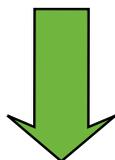


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Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

February
2018

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Member Info

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area

Message from Our President

Hello again, Everyone!....Welcome to a new and exciting year for the Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association!

I served as the NKBMA President in the past as Pamela Messer, but Tom and I were married in October 2017 and I am now Pamela Bushelman. I agreed to accept the post as President again this year and will be doing my best to serve our members and music friends with some new ideas and activities. As with any organization we must keep things exciting and relevant for our members and potential members, and the Board is putting their heads together to come up with ways to meet that objective.

The Board is just a small representation of our membership. To make many of our goals a reality **WE NEED YOU!** We count on the input and support of our members to help us make our events and projects a success and reflect our mission statement. EVERY ONE of YOU is important to us and each of you have special talents and experience that are an asset to our organization. In the upcoming months you will be seeing requests from the Board for volunteers to help with specialized subcommittees. We are hopeful that your passion for Bluegrass music will inspire you to share your talents!

I realize that everyone is busy with their own lives and things get in the way (boy, do I know it!), But just a wee bit of time and effort by many can make a HUGE impact on the success of our events and projects. I would like everyone (member or non-member) to take a short survey and let us know what more we can do to serve you and ways that you are willing to serve the Association.

If you are reading this online the survey can be found by clicking on the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9ZT2ZY3>

Or type the url into your browser if reading the printed version of our newsletter. Again, your feedback is important to us.

Also, membership renewals are now due. If you have already renewed thank you. If not, please see Myrna or other Board member at one of our activities or visit our website at www.nkbma.com for our downloadable renewal form and instructions to renew by mail. If you know someone who is not a member but would be interested, talk to them about the importance of membership. Here are just a few benefits in exchange for our small membership fees:

- Belonging to and enjoying association with fellow music lovers
 - Inclusion in our jams and events and supporting the cost of them.
 - Printed version of this newsletter mailed to You quarterly
 - Helping us all promote Bluegrass music
 - For member bands, free posting of band information, schedules and site links on our NKBMA.com site
 - Email notification/reminders of events
 - Discount on use of our website to promote the sale of your musical instruments
 - Automatic status of **VIP customer at Willis Music**; 10% discount on accessory items and variable discounts on equipment (this is huge and more than pays for membership)
- Let's make this year the best yet! - Pam B.



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Bluegrass is Alive and Well in Japan



Japanese Band **Bluegrass 45**

In the post-World War II period, American culture and music became increasingly popular in Japan. By the late 1960s, Bluegrass was being played in cultural clubs at Japanese colleges and schools, with students learning acoustic instruments and practicing their English as well as imitating Southern accents. During that time the Watanabe brothers, Toshio and Saburo, joined with the Otsuka brothers, Josh and Akira, to form **Bluegrass 45**. Akira started playing the mandolin since it was the only bluegrass instrument missing when the group formed the band. They played at a club called Lost City in Kobe, Japan, and were chosen to perform at the World's Fair held in the City in 1970. Saburo started publishing the Japanese bluegrass magazine *Moonshiner* in 1983. The publication's popularity resulted in his recognition by IBMA as Print Media Person of the Year in 1998 and he served several terms in different roles on the IBMA Board of Directors.

Bluegrass 45 released their first CD in 1970. Dick Freeland, founder of Rebel Records, "discovered" them and brought them to America where they first appeared at the 1971 Camp Springs Bluegrass Festival. A film was made at the festival recording the historical event and the band may be the only group in bluegrass history to end up on the Grand Ole Opry stage during their inaugural tour.

In the spring of 2016 an excellent account of the role of bluegrass in contemporary Japan, called "Land of the Rising Sound" appeared in the *Roots & Branches* issue of *No Depression* publication written by Denis Gainty and was posted online in March

examining the bluegrass experience at festivals and other events in Japan.

During **Bluegrass 45's** first U.S. tour, the band members stayed for a few days at Dick Freeland's home in Maryland. During that time, Dick hosted a dinner for the band and invited John Duffey who was admired by the young Japanese musicians. Soon after dinner the jamming began with the band playing every single song that John Duffey had recorded with the **Country Gentlemen**. Josh knew all the vocal parts performed by Charlie Waller, Saburo played Eddie Adcock style banjo, and Akira played all the mando breaks the way Duffey had recorded them. The resulting friendship grew over the years and Duffey, who makes mandolins dubbed 'the Duck' because of their appearance, created the Duck2 model for Akira. Akira recently created a four-part video series called 'Duffey's Mandolins' in which he describes his long-time friendship and relationship with Duffey and how he came to own the Duck and the F-12 that Duffey played for years with the **Seldom Scene**.

