

Spring  
Edition

## Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

June  
2020

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*Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area*

## ***FESTIVAL SEASON THAT NEVER HAPPENED***

**WOW!!** ....none of us saw this coming!! I viewed 2020 as a great year personally and otherwise as the organization was growing again. New clothing items became available (see listing and pricing on page 5). Jams were increasing around the tri-state area, music was flowing, and our member bands were looking forward to full schedules of gigs and festival performances.

AND THEN IT HAPPENED....COVID-19 arrived on our shores and decisions were made for the sake of protecting public health and minimizing the impact of this invisible enemy. Similar to and a cousin of SARS, Covid-2 of 2002, this one led health officials and the general public on a merry-go-round of changing information as it developed into a pandemic worldwide. Science was learning more about it everyday and early thoughts and models were wrong. As time passed and more data was gathered, we ended up with a stay-at-home directive, quarantine guidelines, social distancing (a misnomer since it is really physical distancing) and protective masks followed by changes to these guidelines almost daily and a lot of general confusion.

While the CDC, a federal agency, issued guidelines regarding the public safety and health, it was up to individual states to issue and manage policy to control the spread. And this is as it should be since our vast country is so diverse in population, culture, and social practices that no Federal mandate could ever be applied fairly to varying local conditions.

Unfortunately, one of the casualties of the times include one of our most cherished summertime activities...MUSIC FESTIVALS All have been canceled through at least July and many are predicting all will be canceled for the 2020 season.

Festivals are the life-blood of our genre. As fans we travel around the country hoping to get a close glimpse of and experience our favorite bands and artists up close and personal. For the artists, they are important revenue generators and opportunities to not only perform for their fans but to sell their merchandise. Millions of dollars have been lost, new CDs held for release at a later date, and tour buses parked for the season. The online virtual performance has become the new norm for now with many musicians providing Zoom and Facebook Live streaming of their performances. Many have provided online workshops for those wanting to improve their musical skills.

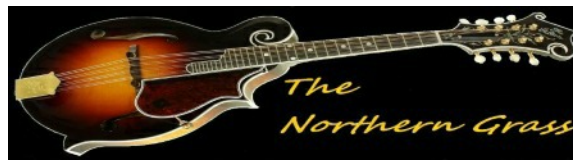
For Festival organizers, a season that never happens means lost revenue that would cover the year-long costs accumulated from organizers who start the day after one year's event planning the next year's event, lining up performers, planning food, lining up vendors and spaces.

Locally, with great disappointment, the Appalachian Festival and Sun Valley Bluegrass Festival has been canceled. Planners are promising to be back next year with improvements and the same or better lineups.

On the following pages we will provide updates as of printing time, some exciting news, insights into how the professionals are coping with the cancellations and some efforts of our members to keep the music flowing.



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## HOW ARE PROFESSIONALS COPING

RECAPS OF SOME COMMENTS FROM INTERVIEWS DONE BY STEVE MARTIN FOR HIS RADIO PROGRAM, **UNREAL BLUEGRASS**

Each week, Steve Martin features interviews with the genre's legends and those becoming. Recently he included time during each interview for the artist of the week to comment on how their lives had changed since COVID-19. The following are summaries of those comments from some of your favorite artists:

**JEREMY GARRETT** - Infamous Stringdusters

'As global tour agents reported to us, we realized we had to shut it down for the sake of everyone. I have never had much down time but this is the time to work on improving' Unfortunately everyone is just gonna have to suck it up and make this a short thing or it will get worse and long'

**STEPHEN MOUGIN** - guitar player with Sam Bush Band, Mojo of Nedski and Mojo, and Dark Shadow Recording Studio Owner

'While stressful, everyone is being affected including restaurant owners and other industries. We hope this passes soon and life gets back to normal. Bands are not wanting to come in and record full length projects due to cash uncertainties.'

**SIERRA HULL** - Songwriter, vocalist, mandolin player  
'We were in the middle of a tour with Tommy Emmanuel when word came down that the last 2 were canceled. And 28 other tour dates of ours were suddenly canceled. We had just put out a new album and were going to tour around the album release. Disappointing because we were gearing up and ready to play. But we have to do what is right for the whole world.' 'Not being able to perform in front of huge crowds is an emotional blow. But driving just 2 miles from my house (Nashville) I realized many didn't even have homes to live in due to the recent tornado and decided I should be grateful and not bummed out about it' 'Enjoying being home with husband and catching up on things around the house.'

