.

2023 August Festival Raffle Items

Dan Deurloo at Reverb and Echo studio in Hugo, MN will capture you in a live in-studio performance

VALUE \$1,800.00

- The video will be a live performance from the artists.
- We use multiple cameras and work with the artist to get a great performance from and for the artists.
- We will then edit the video and audio on a later date and get you a finished video that you can use.
- This style video is excellent to promote you for gigs, promote a single, or to post to your socials.
- We can do a daytime shoot or a night time shoot depending on your schedule and what kind of look you are going for.



You can view sample videos on Youtube @ReverbAndEcho

Donner A Style Mandolin

List Price \$129

Specifications:

- Size: 28 Inch, Color: Sunburst
 - Number of Frets: 20
 - Tuning Machines: Die-Cast Steel
 - Hand Orientation: Right, Neck "C" Shape:
 - Back, Sides, Body, Top, Neck
- Material: AAA African Mahogany



Donner DML-100 Mandolin bundle includes all the accessories you need to start playing right out of the box. Includes: DML-1 Mandolin, gig bag, DT-2 tuner, strings, picks, PVC pickguard & polishing cloth.

2024 August Festival gift pack for two Valued at \$400.00+



VIP Package for Two includes:

- 2 Full weekend tickets (includes rough camping)
- Reserved seating at main stage
- \$40 in MBOTMA merchandise
- \$40 in MBOTMA bucks (good for food vendors)
- Up to 4 cart rides anytime to anywhere during festival

Martin® Authentic Acoustic® Superior Performance SP® strings 10pkgs. @ \$7.50 ea Valued at \$75

These strings were donated by Willie/Doug @ Willie's Guitars

(651) 699-1913 ST. PAUL, MN

We are raffling off FIVE (5) boxes of 10 pkgs. of

Martin Authentic Acoustic strings **5 WINNERS!**

3-10pkgs of # MA540 phosphor bronze light

2-10pkgs of # MA550 phosphor bronze medium

Drawing at 2023 August Festival

8:05 PM Saturday August 12th, 2023

MBOTMA, License #X-04879-23-023

Proceeds benefit the: **Minnesota Bluegrass & Old Time Music Association**



Minnesota *Bluegrass* Fall Jam

November 10-13,
2023

Crowne Plaza
Minneapolis West Hotel
3131 Campus Drive,
Plymouth MN

Tim Stafford

3 day Songwriting Workshop

The Waddington Brothers

Brotherhood of Birds - The Foxgloves

Barefoot Bluegrass - Chirps Smith & Company

Ukester Brown - Lil' Rev - Dale and Brenda Moe

Annie Savage - THUG Ensemble Lite

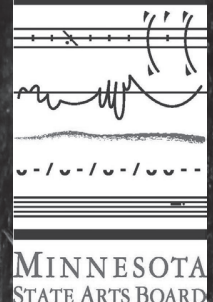
Stage shows - Fireside Live Open Mic

GMUG - Workshops - Theme jams



Minnesota *Bluegrass.org*

The following events are presented or supported in part by the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Association and made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



Minnesota *Bluegrass* Fall Jam

Songwriting Workshop with Tim Stafford

November 10-12, 2023
Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West Hotel
Plymouth, MN

The 2023 Songwriter's Workshop will be held November 9th through the 11th in conjunction with the MBOTMA Fall Jam at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West.

This year's Workshop instructor will be Tim Stafford!

Tim taught at various colleges and universities until he formed Blue Highway in 1994 with Wayne Taylor, Shawn Lane, Rob Ickes and Jason Bursleson. The band is one of the most decorated and influential in bluegrass history, having been nominated for three Grammys, winning a Dove Award, and nearly 30 IBMA Awards. In March 2016, Blue Highway was named the most popular bluegrass artist in history in an online poll by Bluegrass Today.

Tim is a prolific songwriter, with over 250 songs recorded. He co-wrote IBMA's 2008 Song of the Year, "Through the Window of a Train," and was named IBMA's Songwriter of the Year in 2014 and 2017. In addition, he is a sought-after studio musician, having recorded with over 75 artists in addition to Blue Highway, including Willie Nelson, Kenny Chesney, Jorma Kaukonen, Jesse McReynolds, Benny Sims, Marty Raybon, Joe Isaacs, Ronnie Bowman, Charles Sawtelle, Tony Trischka, Larry Sparks, Jim Mills and many others. Tim was named SPBGMA Guitar Performer of the Year in 2001 and 2015. He has produced many award-winning records for various artists, including Kenny Chesney, The Infamous Stringdusters

(IBMA 2007 co-album of the Year) and Knee Deep in Bluegrass, the Acutab Sessions (IBMA 2001 Instrumental Recorded Performance of the Year). Tim performed many times with Hazel Dickens, including at the Lincoln Center in New York (2006), Sundance Film Festival, Park City, UT (2005), Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, San Francisco, CA (2010), and



Wintergrass, Tacoma, WA (2003). He has taught at nearly all the bluegrass-oriented camps, including Rockygrass Academy, Camp Bluegrass (South Plains College, TX), Augusta Heritage, Wintergrass Academy, Sore Fingers (UK), Bluegrass at the Beach, Nashcamp, Kaufman's Flatpicking Camp, California Bluegrass Association Camp at Grass Valley, St. Louis Flatpick, Resosummit, Summergrass Academy, Grand Targhee, Great Lakes Music Camp, Bluegrass

Masters Weekend, Ashokan Bluegrass Camp and Nashville Flatpick and Songwriting Camp.

You can spend three days with Tim in a very small group right here in Minneapolis. What we have discovered in each of the years we have held this workshop is that the inspiration drawn from each of the instructors we have hosted

at our workshop is vitally important but is only half the story. The other part is spending three days totally immersed in songwriting with 20 or so other like-minded folks. Friendships are formed that last well beyond the three days and collaborations bring forth songs that never would have happened otherwise. It's a GREAT experience and that's why many of our attendees return, year after year!

