

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.

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.

Releasing 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," the list goes on.

Larry has performed on world famous venues such as the Grand Ole Opry, and television shows, 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 several 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.

Larrys *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 fifty 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 he has made an enormous contribution to the music. Larry Sparks has kept his music real.



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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 *Livin', 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



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

by Cordle on Mighty Cord Records.

In 2017, Cord 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 Cord. 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.

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 help 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, reaching

#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 5 1/2 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 & Teouble* 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 it 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 Stony 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, have 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 number 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 Ale's 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



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

Pete Mathison, another veteran of

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.

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 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 checkout 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 to 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/>

Minnesota Bluegrass August Festival Program 2023

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, connects 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 bluegrassd 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 services 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 cowboy cry.

As they prepare to record their 5th 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.

ARMADILLO SOUND & DESIGN

Minneapolis, MN - Serving the acoustic music community for over 40 years.

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

You know Doug's attention to audio detail, let him help you craft your next recording project!

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
 for multiple stages and days

We are asked back year after year.



ARMADILLO SOUND & DESIGN
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