

Winter  
Edition

# Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

February  
2017

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*Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area*

## **IBMA or SPBGMA** *Help for the Business End of the Music Industry*

IBMA and SPBGMA are the organizations that make Bluegrass and or Acoustic Music a top priority in America and abroad. If you are not familiar with these groups, I highly suggest you look them up on your computer, or your children or grandchildren's computer. When the musicians you love to listen to on recordings, radio, internet, or LP's (which are making a nostalgic comeback) need help with the business end of the music industry, public relations, booking, videos, legal advice, insurance advice, and of course sourcing other musicians, it's where they go.

The larger of the two organizations, IBMA is the International Bluegrass Music Association celebrating the genre at its convention annually in October in Raleigh, NC, and promoting Bluegrass music around the world. Business meetings, open forums, numerous showcase events promoting performers and bands plus concerts and an award show fill the convention center. And the whole city becomes a 'parking lot pickin' venue as the sounds of Bluegrass fill the air!

SPBGMA, which stands for Society for the Preservation of BlueGrass Music America, holds its convention the first weekend of February in Nashville, TN. Most hotel rooms are booked up already so forget it unless you own an RV that can tow a dingy to drive into town (via the river). Concerts performances, award shows and plenty of pickin' will fill the Sheraton Music City Hotel.

Whatever your feelings are for Bluegrass Music, it is good to know that the future of the genre, or the "Art of Acoustic Music", is in the hands of ever wiser and more professional men and women. The early days of "every musician for him/herself" have gone by the wayside. Because of contracts, litigation, insurance, travel expenses, taxes, and, last but not least, the number of venues that may or may not be on the up and up, knowledge is king. Just because somebody wants to have a Bluegrass Festival does not mean the check will cash at the end of the show. Ask some of the old timers still in the business if they've ever been stiffed.....and be prepared to hear some of the horror stories that will give you the chills.

If you ever get the urge to attend one or both of these conventions, get reservations early and allow for having fun at a cost. That said, I don't believe you will be disappointed. I have never met anyone in Bluegrass Music that I didn't like.

Importantly and less costly, please attend the local Bluegrass Music events, renew your membership in NKBMA, check our websites and those of our member bands, come to our jams and concerts, meet nice people, tap your foot and donate your time and money to help us keep the genre alive in the Tri-state area. We need more of you to become involved by becoming members, a board member or volunteer to help with and plan future events.

...Ron Simmons - NKBMA President



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# INTERNATIONAL BLUEGRASS MUSIC MUSEUM and HALL OF FAME



*Artist rendering of the new International Bluegrass Music Museum and Hall of Fame scheduled to open in the spring of 2018 including a 500 seat concert hall, research library, classrooms, and multiple exhibits presenting the history of bluegrass music, including a time line wall display, displays of historically important instruments and artifacts.*



## **International Bluegrass Music Museum & Hall of Fame**

Located in beautiful Owensboro, KY is intended to be the world center for the presentation of the history, culture, and future of bluegrass

music. Its mission is to gather, preserve, exhibit and disseminate artifacts, history, collections and performance art of the global history of bluegrass music via educational experiences for the visitor.

The current museum (entrance pictured above) is in rented quarters and not large enough to house the growing collection of artifacts and exhibits. A new International Bluegrass Music Center will be located at the center of an \$80 million new waterfront park with glittering fountains and gorgeous public spaces and festival venue fronting on the Ohio River. Ground-breaking ceremonies on the new facility took place last summer and opening is projected for Spring of 2018.

The new location is next door to two new hotels and a new convention center. In short, the new Bluegrass Center will be the focal point of the City enjoying the City's support in the form of free rent

for 99 years. Owensboro residents have raised \$5 million toward the cost of building the new museum which will be 2x larger than the existing facility.

The only full-scale Bluegrass music museum in the world, the new facility will have far more exhibit space, a 500 seat concert hall, an outdoor concert area for 2000, an expansive gift shop, an international hall, a research library, teaching rooms and rooftop restaurant overlooking the Banks of the Ohio.....

To see a live camera feed of the construction site and view the progress go to their website at <http://www.bluegrassmuseum.org/international-bluegrass-music-center-museum/> and scroll down.