The workshop fee is only \$250 which is very reasonable for a three day event. And your fee includes full admission to the Fall Jam, which includes workshops, main stage performances,

Jams, Draw Bands, Ukulele, Old-Time and Bluegrass. Fireside Live (Open Stage) and so much more! Regular price for just the festival admission is \$65, so you can see what a great deal this is. Also, if you wish to stay at the Crowne Plaza, we have a special room rate of \$105 per night. Be sure to ask for the bluegrass rate when you book

Get signed up today: <https://www.minnesotabluegrass.org/event-5350631>

Rhonda Vincent & the Rage

Rhonda Vincent is a firecracker of talent powering one of the hottest bands in any genre of music today. From humble beginnings in the tiny town of Greentop, Missouri, Rhonda's musical heritage traces back five generations of the Vincent family. Her dad would pick her up from school each day, and they would sing and play till dinner. After dinner, friends came over, and they would sing and play till bedtime. She began her professional music career singing in her family's band, The Sally Mountain Show. It was an immediate "on the job training," as they had a TV show, radio show, and made their first recording when Rhonda was five years old. She picked up the mandolin at eight, the fiddle at twelve, and learned a valuable life lesson as a teenager performing with her family at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. While they were playing in the pouring rain to empty seats, and what they thought, no one listening -- a week later they received a call from Hal Durham, general manager of the Grand Ole Opry at the time, who just happened to be listening with his family around the corner. Mr. Durham loved what he heard and invited the Vincent family to appear on the Opry.

Rhonda's life of music evolved into a successful career in bluegrass music; after being discovered by Grand Ole Opry Star "Jim Ed Brown," and later spending what she calls her musical college years recording for Giant Records; and learning about the music business from Nashville's Best like James Stroud, Jack McFadden, and Stan Barnett.

It was her pivotal bluegrass album *Back Home Again* that transformed Rhonda Vincent into the All American Bluegrass Girl, crowned the New Queen of Bluegrass by *The Wall Street Journal* in 2000.

She is a multi-award winner, with a 2017 Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album, an Entertainer of the Year 2001, Song of the Year 2004, and unprecedented seven



consecutive Female Vocalist of the Year awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association 2000 – 2006 and an eighth win of IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year in 2015.

Her lifelong dream came true when she was invited to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry on February 28, 2020. Rhonda waited an unprecedented 345

days and was officially inducted as a member of the Grand Ole Opry on February 6, 2021.

Her powerful vocal style transcends the boundaries of bluegrass music, as evidenced in her collaboration with Dolly Parton on the Elton John / Bernie Taupin Tribute *Project Restoration* in 2018.

43rd Annual

Minnesota Bluegrass

August Festival 2023 Entertainment Schedule

THURSDAY : FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Main Stage Thursday

Presented by



Ranch House

7pm to 12am

Ranch House Live:

Open Mic in the
Ranch House

Sign up at the Ranch House
after 6pm each day.

Market Place Stage

Presented by

Domino's
of Anoka



Evening Show

6:00	Jam Camp
6:50	Rosby Corner
7:40	Flattgrass Revival
8:30	Monroe Crossing
9:20	Def Lester
10:10	Po' Ramblin' Boys
11:00	Close

Sound provided by

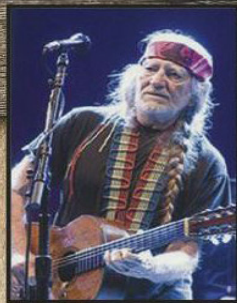
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4-6pm
Family Fun Fair
Games and prizes
5:00 pm
Rusty Playground

Main Stage presented by

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Minnesota Bluegrass August Festival Program 2023

FRIDAY: MINNESOTA BLUEGRASS AUGUST FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Main Stage Friday

Presented by



Afternoon Show

MC: Pam Kulpailo
 1:00pm Spencer & Rains
 1:50pm Po' Ramblin' Boys
 2:40pm Monroe Crossing
 3:30pm Pale Ales BG Band
 4:20pm Dave Adkins Band

5:00 Dinner Break

Evening Show

MC: Tony Andreason
 6:00pm Family Talent Show Winners
 6:05pm Rocky Creek Ramblers
 6:45pm Def Lester
 7:30pm Pale Ales BG Band
 8:15pm Larry Sparks & Lonesome Ramblers
 9:40pm Chris Silver Band
 10:20pm Dave Adkins Band
 11:00pm Close

Sound provided by

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Showcase and Dance Tent

Presented by



Yoga with Lucy Weberling

3:00pm

Fiddle Showcase: hosted by
 Chris Silver with Layla Contafio,
 Tricia Spencer, Wally Hughes, Joe
 Decosimo, Dedo Norris

4:00pm

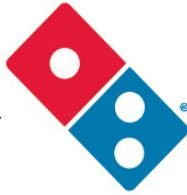
Old-Time Jam with
 Spencer & Rains

8 - 10:00pm

Square Dance:
 Waxwing Stringband
 with Corey Mohan calling

Market Place Stage

Presented by



Domino's of Anoka

11:00am
 Rosby Corner

5:00pm
 Harpers Chord

Workshop Area

10:00am
 Tent A: OT fiddle
 Pamela Longtine America
 Tent B: Fiddler's Toolkit, all
 levels - Tom Schaefer

11:00am
 Tent A: BG Mandolin (ad-
 vanced) CJ Lewandowski
 Tent B: BG fiddle (advanced)
 Wally Hughes

12:00pm
 Tent A: OT fiddle (advanced)
 AJ Srubas
 Tent B: Guitar (beginner)
 Ari Silver

1:00pm
 Tent A: Banjo (advanced)
 Zack Vikers
 Tent B: Banjo, beginner
 Dave Gustafson

2:00pm
 Tent B: Guitar: rhythm guitar,
 technique building,
 chord substitution
 Clay Hess

3pm
 Tent A: Guitar (intermediate)
 Jon Garon and Clay Hess
 Learning Doc Watson Licks

4:00pm
 Tent A: OT banjo,
 sawmill tuning
 Mike Sawyer

Tent B: Mandolin
 (beginner/intermediate)
 Winning Rhythms
 Brent Fuqua

*Hands-On- Workshops:

Limited to ten people
 with instruments.

Sign- up sheets posted 9:45am
 each day.