**BECKY BULLER** - Becky Buller Band

'Recovering from the tornado and then the virus. Shows through July have been rescheduled, a number of events

canceled but we will play May 30th on the Opry with no audience present.'

**CINDY CASHDOLLAR** -

'A tsunami effect on everyone. The music business is at a standstill. Venues, restaurant workers, sound engineers, everyone is suddenly affected by the virus and the shutdowns. To get good deals, bands and crews book plane tickets and rooms far in advance and expenses have been accrued, not all are recoverable and the paperwork for refunds is huge. Re-booking gigs is a nightmare because most gigs are scheduled around CD releases and other things that are now out of sync. Industry support people are affected, luthiers are out of work, musicians aren't buying, no money suddenly available, socially distancing in clubs prevents live music. Not being able to play to live audiences as I have for many decades makes me sad'

**DAN CRARY** - guitarist

'Sequestering is hard because the best practice is when you play with others like Bill Evans and we need to get past this as soon as possible.'

**VALERIE SMITH**

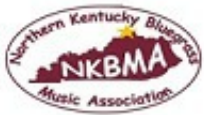
'I thought we would be in this situation where a song gets released and we suddenly cannot tour to promote it. It's gonna go deep, a lot of festivals have been canceled. It is tough but I look forward to the festivals next year and performing again. It is hard to not perform. But slowing down has been good because I am playing more for myself, practicing and improving instead of just running from one performance to another'

**RHONDA VINCENT** - Mandolin player and leader of the Rage, Queen of bluegrass road touring.

'Not touring, time on my hands, I've been fishing with my husband and caught an 11 pound talking catfish. Video posted on FB went viral'

All of these interviews can be found on [www.unrealbluegrass.com](http://www.unrealbluegrass.com) as part of an archive of over 400 interviews with Steve and your favorite musical artists. Just go to the website and click on the ARCHIVE tab on the home page, then the letter of the artist's last name. A treasure trove of personal comments that are real gems.

*Does the jelly in a donut count as a serving of fruit (asking for a friend :-)) I recently bought a toilet brush.....long story short, I'm going back to toilet paper! Some people write the word **lockdown** for the current state of affairs because they can't spell **kwarinteen**. New beverage....called quarantine coffee. It's like normal coffee but it has margarita mix instead of coffee! And.....I'm now sleeping on the couch to cut down my morning commute :-)*



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## FESTIVAL GOES ON AS PLANNED!

SamJam will go forward Sept. 2-6 in Pike-ton, OH., with guidelines developed from communications with Pike County Commissioner, Matt Brewster, that provide a path forward for the bluegrass event that brings some of the nation’s top bluegrass talent to the area.

Festivalgoers will be asked to abide by social distancing protocols with groups of 10 separated by 6 feet. “We’ll have groups of 10 separated by six feet, but we believe this will still allow us to provide the type of entertainment we have in the past,” said Co-organizer Sam Karr. “The festival will look much the same with a few rules in place for social distancing. We’ll also have extra hand-washing stations and other safety measures.”

“We’ve been in communication with elected officials and the Pike County health commissioner and we’re

following guidance provided by the state,” co-organizer Rick Greene said. “We’re a good community partner and we will observe all laws and guidelines to keep people safe. We’ll also need assistance from attendees and we encourage everyone to make decisions on attending based on safety and their own personal circumstances.”

Food vendors will be allowed to participate in the festival with established protocols. Camping reservations are also being accepted by the Pike County Fair Board, which receives all camping proceeds. To make a reservation, or for more information, contact Mary Conley at (740) 547-9059, Karr at (812) 699-0962 or Greene at (740) 547-9059. Corn-tucky Cornhole will again organize the festival’s cornhole tournament.

It is possible that state guidelines could change between now and the festival. “We have some time before SamJam occurs, so this might look different by the time the festival arrives,” Karr said. “We’ll continue to monitor the situation and stay in touch with local officials to ensure we are in alignment.”