Bluegrass 45 has continued to have reunion performances over the years, even though its members are separated by geography and busy personal lives. They celebrated their 50th anniversary as a band with an appearance at International Bluegrass Music Association's Wide Open Bluegrass in Raleigh, NC, last year performing at the Red Hat Amphitheater on Saturday, September 30th. All six original members of the band were there:

Tsuyoshi "Josh" Otsuka - lead vocal, guitar

Akira Otsuka - mandolin and vocals

Toshio Watanabe - bass

Saburo "Sab" Watanabe - banjo and vocals

Hsueh-Chieng "Ryo" Liao - fiddle and vocals

Chien-Hua Lee - rhythm guitar and vocal

Because of this group of musicians, their love for the genre and life-long friends, Bluegrass music has thrived, is alive and well and very popular still in modern day Japan.



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Bill Monroe Bluegrass Hall of Fame 2018 Inductees Announced

Bill Monroe Bluegrass Hall of Fame-

The Bill Monroe Bluegrass Hall of Fame is pleased to announce Miss Dixie and Tom T. Hall are their 2018 Hall of Fame Inductees. The award ceremony will be Saturday, September 22, 2018 in Bean Blossom, Indiana at the 44th Annual Hall of Fame and Uncle Pen Bluegrass Festival.

The Hall of Fame selection is based on making substantial and enduring contributions to bluegrass music and the Halls have contributed in a variety of ways for a half century. Their songwriting has been their most public contribution and dates back 50 years ago when Miss Dixie co-wrote songs with Hall of Fame member Maybelle Carter and Tom T. was writing for Hall of Famers, Flatt & Scruggs. In 1999 Miss Dixie and Tom T. Began writing songs together and since then have written over 3,000 that have been recorded by someone. Miss Dixie, the most prolific female bluegrass songwriter has had over 500 of her own songs recorded.

The Halls were so successful together, they won the SPBGMA Bluegrass Songwriters of the Year Award for 10 consecutive years. At that time they were awarded the Grand Masters Gold and had "their jerseys retired" from the category. In a 10 year period the Halls averaged over 2.4 songs a month on the Bluegrass Unlimited top 30 song chart. Eleven of Hall's songs went to #1, and some months they had as many as five songs at the same time on the chart! In 2004 they were awarded the IBMA Distinguished Achievement Award for their lifetime contributions to bluegrass music.

Besides songwriting, the Halls have had a positive influence on the genre by helping young and struggling artists. They started their own publishing company, Good Home Grown Music, and their own record label and studio, Blue Circle Records, at their Fox Hollow home near Franklin, TN. Often the Halls provided rooms in their home, meals and free studio time to young, up-and-coming artists. They also gave personal encouragement. Miss Dixie felt the bluegrass community was her family and she treated artists in

that way - helping build careers and increasing number of successful new bands along the way.

Helping bluegrass was not new to Miss Dixie. As far back as the '60s, she promoted groups in the UK and then moved to the States where she promoted groups like the Stanley Brothers, The Lonesome Pine Fiddlers and Bill Clifton for Starday Records.

Tom T. has recorded a number of significant bluegrass recordings: The Magnificent Music Machine, The Storyteller and the Banjo Man, and Tom T. Sings Miss Dixie. Because Tom T. Was one of the biggest country music stars of his generation, these recordings not only brought good music to the bluegrass community, they also brought bluegrass into the homes of country music fans not familiar with the genre.

Although Miss Dixie left us too soon on January 16, 2015, the Halls' contributions to bluegrass music continue to be felt. Their songs still top charts and artists they encouraged are still flourishing three years after her passing.



Tom T. Hall and Miss Dixie

AWARD WINNING INSULT: "I am enclosing two free tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one." George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill :-)



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COFFEEHOUSE *Past Events*

Did you miss these great events?
There is nothing better than live music



Devon Johnson and the Midnight Travelers

Saturday September 9, 2017
Willis Music Auditorium



Michelle Canning Band

Saturday October 14, 2017
Willis Music Auditorium



Bluegrass Legend Larry Sparks

Thursday Nov. 16, 2017
Willis Music Auditorium
You REALLY missed this one!

1st Parliamentarian to 2nd: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." "That depends, Sir," said the 2nd to the 1st, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."



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CHINESE BREAKDOWN

APRIL 14, 2018

CHINA GARDEN BUFFET

**1108W. Kemper Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45240**
Promenade Shopping
Center



SHOWTIME 7PM

(door opens 6:00)

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GRASS**

\$25 per Person Price includes ALL YOU CAN EAT Buffet, Hibachi Grill, Sushi Bar, Desserts, soft drink

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To guarantee your seat, get your ticket by MARCH 11, 2018!