- Tent A: Level - Advanced
- Tent B: Level- Beginner

Family Area

Presented by



**GRUBER
 PALLETS, INC.**

10:00am
 Free Play

10:30am
 Sloughgrass Absolute Beginner
 Instrument Workshop

11:30am
 Family Jam with the Halvorsons

12:30pm
 Carver Creek

1:00pm
 Talent Show

2:00pm
 The Waverly Girls

2:45pm
 The Reynolds Family

3:30pm

Family Area Live Open Stage

Ranch House

7:00 Ranch House Live:

Open mic from 7:00- midnight
 Sign up at the Ranch House after
 6pm each day.



Presented by



MC: Stephanie Owen
 6:00pm Rusty Playground
 7:00pm High Flyin' Turkeys
 8:00pm La Plant Road
 9:00pm Maygen &
 The Birdwatcher
 10:00pm Pistol Whippin'
 Party Penguins

Gathering Place

Presented by



2-3pm

Pale Ales Bluegrass Band
 Jam with the Band!



SATURDAY: MINNESOTA BLUEGRASS AUGUST FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Main Stage Saturday

Presented by



Afternoon Show

MC: Tony Stachnik
 1:00pm Rocky Creek Ramblers
 1:50pm Platte Valley Boys
 2:40pm Larry Cordle Band
 3:30pm Dave Adkins Band
 4:20pm Mash Tun

5:00 Dinner Break

Evening Show

MC: Kim Monson
 6:00pm Family Talent Show Winners
 6:05pm Spencer & Rains
 6:45pm Platte Valley Boys
 7:30pm Larry Cordle Band
 8:05 Raffle drawing
 8:15pm Rhonda Vincent & the Rage
 9:40pm Dave Adkins Band
 10:20pm Chris Silver Band
 11pm Close

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Showcase and Dance Tent

Presented by



10 - 11:00am
 Yoga with Lucy Weberling

11am
 Larry Cordle - Songwriting

12:00pm
 Dance Calling 101
 learn to call one simple square dance - Rina Rossi

1 - 3:00pm
 Tom Peschges
 Songwriting In the Round

3:15pm
 Sherry Minnick - Meeting House
 Songs (sing-a-long)

4:30 - 5:30
 Happy Hour Dance with
 Upper Midwest Folk Fiddlers

7:30 - 9:30pm
 Square Dance with Rocky Creek
 Ramblers, Rina Rossi calling.
 All are welcome.

Market Place Stage

Presented by



**Domino's
 of Anoka**

10:00am
 The Teacher and The Mailman

11:00am

Hummin' Birds

5:00pm

Rozy Daze

Workshop Area

10:00am
 Tent B: OT banjo (beginner)
 Craig Evans
 w/ Pamela Lorigtine America

11:00am
 Tent A: Guitar (intermediate)
 Lew Tousignant
 Advance Your Chord Voicings
 Tent B: OT guitar
 (beginner/intermediate)
 Rina Rossi

1:00pm
 Tent A: Bass (intermediate)
 David Tousley & JD Shaffer
 Tent B: Mandolin
 basic moveable chords
 Ross Vaughan

2:00pm
 Tent A: OT fiddle (advanced)
 Trisha Spencer
 Tent B: Bass (beginner)
 Vaughn Asselstine
 Timing, & Laying Down a
 Groove

3:00pm
 Tent A: OT fiddle (advanced)
 Joseph Decosimo
 Tent B: BG mandolin
 Liz Ashworth & Ben Valine

4:00pm
 Tent A: OT fiddle (intermediate)
 Deb Wallwork & John Heine
 Play better by ear!

*Hands-On- Workshops:
 Limited to ten people
 with instruments.

Sign- up sheets posted 9:45am
 each day.

- Tent A: Level - Advanced
- Tent B: Level- Beginner

Family Area

Presented by



**GRUBER
 PALLETTS, INC.**

10:00am
 Free Play

10:30am
 Sloughgrass Absolute Beginner
 Instrument Workshop

11:30am
 Family Jam With the Halvorsons

12:30pm

Sloughgrass

1:00pm

Talent Show

2:00

SetTBD

2:45pm

Makin' Bacon

3:30pm

Family Area Live Open Stage

Ranch House

7:00 Ranch House Live:

Open mic from 7:00- midnight
 Sign up at the Ranch House after
 6pm each day.



Presented by



American Guitars

MC: Stephanie Owen
 6:00pm La Plant Road
 7:00pm North Ridge
 8:00pm High Flyin'
 Turkeys
 9:00pm Rusty Playground
 10:00pm Maygen &
 The Birdwatcher

Gathering Place

Presented by



12:00pm
 Learn to Play Bluegrass Fiddle
 Brian Wicklund

1pm

Meet the MBOATMA Board-Q&A

2:00pm

David Vincent

Want to build an instrument?

What you need to know

3-4pm

The Platte Valley Boys

Jam with the Band!

SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Main Stage Sunday

Presented by



Gospel Show	
MC:	
10:00am	Flattgrass Revival
10:50am	Gloryland Gospel Band
11:40am	Larry Cordle Band
12:30pm	Close

Sound provided by
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Showcase and Dance Tent

10:00am
 Dance Floor Pack Up Party
 a dozen volunteers needed to come take the dance floor apart and store it for next year. Bring a drill and star bit if you have one!



The Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Association is a non-profit, member driven organization that you can join. Visit us at www.MinnesotaBluegrass.org or call 651-456-8919. Ask to be on our free mailing list or ask about becoming a member and receiving our monthly magazine Minnesota Bluegrass. Check out our other annual festivals:

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2024 Minnesota Bluegrass August Festival

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MBOTMA Festival Raffle

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Prize #1) Video Package from Reverb and Echo
 Prize #2) Donner A Style Mandolin

Prize #3) 2024 August Festival Gift Pack for Two

All proceeds benefit the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Association. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and are available in the Main Concert Area at the raffle & membership table across from the MBOTMA merchandise booth.

Winners will be drawn at 8:05 PM Saturday on the Mainstage.

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Larry Sparks & the Lonesome Ramblers

Larry Sparks is a dedicated leader for bluegrass music and is among the most widely known and respected touring musicians in bluegrass and gospel music today. Larry began his career in 1963 as a guitarist with the Stanley Brothers and later became lead vocalist for Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys. Larry went on to form his own band in 1969, The Lonesome Ramblers. He has recorded and toured with his band for 53 years, releasing over 60 albums and delighting countless fans with his soulful vocals and unparalleled musicianship.

