

Fall
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

November
2018

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area

IBMA World of Bluegrass 2018 Edition!

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Edition**



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IBMA World of Bluegrass

2018 Raleigh, N.C. - Tom Bushelman Jr.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, if you weren't there, you missed a good-un! IBMA has a bluegrass spectacular the last weekend of September the likes of which simply cannot be topped. It all started years ago in Owensboro, KY., now home to the newly renovated Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum (grand opening Oct. 18th). I did not attend that original FanFest as I was doing my best to represent our country as a US Navy sailor around the world. After a time, IBMA moved the annual event to the Galt House in Louisville, KY. I'm sure many of you remember the amazingly slow elevators and the trade show that was so extensive it took two days to go through. My first trip there when I got back from the Navy was incredible to say the least. I went with my Dad and the man that has this year won Broadcaster of the Year, Steve Martin, along with other folks. One of the many memorable moments from that first year was winning the IBMA custom D-28 that Martin donates and raffles off every year. For the next four or five years, we made our pilgrimage to

Louisville and had the time of our lives. Bluegrass legends walking around everywhere, jamming everywhere you turned, and the talent from around the world that turned up was astounding and humbling.

And then the change happened again. They had the temerity to move THE BLUEGRASS EVENT out of THE BLUEGRASS STATE! IBMA moved to Nashville, TN. I knew without a doubt that it could never be as good as it was in Louisville and planned to boycott the event, just being mulish. As September was coming to a close, I wasn't busy and decided to make my first visit to Nashville. Boy howdy! Good times were had by all. It had all the fun from Louisville, the trade show, top notch performers all week, jamming non-stop everywhere, meeting up with bluegrass buddies from all over, etc, etc, and then some. The Ryman was literally across the street, Tootsies, the Ernest Tubbs record shop, Gruhn guitars, and the list goes on and on...A music lovers paradise. We all had a grand time that couldn't be beat and promised to never miss one. And thenit happened again.

Another move! This time to Raleigh, NC. (Continued on next page)



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that they can barely wrap their little arms around a guitar or see them dwarfed by the upright bass that they are thumping like a pro.

I've talked about some of the really fun fan stuff but there is serious business going on also for an entire week. Classes are presented by pros in various aspects of the music business that help prevent banjo players from starving to death. Music promoters and labels are there to meet talent, and there is a general movement towards bluegrass leadership. Classes are available for people interested in learning how to start a bluegrass association or get scholarships to budding young musicians.

Our own organization and area were well represented at the awards show this year. The Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association's very first bluegrass scholarship recipient was in a band with Jasper Lorentzen and his band, The Po' Ramblin' Boys who won IBMA Emerging Artist of the Year award. They will be performing at our Willis Music/WoodSongs concert series November 17th. Mark your calendar 'cause you don't want to miss this exciting group!

Sammy Karr has been putting on SamJam <https://www.samjambluegrass.com/> just down the road for the last few years and won the Festival Momentum Award. And the man that I have played music with for many a decade and was present at my first IBMA attendance, Steve Martin, has himself been awarded Broadcaster of the Year for his Unreal Bluegrass show, '3 hours of the best Bluegrass across the generations combining conversation with the legends and those becoming'. See his website for more details: <http://www.unrealbluegrass.com/> and page 3 for an article by Artie Werner about Steve. These folks have been voted as the best at their gig in the entire world! In our readership, we are surrounded by bluegrass royalty.

If you can put it into your schedule for next year, you will not be disappointed by IBMA World of Bluegrass, Raleigh. I can sum it up as follows....A good time was had by all!

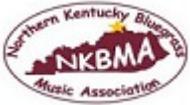
Editor's Note: Our area has been blessed with the following additional IBMA nominees and award winners in the past:

- Mark Brinkman - Song Writer of the Year and Song of the Year
- Steve Bonafel - Song Writer of the Year and Song of the Year

(Con't from page 1) I got all huffy and swore off IBMA again. This sounds like a familiar tune doesn't it. I really would have gotten over myself and gone to Raleigh but at the same time I had a run of bad luck. Two total loss house fires, a flood at a festival, and to top it all off, diagnosed with cancer just about IBMA time last year. Maybe I shouldn't have said, "I'll make it to IBMA come hell or high water" because I had them both and I just didn't make it. The waters of ill fortune receded, hair grew back on my head, and I said it again, "I'm not gonna miss another IBMA."