The SamJam lineup for 2020 features country artist Joe Nichols, along with top bluegrass acts, including the Dan Tyminski Band, Balsam Range, the Grascals, Rhonda Vincent and the Rage, Sideline, The Cleverlys, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, the Seldom Scene, the Po’ Rambin’ Boys, the Junior Sisk Band, Turning Ground, and many more. For the full lineup, times and other festival information including a complete list of sponsors visit [www.samjambluegrass.com](http://www.samjambluegrass.com). Locations and times for the SamJam Hop, where music is played at local venues on Sept. 2, will be announced at a later date.

“This is an extraordinary lineup and we are grateful we have the opportunity to be able to offer music,” Greene said. “We will do our part to keep everyone safe and we look forward to being able to get back to some bluegrass!”

Hope to see y’all there!

### NKBMA Board of Directors for 2020:

President - Tom Bushelman  
Vice President - Rick Crawford  
Treasurer - Myrna Murphy  
Secretary - Jerry Schrepfer

### Members at Large:

Pam Bushelman  
Ron Simmons  
Gene Thompson  
Kathy Wolfe  
Steve Wolfe



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## IBMA WORLD OF BLUEGRASS

### TO BE A VIRTUAL EVENT IN 2020

**NASHVILLE (June 16, 2020)** — The International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) and its Local Organizing Committee partners in Raleigh, North Carolina, announced that due to ongoing health concerns relating to COVID-19, and the logistical challenges of creating a safe in-person event experience, this year's IBMA World of Bluegrass will take place virtually, the planned conference, showcases, awards and festival performances will be presented as an online experience September 28-Oct. 3, with the possibility of extending event content beyond those dates.

“While we all would love to gather in Raleigh this year for IBMA World of Bluegrass, the extraordinary circumstances made this decision necessary,” said Paul Schiminger, Executive Director of IBMA. “Maintaining the health and safety of the large crowd we enjoy each year would be such an enormous, uncertain, and risky proposition.”

“However, we know how important this week is to our bluegrass professionals and fans, so we are moving forward in new ways,” said Schiminger. “We see this as an opportunity to re-imagine every aspect of IBMA World of Bluegrass so we can still connect, educate, showcase, and perform in fun and engaging ways. And we hope to introduce new participants to the types of things we normally do in Raleigh so we can invite them to join us in person for the fun in 2021 and hopefully many years beyond. We deeply appreciate the ongoing partnership of the City of Raleigh, the hotels, PNC Bank - who have been our presenting sponsor since 2013 - and the many other important sponsors we have worked with over the years. They help make this the most important week in bluegrass.”

Discussions to keep the event in Raleigh, North Carolina, beyond 2021 have commenced. All parties involved would like to keep the successful partnership between the IBMA and the City of Raleigh moving forward through 2024.

Full details on this year's event, award schedules and more can be found at <https://ibma.org/press-releases/ibmawob-virtual/>



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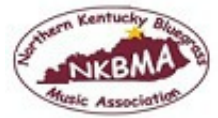
**[abi@abetterinspector.com](mailto:abi@abetterinspector.com)**



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## HEBRON LODGE NEWS -

One of our oldest jam locations is undergoing a change. The William Goodridge Association, LTD., a non-profit organization, has purchased the building. Principle agent for the organization is none other than our own NKBMA member, James Richard Phillips!

Most of you know Jim by his big smile, his great vocals big Martin guitar and recent hosting of the Hebron Jams the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. Bluegrass on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, Gospel on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

And we all know Gene Thompson who will be 91 this year. Gene has done more for bluegrass music in the Tri-State area than anyone in recent memory. Plans are in the works to create The Gene Thompson Community Arts Center at the location which will provide support for musical events, jams, musical instructors, and a place that will enhance the community with quality programs.

This is an exciting development because the facility currently has an operating kitchen, food and beverages are currently available for jams and other events, and much more flexibility on the hours of operation since this is not a retail store. And fulfills the desire to honor Gene Thompson for generations to come.