He has released such hits as "John Deere Tractor," "A Face in the Crowd," "Tennessee 1949," "Blue Virginia Blues," "I Just Want To Thank You Lord," "Love of the Mountains," "Goodbye Little Darlin'," "You Could Have Called," "Tribute to Hank Williams," "Green Pastures in the Sky," and the list goes on.

Larry has performed on world famous venues such as the Grand Ole Opry, and television shows, such as Austin City Limits and Song of the Mountains on PBS. He has toured the United States, Canada, and Japan.

Larry has been recognized as the International Bluegrass Music Association's Male Vocalist of the Year. Larry also was awarded Album of the Year and Recorded Event of the Year with his album *Larry Sparks 40* featuring artists such as Alison Krauss, Vince Gill, Ralph Stanley, Ricky Skaggs, Tom T. Hall and many more.

Larry was inducted into The International Bluegrass Music Hall Of Fame Oct 1, 2015. Larry received the honor of being inducted into the Bill Monroe Bluegrass Hall of Fame. He has also been inducted into The George D. Hays Hall of Fame Founder of The Grand Ole Opry.

Larry's *A Classic 50th Celebration* CD was released in the spring of 2014, featuring bluegrass legends Ralph Stanley, Curly Seckler, Bobby Osborne, Jesse

McReynolds, Alison Krauss and Judy Marshall.

While Sparks is most definitely a stylist and his approach to the music is more than a style, it is real with no gimmicks. After 50 years in the spotlight, Larry is still on a roll and creating some of his best music. Larry Sparks is bluegrass music's Ray Charles; no one can

touch him. "He is an absolute original" - Alison Krauss.

Sparks' style is mature, seasoned and deeply expressive.

Throughout his long career Larry has stuck with what works. He has followed his vision and has made an enormous contribution to the music. Larry Sparks has kept his music real.



Minnesota
Bluegrass.org

Larry Cordle Band

Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter Larry Cordle was born and raised on a small family farm in eastern Kentucky. He is best known for his highly successful songwriting talents, including the #1 hit song, "Highway 40 Blues," recorded by Ricky Skaggs. In addition, many other artists, such as Alison Krauss, Garth Brooks, George Strait, Trisha Yearwood, Reba McEntire, Diamond Rio, and Alan Jackson, have recorded Cordle's original songs.

Cordle is also an award-winning and chart-topping singer, achieving success with his solo and band albums. He is often featured as a lead and background vocalist on some of Nashville's most awarded and popular music. In addition, he's provided harmony vocals for artists such as Garth Brooks, Blake Shelton, and many more.

In 1992, Larry Cordle, Glen Duncan, and Lonesome Standard Time received a 35th Annual Grammy Award Nomination for Best Bluegrass Album for *Lonesome Standard Time* and took home the 1993 IBMA Song of the Year Award for the title track. In 2000, the band received a 43rd Annual Grammy Award Nomination for Best Bluegrass Album for *Murder On Music Row*, with the title track winning the 2000 IBMA Song of the Year Award. It remains one of the most popular songs of his career. In addition, he received an IBMA Song of the Year nomination for "Black Diamond Strings."

Cordle is featured on *Living, Lovin*,

Losin: A Tribute to the Louvin Brothers, which won a Grammy for Best Country Album in 2003 and received the IBMA Recorded Event of the Year Award in 2004. Cordle is featured on two tracks of *Moody Bluegrass*, released in 2004, alongside Tim O'Brien, Alison

by Cordle on Mighty Cord Records.

In 2017, Cordle released his powerful all-gospel album *Give Me Jesus*, which received a 2018 Grammy Nomination for Best Roots Gospel Album and a 2017 IBMA Gospel Recorded Event of the Year Nomination for the title track, a traditional tune arranged by Cordle. In 2018, he released another album on his Mighty Cord Records label titled *Tales From East Kentucky*, followed by *Where The Trees Know My Name*, in 2021.

In 2022, he received a Gospel Music Association Dove Award for Bluegrass/Country/Roots Recorded Song of the Year for the song, "In the Sweet By and By" by Dolly Parton, featuring Larry Cordle, Carl Jackson, Jerry

Salley, and Bradley Walker. The group also took home two International Bluegrass Music Association awards including Collaborative Recording of the Year Award and the Gospel Recorded Song of the Year Award. In addition, Cordle popped back on the radio charts with his original song, "East Kentucky Blues," which reached #1 numerous times on the Bluegrass Today Top 20 Weekly and Monthly Song charts and was named in the publication's Top 50 Songs of 2022 and continues charting into 2023.

Cordle regularly records and performs. He is still, first and foremost, a songwriter, now writing independently for his own company, Wandachord Music, BMI. He is a long-time resident of the Nashville suburb of Hendersonville, Tennessee, where he lives with his wife, Wanda.



Krauss, John Cowan, Harley Allen, et al., and again as lead vocalist on *Moody Bluegrass II*.

In 2006, *Celebration of Life: Musicians Against Childhood Cancer* won the IBMA Album of the Year Award. In 2011, Cordle released his Americana album, *Pud Marcum's Hangin*. In 2012, he co-produced the IBMA Recorded Event of the Year Award-winning album *Life Goes On*. The album includes the talents of Larry Cordle, Carl Jackson, Ronnie Bowman, Jerry Salley, and more. In April 2015, Larry Cordle was inducted into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame, celebrating his impressive career in music. The same year he received an IBMA Recorded Event of the Year Award Nomination for the song "Against the Grain" by Larry Cordle & Lonesome Standard Time featuring Garth Brooks, produced

Dave Adkins Band

There is no mistaking the raw and powerful vocals by singer, songwriter, and guitarist Dave Adkins. His significant chart success, coupled with his stellar live performances, have made him one of the most talked-about male vocalists in acoustic music.

Adkins was born in Pikeville, Kentucky, and makes his home in Elkhorn City. When he was just eight years old, he began playing and singing and joined a band with classmates performing at schools and other venues. At 17, he began playing bluegrass music at Dollywood, where he stayed for two years. A year later, Adkins was named a Kentucky Colonel – the highest title of honor bestowed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Commissions for Kentucky colonels by the Governor and the Secretary of State are given to individuals to recognize noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding service to a community, state, or nation. He is also a proud Mason and Shriner.