*Future Concert Hall*



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## Rabbit Hash General Store Rebuild Update

ALMOST DONE! The rebirth of the 185 yr old landmark is well ahead of schedule. It burned to the floor last February but the exterior looks much the same as it did before the fire. The architect hired for the rebuild promised to hold true to the old design retaining as many old building quirks as possible.

First, the floor was restored, then new walls, new ceiling beams and finally the roof. Residents and volunteers had worked hard clearing the debris from the fire salvaging as many items and wood from the old building as they could. Some folks donated old lumber from barns and an old house for use in the rebuild so the ‘new’ old store would have the look and feel of the original historical landmark. Others including the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill down in Harrodsburg, KY, donated artifacts to help recreate that 1831 look and feel to the store.

A new fire suppression system and new electrical wiring have been installed. Workers and volunteers were allowed to create a ‘time capsule’ of artwork on the interior side of the exterior walls which are now sealed away behind the interior walls. Windows and doors have been installed, interior door and window trim installed. The old store front sign has been replicated and installed as seen in the photo on the right.

The right shed room has been restored and painted. A new walk-in cooler has been installed and two long counters and the store shelving are being installed using the same old craftsmanship and vintage materials

Workers are pushing hard for a February 13<sup>th</sup> re-opening of the store – one year to the day it burned. That may be pushing it too hard, but the store will be open in the next month. Watch their FB and website pages for updates as the opening date is finalized.

Thanks to all of the contributors on the GoFundMe



Page and other fund raisers, \$51,000 has been raised to assist in the project. Duke Energy, owners of the East End Power Plant just down river from Rabbit Hash donated an additional \$25,000 citing the fact that the town and store are favorites of the 100+ workers employed locally. Don Clare president of the Historical Society says insurance will cover \$60,000 of the rebuild costs as well. The efforts of all, use of old woods and adhering to the original design will allow the General Store to keep it’s historic designation.

**NKBMA member bands are some of the best in the area. To see more information about any of our member bands go to [www.NKBMA.com](http://www.NKBMA.com) and click on ‘Member Bands’. We provide links to their websites and contact information for your ease in finding the best entertainment in the area. What....you’re band isn’t listed?? Becoming a member band is easy. Contact [jerry@NKBMA.com](mailto:jerry@NKBMA.com)**



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## COFFEEHOUSE *Past Events* The Kody Norris Show



**November 2016 Willis Music, Florence**  
**The Kody Norris Show** came to town, played their music and won the hearts of the audience as they do no matter where they appear. The “Show” members are Kody, flashing a suit that could light up the New York sub way system, on guitar; Mary Rachel Nalley, who is every bit the ‘Lucy’ to Kody’s “Ricky”, on fiddle; Colton Powers who played the 5-string banjo with the determination to not look Kody in the eye while playing for fear of distraction from the grin Kody kept flashing; and last but not least, Tommy Lamb, making matters even less serious, on upright bass. Tommy believes that Bluegrass should be fun and ‘If you aren’t having fun, go away!’

They all had fun except.....Kody’s car gave up on him on the way up to Cincinnati. Now if you think that deterred him from putting on a good show, that was far from what happened. I predict that if this young man can keep “Lucy” (Mary Rachel) happy on stage, this group has what most bands wish for and that is.....GREAT ENTERTAINMENT VALUE! They interacted constantly with humor and what I felt was real love and respect as musicians and people.

If Gene Thompson can get them back again next year, I will be there and heartily recommend you not miss the Kody Norris Show! - *Ron Simmons*

*A Government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have.....***Thomas Jefferson**



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## COFFEEHOUSE *Past Events* Po' Ramblin' Boys



**January 2017 -Willis Music, Florence**  
**The Po' Ramblin' Boys** took the stage and kicked off 2017 with the some of the best, tightest, hard-driving traditional bluegrass to ever come from the Willis stage! Add to that their humorous antics and high energy presentation and you can see why they have delighted audiences everywhere they perform.