So this year, off to Raleigh I went. It is even better in Raleigh. Better than it has ever been. People told me that, but it is hard to believe until you experience it yourself. The FanFest was still there. The Convention Center was packed with top tier performers, the trade show was huge and could eat up the weekend, and of course jams were going on all over the place just as before. To really make it a city wide event, about a half mile of street was blocked off and there were booths of everything imaginable for sale from paintings to fainting goats to local honey to Guatemalan leather goods, and every food item imaginable. At one end there were no less than 26 separate barbeque booths set up for a barbeque contest, and that was a super pleasure in and of itself! Along this half mile corridor there were five or six stages set up and each had a continuous lineup of festival headliner acts. I saw Lonesome River Band, Sideline, The McLain Family Band, Chris Jones and the Night Drivers, Frank Solivan, Kenny & Amanda Smith, the Kruger Brothers and too many more to mention. Here is the link for those that want to see what they missed: <http://www.wideopenbluegrass.com/music-schedule>

Near the BBQ booths was the kid's stage and that was a heartwarming scene. Bands with very small children and the family harmony that just can't be duplicated outside the DNA loop played on stage all day, from all over the country. It is always cute to see kids so small



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Steve Martin Awarded 2018 Broadcaster of the Year Award

He dubs himself “the other Steve Martin” and his show is titled “Unreal Bluegrass”. What *is* real is that this Northern Kentucky resident is the 2018 International Bluegrass Music Association Broadcaster of the Year, as recently announced at the special awards luncheon held this past September 27th during the IBMA World of Bluegrass Week in Raleigh, NC.

He was selected from a group of five finalists, some of the top broadcasters in the genre. To be chosen, or to even be a finalist in this category is a major achievement. The process begins early in the year when IBMA invites their members to submit nominations for the award. After the names are gathered the Special Awards Committee narrows the list to the final five and sends those names to the Panel of Electors, comprised of over 200 highly regarded professionals in the industry, who then choose the winner. This was Steve’s second consecutive nomination for the award.

Martin admitted that he was “completely stunned” by the announcement and during his acceptance speech stressed “the critical need to support the hundreds of small radio stations in the country that air bluegrass. If they disappear they will never come back.”

About the program: Steve began his “unreal” format in 2012 on the Worldwide Bluegrass Network. The music aired on his show ranges from the old traditional to the newest in Bluegrass, with not a lot of talk in between songs. The dialog is saved for the interview portion which is a great feature on his program. When Steve wanted to add live interviews to his show he contacted me and asked if I would be his first. I joined him on the phone and we had a great conversation about a show that our band had played in the area. His interview style (possibly because of his day job as an attorney) sets you at ease and he always previously researches each artist and topic and knows which questions to ask. There are well over 300 hours of interviews archived on his website conducted with an estimated 250 performers, from the famous to the up and coming artists. Included in the archives are over twenty-five conversations with the great Sonny Osborne. In my opinion those are true gems, Mr. Osborne at ease and discussing every subject about his life performing Bluegrass music. Oh, and there are interviews with the *other* Steve Martin as well.

Steve’s website is currently maintained by NKBMA’s own Jerry Schrepfer who also devotes his hard work and time to assembling this newsletter and maintaining the NKBMA website and FaceBook pages. Special thanks to Jerry for his efforts! Martin expressed it very well: “We are nothing without friends. If you meet them on the field of Bluegrass, all that much better.”



Steve’s program runs three hours on five stations with a sixth to be added soon. To learn more about Steve, the stations and air times, and to replay some of those wonderful interviews, visit his website:

<http://www.unrealbluegrass.com/>

Congratulations, Steve! Thanks for your dedication to the music, along with all the other broadcasters around the country. *Artie Werner - bassist with Missy Werner Band and Comet Bluegrass AllStars.*

That first interview between Steve and Artie can be found at http://www.unrealbluegrass.com/archive_w.html/