After Dollywood, Adkins took a turn doing solo country shows and later performed with a rock band in Chicago. He also served as a Country Radio DJ as Brave Dave Adkins, the Original Midnight Cowboy at WBHR in Pikeville, Kentucky.

In 2010, he returned to the genre that was his first love, bluegrass, and formed the group Dave Adkins & Republik Steele. Adkins' soulful vocals earned him a 2013 SPBGMA nomination as Male Vocalist of the Year in the Contemporary category.

Adkins is also an accomplished songwriter, contributing three original

songs to the band's *That's Just The Way I Roll* on the Rural Rhythm Records in 2013. The album made its debut #7 on Billboard's Top 10 Bluegrass Album Chart and appeared in a CMT feature article titled "New Independent Music" along with the Steeldrivers and Wood and Wires.

Adkins was asked to join the all-star artist line-up for the February 12, 2013

garnered the #1 spot on Sirius XM Bluegrass Junction's Most Played Tracks.

Mountain Fever Records released a collaborative album with Dave Adkins and Edgar Loudermilk in March 2015 titled *Adkins & Loudermilk* that helped garner the duo a Nomination by the International Bluegrass Music Association for the 2015 Emerging Artist of the Year Award.

In February 2016, Mountain Fever Records released the self-titled album by Dave Adkins that made its debut at #1 on Billboard's Top 10 Bluegrass Album Chart and reached #1 on Sirius XM Bluegrass Junction's Most Played Albums in December 2016.

In January 2018, Mountain Fever Records released the single "Blood Feud," co-written and performed by Dave Adkins and Larry Cordle. The song quickly hit the bluegrass charts, reach-

ing #1 on the Bluegrass Today Top 20.

In May 2018, the label released Adkins' album *Right Or Wrong* that appeared regularly on Sirius XM Bluegrass Junction's Most Played Albums in 2018.

In September 2019, Mountain Fever Records released Dave Adkins' album *Better Days*. The first single, "Better Days A Coming," was written by Dave and his wife Katrina (her first songwriting credit). It made its debut on the Bluegrass Today Top 20 chart the day of the album's release.

In 2021, Morning Glory Music (part of the Mountain Fever Records label) released a new single by Dave Adkins titled, "Say Jesus" to Christian radio. Dave co-wrote this contemporary gospel song with Tim McDonald.



album, *God Didn't Choose Sides, Volume 1 – Civil War True Stories About Real People*. This album also features Marty Raybon, Lonesome River Band, Carrie Hassler, Russell Moore, Ronnie Bowman, Dale Ann Bradley, and more.

By February 2014, Adkins moved to the Mountain Fever Records label and released his first solo album, *Nothing To Lose*. He again contributed his songwriting talents by penning three originals and co-writing another track that, at that time, was his most chart-successful album. It appeared on the Bluegrass Unlimited Magazine's National Bluegrass Survey Top 30 Song Chart for ten months, reaching as high as #2, and was named in the publication's Best of 2014. The title track, "Nothing to Lose,"

Po' Ramblin' Boys

"Every so often a band comes around that knocks everybody's socks off and gets people talking. I'd bet good money that you're gonna really enjoy them, but I don't want to take your money. Use it to listen to the PRB. I'm putting my money on them." -Jim Lauderdale

At a time when most people feel constantly distracted by technology and barraged by the news, authenticity and straightforward honesty are paramount. There's something about the music of The Po' Ramblin' Boys that cuts right through the noise of the world and speaks plainly to the soul. Formed in the Smoky Mountains, The Po' Ramblin' Boys are at once exactly what you would expect and not at all what you would expect from a tattooed East Tennessee Bluegrass outfit. No strangers to hard work, the boys are as much at home riding in their restored Eagle tour bus as they are crawling underneath to fix it when it needs maintenance. But they take pride in being ambassadors of their genre, and the group has brought their music from rural bluegrass festival stages to the rock clubs of Europe, and even the Grammy Red Carpet, with stunning results. "I think to a certain extent everyone is just craving music that they can feel, and any music that feels real will reach any audience," says CJ Lewandowski, the group's founder, "We want to put bluegrass right where it's least expected." Perhaps this mindset is why the group earned the title of Emerging Artist of the Year at the 2018 IBMA Awards.

In 2014, Lewandowski was working at Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery in Sevierville, TN when the band first formed. The distillery employed musicians to play for visitors seven days a week, and Lewandowski, who primarily plays mandolin and sings, was occasionally hired to fill in when the entertainment didn't show. Eventually, the distillery approached him about forming a band for a full-time slot, so he reached out to longtime music friends Jereme Brown, who plays banjo for the



group, and Josh Rinkel, who plays guitar. "Jereme was doing a lot of welding work at that time, and Josh was running a sign company," says Lewandowski, "I think we were all ready to do something new, something with our music, but we didn't know when or how." Bassist Jasper Lorentzen happened to be working in the tasting room at the distillery, and he turned out to be the perfect addition to the band. The four friends played multiple times a week for a year and a half, honing their band sound. Meanwhile word was spreading about their music. "The first gig we played out of town was a festival in Alberta, Canada, and a week later we went on a two week tour of Europe, it was crazy," says Lewandowski. In 2020, the finishing touch, the cherry on top if you will, was added to the quartet. Laura Orshaw, a seasoned fiddle player and singer, joined the Boys after contributing her talents to the Sound Biscuit Productions' full Gospel album, *God's Love is So Divine* and *Toils, Tears, & Trouble*. On the addition C.J. exclaims, "After five and a half years together as a four piece, we needed that perfect fit that would not only fit us on stage and recording, but a personality that would

add to the band and be a part of the family we have created. Laura was that person, and we can't think of anyone else that fits our music and our family better than her. The show has benefited so much from Laura and the chemistry we have between the now five of us."

Material for the group's freshman Rounder Records album *Toil, Tears & Trouble* was a combination of original songs and old numbers that honor the group's mentors and bluegrass heroes. "We love to dig up old songs that haven't been heard in years and bring them back into the spotlight," explains Lewandowski. In fact, two of those gems on the Rounder album, "Next Train South" and "Hickory, Walnut & Pine," were nominated for IBMA Song of the Year along with "Next Train South" taking the trophy for SPBGMA same category in 2020. The momentum of *Toil, Tears & Trouble* has continued to grow with the band's first Grammy Nomination for Best Bluegrass Album.