Plans to renovate the building are being formulated to convert to a community arts center concept. Some of the renovations for future use may include:

- New jamming areas
- Music instruction areas for instructor use

- Event hall and stage
- Sound system upgrades
- Kitchen upgrades

NKBMA is excited about this project. Volunteers, suggestions, and music instructors will be needed. Project ideas for the conversion, grant money research, and other assistance is needed. Donations of time, money and equipment are welcomed. Contact Jim Phillips for more information, suggestions or to volunteer by texting to 859-466-5056 or email to [songman40.jp@gmail.com](mailto:songman40.jp@gmail.com)



*Recent Hebron Jam with NKBMA members and visitors from Morehead State's Center for Traditional Music*

## THE HUMOR CORNER

**Church Bulletin Bloopers:** “The Fasting and Prayer Conference will include meals this year”  
“‘This morning’s sermon: Jesus Walks on the Water; tonight’s sermon: Searching for Jesus” “Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands”  
“Don’t let worry kill you off - let the Church help.” “For those of you who have children and don’t know it.....we have a nursery downstairs” “Next Thursday will be choir tryouts....they need all the help they can get” “A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.” “Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and **medication** will follow.” And finally, the topper....”The Ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement of the Church on Friday afternoon!”

### NEW NKBMA APPAREL NOW AVAILABLE

Product looks great and is going fast! And we now have a variety of items in a variety of sizes and colors to make you the fashion talk of any group, jam or gathering. Here is a listing of items available:

- T-SHIRTS, sizes Large to 3x, 3 colors ..... \$15.00 ea
  - POLO SHIRTS, sizes L to 3x, 2 colors ..... \$25.00 ea
  - CREW SWEATSHIRTS, Large to 3x ..... \$20.00 ea
  - Zipper Front HOODIES, Large to 3x ..... \$30.00 ea
  - BALL CAPS , 2 colors ..... \$10.00 ea
- Be sure to check the items out at the next Willis Music Jam



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**Something to promote**  
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**A bargain in ad space**  
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**Can design it for you:**

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Card	\$5.00	\$15.00
¼ Page	\$10.00	\$30.00
½ Page	\$15.00	\$60.00
Full Page	\$25.00	\$90.00



The hope is that Back-to-School time will result in fewer restrictions and a return to our normal fall concert series. Forest Hills Bluegrass Band will be returning in October. Watch the NKBMA website for updates as September approaches.



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2263 Waller Road  
Verona, KY 41092

Tel: 859-689-SRVY (7789)

Fax: 859-689-0774

Cell: 859-743-2424

Email:

[pls@commonwealthsurveying.com](mailto:pls@commonwealthsurveying.com)



Located across from the Florence Mall and Next to SHOOT Point Blank 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 NKBMA members

Our Florence location features a 24 track Digital recording studio and performance Center (seats 180) in addition to the Kate Young Music Makers studios and lesson center

**7567 Mall Road, Florence, KY 41042**  
**859-525-6050**



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## Updated NKBMA website now Apple Compatible

Go to [www.nkbma.com](http://www.nkbma.com) for all the latest news, special events, concert schedules and jams plus our huge archive of old photos and past Northern Grass issues.

### Plus our own Facebook Page



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/nkbma](http://www.facebook.com/nkbma)

*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](mailto:Jerry@NKBMA.com)***

**JOIN the TEAM for 2020. Please send your annual membership dues to the NKBMA , remain a member in good standing and help keep Bluegrass music alive in the area. Membership benefits:**

- \*\* Bands are listed on our website with links to their websites.**
- \*\* Members are also VIP customers at Willis and receive 10% on all accessory purchases and other discounts on equipment.**
- \*\* Musical Scholarships to acoustic Instrument students**
- \*\* Weekly Jams supported around the area**
- \*\* Annual picnic and Turkey Jam and Christmas Dinner**
- \*\* Quarterly Newsletters like this one mailed to members**
- \*\* Email notification/reminder network for events**

**Send payment (\$15 Single, \$20 Couple, \$25 Band), your address**

**And your current email address to:**

**Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association**

**P.O. Box 133**

**Hebron, Kentucky 41048**

**Join the team for 2020, become a Board Member or Volunteer**

**Enrollment forms also available at**

**[www.nkbma.com](http://www.nkbma.com)**



**The FUTURE of the  
ORGANIZATION Depends  
Upon YOU**



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