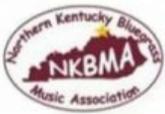
The first to take the stage was Jasper Lorentzen who, with hat, is as tall as the standup bass he plays. His hard driving bass pounds like a jackhammer as he provides the foundation for the band's driving sound. Not only is he a master of the instrument but he is one of the most lively bass players I have ever seen.

Second to take the stage was Jereme Brown, a fourth generation banjo player, who provides vocals and Ralph Stanley style banjo skillfully knowing when to play and importantly....when not to play. More high energy when needed.

Next was Josh Rinkel whose guitar had a slogan 'Keep It Lonesome!' On the front. His high energy guitar playing matched the hard driving tempo of the bass and his vocals complemented the mix.

Last to the stage was the band's lead singer and mandolin player, C.J. Lewandowski. MC for the group he says, "We want to be known for keeping the old music alive, and making some new music that's still close to the roots....we are just trying to keep those roots alive...complement and not take away"

To honor some of those roots, the band called 'Dad' Tommy Brown to the stage to sing a couple of songs with them. When Tommy is in the house the jokes always fly and Gene Thompson, long-time friend of Tommy's, got drawn into the fun. It was a night of great music and fun as they entertained a packed house. If you missed it....YOU REALLY MISSED IT!



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## Tom Bushelman Sr.



On November 25<sup>th</sup> we lost another one of our friends and fellow musicians. For those that didn't know him, let me share some of Tom's rich Story with you.

As noted in a previous article (see Northern Grass August 2015) Tom Bushelman, Sr. was one of the early contributors to our rich bluegrass heritage in Northern Kentucky. His photo collection and stories of the early days of bluegrass were legendary.

Tom was a mentor to many of us in the late 80s and 90s sharing his experiences, playing with some of the local bands and sharing his love for the music of Monroe and Scruggs. He played guitar, banjo, dobro and bass. Some of his children learned to play fiddle, banjo, guitar and dobro.

While I was producing television coverage of local events, Tom taught me how to read the body language of bluegrass bands, anticipate the next instrument to take a break and switch camera shots in time to get close up shots of the musician's skills showing hands and fret boards. And it must be said he is solely to blame for my involvement in this great genre.

Tom dabbled in lutherie creating a basement full of instruments with a twist; a guitar with a 5-string banjo neck, a banjo made from a stainless steel bedpan, a guitar with a toilet seat around the sound hole (his sitar), a 12-string dobro.....you get the point? His humor was unique. And never agreeing with the 'experts' regarding the resonator and importance of wood and sound holes and such, he created the famous 'popsicle stick' dobro pictured above with rich tones proving them wrong. Now displayed in a glass case in

the living room it bears the signatures of many of the genre's greatest artists.

Our friend, Steve Martin, made the following post to Facebook when he learned of Tom's passing:

*'We met maybe mid 70's. Our families had married into each other. At some gathering...we discovered we both loved and played bluegrass. We sneaked out of that gathering and began what was to become a decades long sharing of song and stories and laughs. Today, at home with his best dog by his side...and the absolute love of his life...close by, this life friend who surprised me with this hand made neck with all hand cut inlay attached to a '23 Gibson...passed through to the next scene. Always his way...Later on down the road.'*



Tom always enjoyed a good jam session. He always grinned as I tried to sing a traditional bluegrass song in my old folk singer style voice and encouraged me to get the rhythms and timing right. He tried to teach me banjo but my wife couldn't handle that! Switching to the bass, he showed me the basics helping me learn the nuances of playing bluegrass bass.

Tom is survived by his wife, Rita, three daughters, Brenda, Susan, Sheri, and son, Tom Jr. And numerous grandchildren. The legacy he leaves behind is rich in music, humor and a point of view unique to him. I consider myself most fortunate to have known him and call him friend. He will be missed.....

*Jerry Schrepfer- Editor*

## \$500 Willis Gift Certificate Winner

Congratulations to Kody Norris audience member **Mary Nalley** of Mountain City, TN for having winning ticket N<sup>o</sup> 96 !! Attending NKBMA Woodsongs events always has value-added pluses !





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½ Page	\$15.00	\$60.00
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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.  
Rick Fuchs and staff bring Years of service and experience to meet Your every Musical need.