The Po' Ramblin' Boys' passion for bluegrass is as clear as it is contagious. With a heavy touring schedule across the United States and Europe and the recent Grammy Nomination with Rounder Re-

cords, the Boys are well on their way to becoming the quintessential bluegrass band of their generation. Despite all of their recent success, they maintain a humble perspective. “Bluegrass has left such a mark on us that we feel like we owe something back to the music,” says Lewandowski. “We want to do something for the music to show our appre-

ciation... There’s no telling what could have happened to us, what we would have become if we hadn’t found this music. It’s gotten us through a lot, the good and the bad. When I think about all of the damn medications that I didn’t have to take because I had music to turn to. We didn’t have to go to the doctor and pay for something to make us feel better,

because we had this music, so we really want to honor it by bringing it out of the shadows and onto new stages and wider audiences. Because we know that if we can bring bluegrass to new folks, those folks will come with us and support the bluegrass community.”

Monroe Crossing

Monroe Crossing performs an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, original bluegrass and some surprising selections outside the bluegrass genre. Named in honor of Bill Monroe, the Father of Bluegrass Music, Monroe Crossing’s superb musicianship and on-stage rapport have entertained audiences throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

For over 20 years this Minnesota based band has averaged over 100 shows a year, performing in intimate rooms, community theaters, major venues and outdoor festivals. They are favorites among bluegrass connoisseurs and non-bluegrass audiences alike. They love introducing newcomers to bluegrass music!

Monroe Crossing consists of four distinct personalities with differing musical backgrounds. When combined, their individual histories make for a unique sound. The three original members are: Mark Anderson (bass), Lisa Fuglie (fiddle & lead vocals) and Matt Thompson (mandolin & harmony vocals). Derek Johnson (guitar & lead vocals) joined in 2011 and also provides the booking duties for the band. The group utilizes a cadre of very talented banjo players, all of whom are alumni of the group. They are: Benji Flaming, David Robinson and



Graham Sones.

In 2007, Monroe Crossing was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. They have twice been selected to showcase at the annual World of Bluegrass convention hosted by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA). They have also appeared twice at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2016, Monroe Crossing had the honor of being the first Minnesota bluegrass band to perform in South Korea.

Monroe Crossing has released 17 al-

bums to date. The band’s diverse discography consists of traditional bluegrass, original bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, a tribute to Bill Monroe, classic country, Christmas music and two collaborations with the award-winning choir Vocal Essence.

Whether playing bluegrass or material outside the genre, Monroe Crossing is one of the most entertaining acts in bluegrass today!

Chris Silver Band

Chris Silver plays roots music, but he doesn't stop there. Chris' music is transcendent, and his originals travel a huge landscape of experience and place. He has created a new sound with traditional roots music at the core.

As a musical risk taker, his focus has been on his original sound, adding layers not usually found in traditional music, providing a rich texture to his music, including slide guitar and intricate global rhythms. Chris is as comfortable with his Vintage Martin D-18 as he is with his Fender Tele. His eclectic approach in playing his original acoustic, blues, folk and jam band music has shaped Silver's songs to the point where they could be compared to Ry Cooder's early '70s work. In a given set, you are likely to hear a song by Lowell George, The Meters, Bill Monroe, and of course, his own compositions.

Chris spent five years touring with the acclaimed bluegrass band Stoney Lonesome, and when Kate MacKenzie left the band in 1994, she asked Chris to tour with her. Chris and Kate toured



coast-to-coast for three years playing major festivals, including The World Expo in Japan, The Strawberry Music Festival in California, The Delaware Valley Bluegrass Festival, and numerous

appearances on National Public Radio's *A Prairie Home Companion*.

One thing is for sure, his energy is infectious and he'll leave you wanting more.

Rocky Creek Ramblers

The Rocky Creek Ramblers conjure up a delicious throwback sound—earthy fiddle, percolating three-finger banjo, spanking mandolin chops, and tasty guitar and bass runs. Add some fine songs, drawn from the old-school bluegrass and old-time repertoire, and you've got the Ramblers.

A hard driving fiddler and singer, Joseph Decosimo has won blue ribbons at the finest fiddle contests in the South. Ken Landreth cut his teeth in the renowned Galax, VA scene and plays a three-finger banjo style that weaves perfectly around Joseph's fiddle. A fixture in the NC old-time/bluegrass scene and former Big Medicine member, Jim Collier lends his fine singing and mandolin



playing to the band. Jim Nelson brings years of experience playing rhythm guitar and singing in the hottest string

bands in the Midwest. Dedo Norris's bass rounds it all out for a thick, driving string band sound.

Spencer and Rains

Tricia Spencer and Howard Rains are fiddlers, singers, multi-instrumentalists, and artists.

Tricia is a Kansan who grew up learning the tradition of old-time music from her Grandpa, Vernon Spencer. At an early age, she was perched up on some stage tapping her foot to the sound of fiddles, banjos, mandolins, and guitars. Tricia has studied with some of the great masters in old-time music and is highly sought after as a performer, dance fiddler, and instructor.

Howard is an artist and fiddler from Texas, now living in Kansas, who comes from a family rich in both of those traditions. Howard plays rare, old tunes learned from friends, family, mentors, and old record-



ings. As much known for his painting as his fiddling, Howard has spent many years painting watercolor portraits of

his fellow musicians and is also the lead artist and graphic designer for Tiki Parlour Recordings in Los Angeles.

They met in 2012 and blended their fiddle sounds into a unique voice in old-time music. Together, Spencer & Rains have performed nationally and internationally, singing traditional American folk songs and playing old-time fiddle tunes. They are both steeped in traditional music, yet at the same time, they often take traditions in very personal directions with their tight vocal harmony and distinct twin fiddling. Tricia and Howard

integrate their folk art and folk music in new and exciting ways while always staying true to their roots.