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The first Chinese Breakdown dinner was a celebration of Vernon and Kitty's two favorite things: playing bluegrass Music with their Appalachian Grass band and eating Chinese food. Named after a silly old time song, the Chinese Breakdown was initially hosted by Famous Old Time Music Company at its Vine Street location in Elmwood Place. Catered by the Royal Mandarin, Vernon's then favorite Chinese restaurant, the menu was limited to Lo Mein, eggrolls, and cheese doodles. To Vernon and Kitty's surprise the event was a huge success with a sell-out crowd and became a popular annual event at Famous Old Time Music Company.

When the Elmwood location of Famous Old Time Music Company closed in 2006, there was no longer a venue to host the dinner so the event was no more. However, in 2015, when Vernon and Kitty happened upon the large, private party room available at the China Garden Buffet, they knew they had found a new home for the Chinese Breakdown dinner and re-established the annual event.

Attendees at the Chinese Breakdown dinner now enjoy the wide selection of menu items offered by the China Garden Buffet. In addition to the usual favorites of LoMein, General Tso's Chicken, and Stir-fried Rice, the China garden All-You-Can-Eat Buffet features crab legs, Hibachi Grill, Sushi Bar, and a desserts bar. Refillable soft drink is included in the admission price, beer and wine are not but are available for purchase.

Diners will be entertained during and after dinner by Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass with several guest spots by Jenny Lee. The Appalachian Grass is a well-known and well-respected bluegrass band with deep roots in the Cincinnati area. Their eclectic repertoire is delivered in a traditional, hard-driving bluegrass style featuring smooth harmonies, exciting banjo picking and soulful fiddling. Guest artist Jenny Lee is a charismatic bluegrass singer with an energetic stage presence. Appalachian Grass is also an NKBMA member band with their performance schedules posted on our Facebook page and NKBMA.com website with links to their site.



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Aubrey Holt 1938-2017



Aubrey Holt, founding member and lead vocalist with The Boys from Indiana, passed away on October 5, 2017. He was 79 years of age and was ill for some time prior to his death.

Holt was a singer, songwriter and guitar player known and beloved by festival attendees all over. Joe Mullins had the following to say about Aubrey:

‘He was one of the great singers, songwriters and showman of our time. He left us hundreds of songs and thousands of wonderful memories. I remember back to the early ‘70s when he, his brother Jerry and his Uncle Harley Gabbard started doing shows with my dad. Dad had a love for the Holt and Gabbard families and they always enjoyed hunting and fishing together. On stage they became the wild bunch of “Boys from Indiana”, a name which stuck and they became an in demand act everywhere by the mid 1970s.’

Aubrey’s great lasting gift was his songwriting. The band’s first album, titled *We Missed You in Church Last Sunday* contained what have become standards today among bluegrass pickers and their second album, *Atlanta is Burning* with title song by the same name is an all time classic. Artists that have covered songs written and first recorded by Aubrey and the Boys from Indiana include The Grascals, Alison Krauss, Blue Highway, Flatt Lonesome, The Radio Ramblers, Feller and Hill and many others.

Aubrey’s rich tenor voice allowed him to sing lead and tenor and when the band stopped performing in

the mid’90s, Aubrey continued to sing along side his son Tony Holt with the Wildwood Valley Boys until illness became too great to overcome. Tony had the following memories of his Dad as told to Ron Simmons:

‘Tony remembers, when he was about 3, his father, Aubrey, playing guitar and singing in their home. When Aubrey, his brothers Tom and Jerry, along with Uncle Harley Gabbard and banjo picker Nick Crase came over, Tony said he and his siblings would listen through the door to the music. Now and then even Moon Mullins would be there. When I asked Tony what songs he liked most, he was unsure but says Aubrey told Tony he could sing right along with Sonny and Bobby Osborne and get the high parts on “Rocky Top” which I’m betting he can’t do now with his baritone voice.

Tony has vivid memories of “The Boys from Indiana” mostly because they were having so much fun as entertainers. The music was part of a greater calling that many groups don’t have on stage now. Tony recalled the “The Boys” were doing a lot of gigs and by the end of the festival season had hats that were too worn out to keep. Uncle Tom decided he was going to throw his hat into the audience at the end of the show. The group thought this was a great idea and they all followed Tom’s example. They were promptly told that this was a great piece of showmanship that stuck with audiences for years to come. Free memorabilia.....wahoo!