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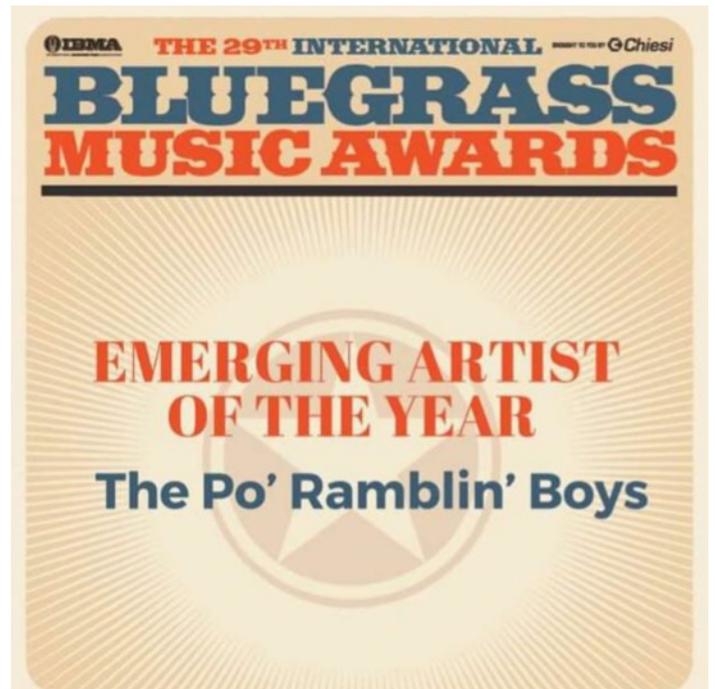
Well they grew up right before our eyes! **The Po' Ramblin' Boys Are Back in Town**

I want to warn you that kids do grow up and us older folks can only watch and wonder how it happened just like our folks before us did. I am thinking Tommy Brown had a son, a daughter and a mountain of a son he adopted (Tommy told me once that Juggy wasn't adopted, he just wouldn't leave) and they all grew up pickin', grinnin' travelin', showin' up at festivals all over the country and making music as close to the Stanley Brothers tradition as possible.

The boys were Jereme Brown and Josh Rinkel. Jereme's sister, Rachel, has moved on to a job, and life after travails or is that travels? Jereme and Josh (Jug) are now with their new traveling music partners, C.J. Lewandowski and Jasper Lorentzen. To think that as youngsters on the Willis Music stage in Florence, KY., with Tommy Brown and County Line Grass, Josh and Jereme would barely open their mouths except to deflect Tommy's constant teasing and questions on where their minds were during the tunes they played. Senior Brown no longer has to wonder because his tutelage and cajoling (that's Ohio words for 'larnin' and 'kickin butt') has done the job. They have their own sound now and it is really good!

The Po' Ramblin' Boys are very rich in the tradition of authentic Bluegrass Music and, with partners C. J. And Jasper, Jereme and Josh are now award winning, highly skilled, entertaining, up-and-coming performers in their own right. I saw them last year at the Wilmington Indoor Festival and was mesmerized. They honestly stole the show and that is saying a lot when Ricky Skaggs, Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers, and Nothin' Fancy were on the same bill !!

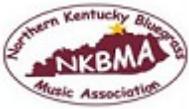
Apparently I wasn't the only one to notice. Bluegrass fans around the country and world have come out strong for these guys. Nominated for IBMA Emerging Artist of the Year, the Panel of Electors agreed and they came home with the top prize for a young, new group!



Don't do something foolish like stay at home on November 17th. They will be at Willis in the comfort of a great stage, soft chairs, good sound, friendly folks like the MC, Mr. Gene Thompson, and many of the NKBMA members. (See page 8 for details) And if Tommy shows up, look for some extra banter. I assure you that your money will be well spent and you will be thoroughly entertained.....as you think along with me....."I remember when they were just boys".

My final thought is "Thanks Tommy. You done good. - Ron Simmons

*Quips: We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head
and a beer gut, and STILL think they are sexy!*



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IBMA 2018 AWARD WINNERS

If you weren't there in person or missed the live internet stream of the awards show September 27th, here are the IBMA winners for 2018:

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR:
Balsam Range

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR:
Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver

INSTRUMENTAL GROUP OF THE YEAR:
The Travelin' McCourys

SONG OF THE YEAR:
'If I'd Have Wrote That Song - Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers (artist), Larry Cordle/Larry Shell/James Silvers (writers)

ALBUM OF THE YEAR:
Rivers & Roads - Special Consensus (artist), Alison Brown (producer), Compass Records (label)

GOSPEL RECORDED PERFORMANCE:
"Speakin' to That Mountain" Becky Buller (artist), Becky Buller/Jeff Hyde (writers), Crepe Paper Heart (album), Stephen Mouglin (producer), Dark Shadow Recording (label)