The Pale Ales Bluegrass Band

Over the past 20 years this band, unbeknownst to its members, has been preparing for this moment when they come together musically to honor their mutual love of traditional bluegrass music along with their 1970s Americana influences. This union of musical brotherhood was predicated by each member's musical resume and countless numbers of informal jam sessions with each other. Patience, along with the stars aligning just right, have played a huge part in uniting the five members; Scottie Stebbins (mandolin and vocals), Heath Loy (banjo and vocals), David Tousley (bass and vocals), Marty Marrone (guitar and vocals) and John Niemann (fiddle and vocals). These five musicians have been a driving force in providing top notch bluegrass music to thousands of folks across the Upper Midwest for more than 75 years, combined. From the first Pale Ales set in 2019, the band gained fans and gig offers alike. Walking into 2023,



the plan is to capitalize on that momentum and remind folks how good tradi-

tional bluegrass and Americana music can be.

Def Lester

Def Lester was formed in 2012 by a group of friends who have played together on and off in many configurations for several decades. Theirs is an eclectic mix of traditional bluegrass and new-grass with groove and drive.

Dr. Lincoln Potter, originally from Nashville, has that high, lonesome vocal thing that can only originate from below the Mason Dixon line. His rhythm guitar is on the money.

Ross Vaughan hails from Duluth and is the rhythm king on mandolin. From fiddle tunes to jazz, he can play it all. Longtime member of Cousin Dad, he's rumored to have one of the lowest golf handicaps in the band.

Dr. Tom Schaefer, from South Dakota, is a master on the fiddle. He has played with just about everybody who is

anybody- even us. From swing to bluegrass, he does it all. His sweet tone and versatility make him the go-to guy in

Cousin Dad, is one of those people who can play anything on the bass including solos on fiddle tunes. He's played with groups as diverse as Farm Accident and Cousin Dad to Tangled Roots. His vocal stylings and droll sense of humor are not to be missed.



the area. A current member as well in Cousin Dad, he sees golf as a good walk ruined.

Pete Mathison, another veteran of

Barry St. Mane is one of the most highly regarded and innovative 5-string banjo players in the region. He has played in a number of bluegrass groups going back thirty years, including Buckacre, The Middle Spunk Creek Boys, Minnegrassco, Wheatstraw Suite, The Pretty Good Bluegrass Band and Tangled Roots. The Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Association

named Barry "Favorite Banjo Player" at its 25th Anniversary Celebration, and he is a member of the Minnesota Rock/Country Hall of Fame.

Rosby Corner

Jeanne Marti, Mike Cummings, and Ken Bloch are the Rosby Corner Trio. We play mostly bluegrass, some country, and a bit of blues, with originals. Jeanne, the band leader, plays mandolin and lead vocals and harmonies. She lives in Andover half the year and Naples, Florida the other half. She likes to spend time with her new passion, competitive pickleball. Mike plays guitar and vocals. He lives in Winsted, Minnesota. He has studied blues, bluegrass, jazz, rock, and contemporary folk music his whole life. He sings and plays guitar at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Winsted. Ken plays bass and vocals. He



is from the great bluegrass state of California. He has played with bands for

over 55 years, from blues to bluegrass. He grew up on a street in LA called Bluegrass Way. Please check out our three new recordings on our Rosby Corner facebook page. Joining us this weekend are Johnna Lawrence and Evonne "Boom" Bilotta-Burke. Johnna plays fiddle and lives in Anoka. She teaches middle schoolers how to play stringed instruments in Champlin. She loves to play any style of music and really enjoys singing sweet harmonies. Boom is homegrown here in Minnesota and started singing at a young age. She is a wonderful songwriter and singer. She plays a resonator tenor guitar. She is a former performing arts interpreter and national workshop facilitator.

The Platte Valley Boys

The Platte Valley Boys have been one of the Upper Midwest's foremost bluegrass bands since forming in 1975. Now into their 48th year, they are looking to increase concert and festival appearances and perhaps record a new CD from the wealth of songs they've written.

The band was honored in April 2007 when they were the first bluegrass band inducted into the Minnesota Rock & Country Hall Of Fame. Their music style is considered very traditional bluegrass, defined by the vocal harmonies and driving instrumentation.

Ron Colby, banjo, is the last of the original members. Sadly, co-founders Jim Stebbins, mandolin/guitar, Jerry Lee, guitar, and Howard Pine, bass/dobro/banjo, have all passed on. Ron sings tenor and hi-baritone and writes Gospel songs.

Scott Stebbins, mandolin, has a good reputation as a bluegrass lead singer and writes songs. He is also a member of the Pale Ales Bluegrass Band.

Tony Andreason, guitar, sings lead, baritone, and tenor and writes songs. He



is well-known as lead singer with the legendary rock n' roll band The Trashmen, who toured extensively in the 1960s and had the mega-hit recording "Surfin' Bird."

Tom Schaefer, fiddle, is a favorite and very much in-demand musician and one of the finest fiddlers in the Upper Midwest, or anywhere.

Ross Willits, bass, has played with several bands and has also organized and produced several musical concerts. He has a background in theater management. He sings lead and bass parts with the band.

The Platte Valley Boys like to keep their bluegrass straight and traditional.

Rusty Playground



Rusty Playground is an all acoustic four-piece strings and harmonies band from Central Minnesota and the Twin Cities. We are bluegrass, new-grass, blues, and Americana. We enjoy putting our own twist on things popular and writing new music that reflects who we are individually. We draw our inspiration mostly from the New-Grass community with the like of Greensky Bluegrass, Infamous Stringdusters, Mountain Heart, Tyler Childers, Trampled by Turtles, and Billy Strings, but anything is fair game if we think Making it Rusty would get either a laugh or applause, and some extra feet tapping. Our originals of course follow suit and often find a relatable connection with our audiences because they are written from our own lives and experiences.

Mash Tun

Mash Tun bluegrass band formed when a group of friends (from various famous bands) began to lament over the need for a really hard driving raucous bluegrass jam with free beer and pizza. The good folks at the Excelsior Brewery were open to letting us play there as long as we didn't bother the customers. As luck would have it, the brewery is located next to Olives, which is a really good pizza place to boot. In early 2015 a match was made in heaven. The group met weekly next to a fermenting barrel named Mash Tun and played their fun driving music, throwing in hot licks when so inclined, while eating pizza and drinking beer. As word spread through the community, the Sunday audience of wives and children quickly grew to full house capacity. It's been said that a fat cat at Decca Records says, "We gotta find them boys and gal and sign 'em a big fat contract." Never truer words were spoken!