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



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# COFFEEHOUSE EVENT February 11<sup>th</sup>

7:00pm

## Mountain Music Ambassadors

From MooreHead State University's  
Center for Traditional Music

Back for the second time....students from the  
Traditional Music Program will visit us at  
**Willis Music, Mall Rd, Florence, Ky**

This is an internationally acclaimed program  
providing the world with a taste of traditional  
mountain music forms and culture from an historical  
and contemporary perspective.

**Don't miss this chance to support this  
educational program and experience some  
of the best from future musical artists**

Details: call Gene Thompson(859)689-7431

**theSoundWorkshop**

**RECORDING STUDIO**

Located within **Willis Music** on Mall Road in  
Florence, KY. Contact Rick Hopkins for all  
your recording needs at:

(513)607-9855 or visit their website at:

[www.soundworkshop.net](http://www.soundworkshop.net)

# SUN VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

## BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Saturday July 8, 2017

**AJ Jolly Park, Campbell Co.**

*Some of the best regional Bluegrass and  
Old Time acts including the Price Sisters,  
Empty Bottle String Band, Mikaya Taylor,  
Hartstrings Bluegrass Band and More !!*

*Food, crafts and kid's activities*

*\$5 Admission*

*See FB page or call Jeff (859)750-0505*

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

# MOLLY MALONE'S



## Irish Pub & Restaurant

### Covington, Kentucky

[www.mollymalonesirishpub.com](http://www.mollymalonesirishpub.com)

JOIN IN OR LISTEN TO SOME OF THE AREA'S FINEST IN  
FRONT OF OUR FIRST FLOOR FIREPLACE. FULL MENU  
AND \$2 BULLEIT SPECIALS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

112 E. 4th Street, Covington, KY 41011



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## ***FUTURE BLUEGRASS SPECIAL EVENTS***

*There is nothing better than live music. Bring the family, a friend, or grab a neighbor!!*

# **WOODSONGS® COFFEEHOUSE EVENTS**

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

**Saturday, March 11, 2017  
7:00pm**

## **The Blue Eagle Band**

Performing acoustic music best described as bluegrass and more...4 spirited musicians sing and perform covers of well known traditional and progressive bluegrass, 'newgrass' and some original material including solo, duet and trio vocals with a mix of instrumentals

**Willis Music, Mall Rd, Florence, Ky**

Details: call Gene Thompson (859)689-7431

\$10 Donation at the Door



**Saturday, April 8, 2017**

**7:00pm**

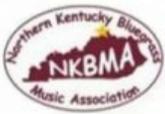
## **Rick Oldfield & Curnie Lee Wilson**

Festival favorites performing Stanley style 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

Details: call Gene Thompson(859)689-7431

\$10 Donation at the Door





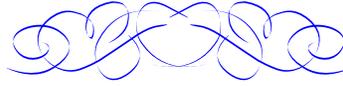
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## JAMS



### Gene Thompson -Hebron JAMS ARE BACK!

1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month Nov thru May  
Hebron Lodge, 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

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month  
5<sup>th</sup> and Park St, Newport, KY  
6pm to 10pm year round  
With Pot Luck and \$6 donation  
Contact Russell Turner at:  
[rturn02@zoomtown.com](mailto:rturn02@zoomtown.com)

### Old Time Fiddlers Jam

2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:roseballard3@aol.com)

### NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam

4<sup>th</sup> 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

### *NEWEST JAM!!*

### Crew Lounge Jam

1933 Petersburg Rd, Hebron, KY  
Every Tuesday 7pm to 10pm  
On and around the Stage  
Contact Mickey McAdams for info:  
(606)524-4163





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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 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)***

# 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 be part of the team helping keep Bluegrass music alive in the area.**

**Member bands are listed on our website with links to their websites and member band event schedules are added to our website/Facebook calendars.**

**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 2017, become a Board Member or Volunteer to help us support Bluegrass Music in the Northern Kentucky Area.**



The Future of the  
Organization, Events  
and Jams Depend Upon  
**YOUR SUPPORT!**



Address Label

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PO Box 133  
Hebron, KY 41048



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**IBMA, SPBGMA, IBMM  
Rabbit Hash Update  
Past and Future Events  
and More**



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