INSTRUMENTAL RECORDED PERFORMANCE:
'Squirrel Hunters' - Special Consensus w/John Hartford, Rachel Baiman, Christian Sedelmyer, and Alison Brown (artists), Traditional arranged by Alison Brown/Special Consensus (writers), Rivers & Roads (album), Alison Brown (producer), Compass Records (label)

EMERGING ARTIST OF THE YEAR:
The Po' Ramblin' Boys

RECORDED EVENT OF THE YEAR:
'Swept Away' - Missy Raines w/Alison Brown, Becky Buller, Sierra Hull, and Molly Tuttle (artists), single release, Alison Brown(producer), Compass Records

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR:
Brooke Aldridge

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR:
Buddy Melton

BANJO PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
Ned Luberecki

BASS PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
Tim Surrett

DOBRO PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
Justin Moses

FIDDLE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
Michael Cleveland

GUITAR PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
Molly Tuttle

MANDOLIN PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
Sierra Hull

HALL of FAME Inductees:
Ricky Skaggs, Paul Williams, Tom T. & Dixie Hall

BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR:
Steve Martin (N. KY based host of Unreal Bluegrass)

BLUEGRASS EVENT OF THE YEAR:
Bluegrass on the Green; Frankfort, Illinois

FESTIVAL MOMENTUM AWARD:
SamJam - Sammy Karr (producer)

BEST LINER NOTES RECORDED PROJECT (tie):
Craig Havighurst - The Story We Tell by Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers
Peter Wernick - Carter Stanley's Eyes by Peter Rowan

BEST GRAPHIC DESIGN RECORDED PROJECT:
Lou Everhart - A Heart Never Knows by Price Sisters

BLUEGRASS PRINT/MEDIA PERSON OF YEAR:
Neil Rosenberg

BLUEGRASS SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR:
Jerry Salley

SOUND ENGINEER OF THE YEAR:
Ben Surratt

Congratulations to All !!



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Turkey Jam

Friday, November 23rd

Willis Music, Mall Rd, Florence, KY

5pm to 8pm

The day after Thanksgiving, family and guests are gone
Time to get out of the house and
make/listen to some Bluegrass Music!



Bring your instrument, bring your left-over turkey, covered dish or dessert
We'll provide bread and spreads and beverages

Bring a friend, neighbor and enjoy bluegrass music
in the comfort of the Willis Music

Auditorium with large stage and great sound system

Full jammin' in the backrooms for stage warm-up or just learning more about
playing and singing Bluegrass music.

\$2 door donation

Mark your calendar and join us for food, fun and
fellowship with the Bluegrass community



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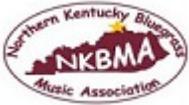
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Christmas Party

Friday, December 14th

Willis Music, Mall Rd., Florence, KY

5pm to 8pm

It's that time of year again. Bring your instrument for jamming
and a dish or dessert to pass.

Deli Meats and Beverages will be supplied by NKBMA.



During the Business Meeting portion of the party
Nominations from the floor will be taken for 2019 Board of Directors
New Board members needed, please consider volunteering for the Board
Voting will then be conducted to elect your Board and officers for 2019

Jamming in backrooms for all players and vocalists regardless of ability

Those with experience are encouraged to mentor newbies

Those with experience are encouraged to take the stage

Member Bands....Please come share your music with us!

Mark your calendars and join us for

an evening of music, food, fun

Get a ticket for Martin guitar raffle!



DCRSG Road Series Martin Cutaway RAFFLE

The NKBMA is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of bluegrass
and traditional music. In order to raise money to help fund our activities,
we are raffling a Martin DCRSG Dreadnought cutaway.

List Price \$1699.00

TICKETS ARE \$10.00ea Selling ONLY 250 TICKETS

Drawing Date: when all are sold or Friday, Dec 14th, 2018

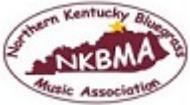
*****NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN*****

A dreadnought cutaway built with Sitka spruce top and mutenye (African
tonewood) back and sides. This guitar produces a beautiful even tone
with good bass and clear mids and trebles, features a Richlite fingerboard
and bridge, high performance taper neck and Fishman Sonitone
electronics making this guitar READY for the ROAD! Also includes a
Martin hardshell case.