Mash Tun has almost been nominated for Minnesota Bluegrass Hall



of Fame, Worlds Best Bluegrass Band, FEMA, The Mid Southern Central Bluegrass Hall of Fame, The Terrence Butler Award, Nashville Skyline Rag, The Potter Fellowship, Kickstarter, and the Schaefer Awards to name a few.

Band Members include: The always

lovely Vaughn Asselstine, Bass/Grown Up; Jamey Guy, Banjo/too loud vocals; Lincoln "Precious" Potter, Flat Top Guitar/spot on vocals; Tom "Bone Crusher" Schaefer, Fiddle/quiet vocals; and Ross "Feel'n Randy" Vaughan, Mandolin. <http://www.jameyguypphoto.com/>

FlattGrass Revival



FlattGrass Revival is a Minnesota bluegrass band rooted in the four bandmates' mutual love of traditional bluegrass and Gospel music. FlattGrass members are: Todd Moser: Upright Bass, Vocals; Kimberly Moser: Mandolin, Vocals; Tom Furrer: Guitar, Vocals; Jill Furrer: Fiddle, Vocals. The group's "spot-on" harmonies enhance each rendition of songs from various Americana favorites, in addition to several soulful original tunes. From the opening number of each performance, the "FlattGrass sound" and the group's obvious enjoyment of sharing their music, connect with their audiences.

Maygen & The Birdwatchers

This folk duo-turned-Americana 6-piece adventurously blurs the sounds of country, bluegrass, folk, and blues - keepin' it all fresh. Lead singers Maygen Lacey and Noah Neumann have intentionally worked to draw on their vastly different musical influences and vocal styles to bring a fresh and unexpected set of original songs to fruition. Who needs a playlist when you can get the variety you need in just this one band? If you're into Brandi Carlile vibes in one song, Joe Cocker in the next, and a stacked lineup of musicians that can pull it all off, then Maygen & The Birdwatchers is a sure bet for you.

With the versatility to play in a number of stage configurations ranging from an intimate duo to their exuberant, boot-stomping full band, the group charms a broad range of audiences. From beauty to grit, sadness to silliness, the common thread is that this crew loves music, and playing it together. It shows.

"In many ways, Maygen & The Birdwatchers feel like a collaboration between two distinct artists versus a more seamless band-- but it's that individuality, those visible seams, that make them such a fascinating act." - Adventures In Americana



The High Flying Turkeys



The High Flying Turkeys are a Minnesota based bluegrass band also specializing in acoustic Motown, soul, and R&B. The members consist of Ben Valine, Jake Ashworth, Jeff Warren, Kristof Chara, and Liz Ashworth. While the Turkeys are a relatively new band, individually they have experience performing in the Midwest and Nashville, as well as touring internationally.

Gloryland Gospel Band



Gloryland Gospel Band began in 1998 under Wayne Luchau's direction, playing Elvis, Gospel tunes, traditional hymns (more recently bluegrassed up) and other Gospel songs.

The last few years we have thoroughly enjoyed MBOTMA, singing at the Gospel Shows on Sunday mornings and leading jams.

We frequent the Twin Cities senior homes and clubs. The memories we call to mind when we sing old familiar hymns bring a smile to the faces everywhere we perform. One of our favorite venues is the ForEver Friends Club. They are a Christian organization helping young adults with disabilities.

Other notable venues: Church ser-

vices and special celebrations, Prairie Home Companion, Mall of America, Veterans Home.

If you are looking for a dynamic Christian group that adds "toe-tapping sparkle and inspiration" to your events, please contact us!

www.glorylandgospelband.com.

glorylandgb@gmail.com

North Ridge

North Ridge is an acoustic folk trio from the Twin Cities that has been actively releasing music and playing live shows since Fall of 2018. The trio includes Maddie Forsythe, Jeff Narlock and Justin Rude, all contributing to the instrumentation of violin, mandolin, guitar, piano, and occasional banjo. The band began releasing singles, including their most popular song today, "My Way Home" in late 2019. North Ridge spent 2020 completing their debut album *Tried and True* which was released in March of 2021 followed by a live virtual release show. That summer, the band placed third in the Minnesota State Fair talent show debuting a new single "Gone South" at the Grandstand, which kick-started their drive for more music. North Ridge continued releasing singles and promoting their album through shows at the Turf Club, breweries, and the Afton Art Fair as well as creating several music videos. Currently, the band is gearing



up to release an EP called *Gone South* late this summer. Come for the smooth blend of vocals, clean violin leadlines and mandolin tremolos, and an occa-

sional banjo lick, and stay for the nostalgic lyrics communicating the human experience with a melody.

Pistol Whippin Party Penguins

Straight from the great Mill City comes the Pistol Whippin Party Penguins. Don't let the name fool you! This is not a violent group of flightless aquatic birds looking for a party, but rather six self proclaimed gentlemen, two guitars, banjo and mandolin, a bucket of fiddles, a bass, some percussion, and a three part vocal harmony that would make a cow-boy cry.

As they prepare to record their fifth album, this band from Minneapolis strives to maintain the original spirit of the "string band" while continuing to introduce new original music and create cover songs. The combination of folk, rock, blues, bluegrass, and the occasional stage banter will create an experience that anyone can enjoy!



Mary, Scott, Tom, Marty, Doug are honored to have served the MBOTMA for 35 years.

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Complete production services – sound/lights, multi-track recording – live/studio.

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PARTIAL LIST OF FESTIVALS:

Big Island Rendezvous, Albert Lea, MN - 1996-2023
 Bluff Country Gathering, Lanesboro, MN 2002-2023
 Hiawatha Traditional Music Festival, Marquette, MI - 1998-2023
 Laughing Waters Bluegrass Festival, Mpls, MN – 2000-2023
 MN Bluegrass August Festival, Richmond, MN - 1987-2023
 MN Bluegrass Winter Weekend, Mpls, MN - 1987-2023
 Porcupine Mountain Music Festival, Ontonogon, MI 2005-2023
 Washington County Bluegrass Festival - 2002-2023

EQUIPMENT:

Midas, dbx, Shure, AKG, AudioTechnica,
 Crown, EV, Lab Gruppen, RCF, QSC, Countryman

Systems and techs
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We are asked back year after year.



ARMADILLO SOUND & DESIGN

Doug Lohman

612-306-3490

doughlohan@aol.com

www.armadillosounddesign.com



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