The legacy of Aubrey Holt is alive and well in the voice and character of his son Tony. Tony sold his first guitar while in Texas to get money for food.....a Hondo guitar, which must have been enough for one meal and probably not much more. Like his Father before him, though, he didn’t give up on playing and singing just because it was hard. Aubrey went through good times and bad on the Bluegrass gauntlet and Tony has too. A legacy is about what remains after we are gone, and I am positive that Aubrey is proud of his and will remain so for eternity. Tony will be heading back to the recording studio soon and I’ll bet Aubrey will be there watching over his shoulder and listening in.

- Ron Simmons



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Located across from the Florence Mall and Next to H. H. Gregg on Mall Road, our Florence Superstore has it all.

Our staff bring years of service and experience to meet your every Musical need. 10% discount on accessory items to NKBA members

Our Florence location features a 24 track Digital recording studio and performance Center (seats 200) in addition to the Kate Young Music Makers studios and lesson center

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**MONDAY NIGHT BLUEGRASS JAM
STARTS AT 8 PM**

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Covington, Kentucky**

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FUTURE BLUEGRASS SPECIAL EVENTS

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COFFEEHOUSE EVENTS

*Don't Miss the chance to experience
A live performance from these exciting Professionals!*

Sat., March 10, 2018 7:00pm

Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers

President of IBMA, band leader, banjo player and award-winning broadcaster, Joe Mullins and his band are awesome performers. And we have them stopping by **Willis Music, Mall Rd, Florence, KY** to perform for all of us. Don't miss the chance to see these great entertainers live in the Willis Music intimate setting.

Details: call Gene Thompson(859)689-7431
\$20 Donation at the Door



Sat., April 14, 2018 7:00pm

Gary Brewer and the Kentucky Ramblers

Festival favorites performing Stanley style And traditional bluegrass accompanied by some of the best musicians in the industry. And we have them stopping by **Willis Music, Mall Rd, Florence, KY** to perform for all of us. Don't miss the chance to see these great entertainers live at Willis Music

Details: call Gene Thompson(859)689-7431
\$10 Donation at the Door





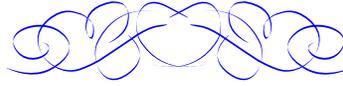
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JAMS



Gene Thompson -Hebron JAMS ARE BACK!

1st Friday of each month Nov thru May
Hebron Lodge, Hart St., Hebron, KY
Starts at 6:00pm; \$2 donation at the
door; refreshments available
Come and play or listen. Info Contact:
Gene Thompson (859)689-7431



Russell Turner Bluegrass Jams

2nd Friday of each month
5th and Park St, Newport, KY
6pm to 10pm year 'round
With Pot Luck and \$6 donation
Contact Russell Turner at:
rturn02@zoomtown.com

Old Time Fiddlers Jam

2nd Sunday of each month 1 - 4:30pm
Whitewater Community Center
6125 Dry Fork Rd, Cleves, OH
All Acoustic, bring instruments or
listen and enjoy. Refreshments available.
roseballard3@aol.com

NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam

4th Friday of each month Main Stage
Open Mic Fun! Backroom Jammin'
6pm to 9pm Willis Music on Mall Rd,
Florence, KY Come and play or listen.
\$2 donation at the door
Contact Rick Fuchs (859)525-6050



Camp Springs Bluegrass Jam

1st Sunday of each month 3:30-6:30 pm
Camp Springs Tavern
7009 Stonehouse Rd, Melbourne, KY
All acoustic, bring instrument or just
come out to listen. Details at:
www.campspringstavern.com





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Updated NKBMA website now Apple Compatible

Go to www.nkbma.com for all the latest news, special events, concert schedules and jams.

Plus our own Facebook Page



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*Visit the page whether you have a Facebook account or not and see photos from past events and the **latest event schedules***

Want to be part of our Event Reminder Network? Send your current email address to Jerry@NKBMA.com

Renewal time is here !

If you haven't already, please send in your annual membership dues to the NKBMA , remain a member in good standing and help keep Bluegrass music alive in the area. Member bands are listed on our website with links to their websites and member band event schedules if provided are added to our website/Facebook calendars. Members are also VIP customers at Willis and receive 10% on all accessory purchases and other discounts on equipment.

Send payment (\$12 Single, \$15 Couple, \$25 Band) address and your current email address to:

**Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association
P.O. Box 133
Hebron, Kentucky 41048**

Join the NKBMA team for 2018, become a Board Member or Volunteer to help us support Bluegrass Music in the Northern Kentucky Area.



The Future of the
Organization, Events
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**Membership info
Bluegrass News
Past and Future Events
and More**



**Pick up an instrument
And Make Some Music!**