Come to one of our jams or events and check it out! Pick it up and play
it. Your odds of winning are great since only 250 chances will be sold.
See a board member or Tom and Pam to purchase a ticket or two or three!

Less than 100 tickets left!! Don't Miss This One!





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Bands Performing at Willis Music

7567 Mall Rd, Florence, KY 41042

All performances 7 to 9pm

Live music at it's finest in a warm, friendly setting

Saturday, November 17, 2018

Award winning

PO' RAMBLING BOYS

IBMA Emerging Artists of the Year

High energy band that entertains from the first note to the last.

This will be the last time You will see this exciting group of musicians Live for this price!

(Check out article on page 4)

You don't want to miss this one!

\$15 donation at the door

Seating limited so get there early



Po Rambling Boys - January 2017 on the Willis stage

Saturday, January 19, 2019

FOREST HILLS

BLUEGRASS BAND

High lonesome songs about mountains, trains, rivers, and lost love with a special nod to John Hartford and a lively mix of classic bluegrass, folk and original songs

Veteran musicians LIVE!

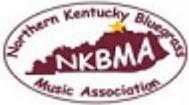
\$10 donation at the door

Seating limited so get there early



Forest Hills Bluegrass Band - Wayne Luessen, Rich Overturf, Brian Buckley, and Rick Marksberry





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JAMS

Gene Thompson Jam

1st Friday of each month

Back at the Lodge

Hart Dr., Hebron, KY Contact:
Gene Thompson (859)689-7431
\$2 donation at the door

NKBMA Gospel Jam

3rd Friday of each month

Back at the Lodge

Hart Dr., Hebron, KY Contact:
Gene Thompson (859)689-7431
\$2 donation at the door

NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam

4th Friday of each month

Main Stage Open Mic Fun!
Backroom Jammin'

Willis Music on Mall Rd,
Florence, KY Come and play or listen.

New Hours 5pm to 8pm

\$2 donation at the door

Contact Rick Fuchs (859)525-6050

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

Camp Springs Bluegrass Jam

1st Sunday of each month 3:30-6:30pm

Camp Springs Tavern

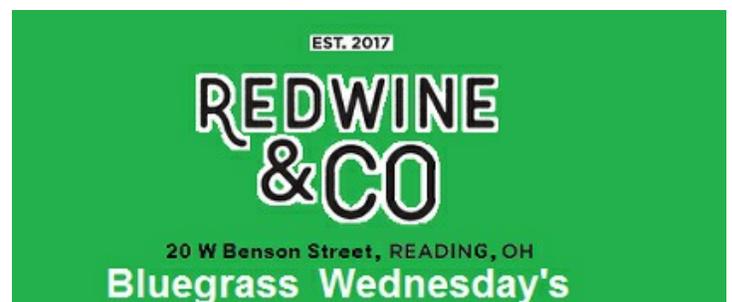
7009 Stonehouse Rd, Melbourne, KY

bring your instrument and a friend or
come out to listen. Details at:

campspringstavern.com



Beautiful Augusta, KY



Jam with Artie Werner and crew
Wednesdays 7pm to 10pm

Grab your instrument, come out and jam or mentor someone learning Bluegrass!

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks in captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?



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MONDAY NIGHT BLUEGRASS JAM
STARTS AT 8 PM

MOLLY MALONE'S



Irish Pub & Restaurant
Covington, Kentucky

www.mollymalonesirishpub.com

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FRONT OF OUR FIRST FLOOR FIREPLACE. FULL MENU
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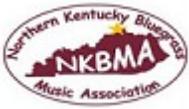
pls@commonwealthsurveying.com



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 200) in addition to the
Kate Young Music Makers studios
and lesson center

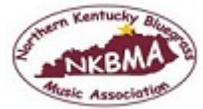
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Updated NKBMA website now Apple Compatible

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

Plus our own Facebook Page



Find us on
Facebook

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

JOIN the TEAM for 2019. 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 (\$12 Single, \$15 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 2019, become a Board Member or Volunteer

Enrollment forms also available at

www.nkbma.com



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



Address Label

NKBMA
PO Box 133
Hebron, KY 41048



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**IBMA News, Turkey Jam
Board Nominations and
Election, Christmas Party
and Martin Guitar Raffle,
WoodSongs Events
Jams and More**



**Pick up an instrument
And Mentor Someone!**