

The Blueberry Bluegrass Festival

2018 IBMA Event of the Year!

Most of us were blown away by the nomination of Blueberry for the 2018 IBMA Event of the Year. Upon qualifying as a top 5 prospect, Anna Sommerville andCarolynn Hotte traveled to Raleigh, North Carolina for the IBMA ceremony and made us more proud of the work that they and their team do for the largest Bluegrass Festival in Canada hosted each year at the Heritage Park in Stony Plain.



“The NBCMS is a non-profit music society that promises to promote, present and preserve Bluegrass Music.”



Carolynn Hotte and Anna Sommerville flanked by Pete Wernick and Greg Cabill receiving the IBMA 2018 Event of the Year award for the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival

For 34 years the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival has provided our region with easy access to the largest Bluegrass Festival in Canada. Originally hosted in the tiny hamlet of Blueberry to the west of Stony Plain, the Festival quickly outgrew their roots location and since 1994 has been hosted at the Stony Plain Rodeo Grounds location now known as Heritage Park. This great venue provides the means for continued future success and growth of the Festival.

This year in particular a noticeable change at Blueberry

included many younger faces amongst the Bluegrass performers and audience. This shift is a sign that Bluegrass is alive and strong and facing the future with pride and enthusiastic anticipation.

The NBCMS is a proud sponsor of Blueberry and is represented with a stage within the Pioneer Museum and a jamming tent on site.

The NBCMS stage hosts the Blueberry pancake breakfast each morning along with workshops and performances over the course of the weekend.

STONY PLAIN, AB
Blueberry
BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

BLUEBERRY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL AUGUST 2 - 4, 2019

For a few days prior to the festival, Volunteers were working to set up the Heritage Park parking area and the adjacent gravel lot in preparation to welcome hundreds of RV campers to their Blueberry home. Folks began to arrive on Wednesday July 31st and by the evening of Thursday August 1st, the place was pretty jam packed. I had the pleasure of welcoming many to the site and helping some to get set up in their new digs. Several had requested spots in the adjacent gravel lot a bit of a hike from the grounds, but they specifically requested to be close to the Backroad Stringband campers. When Darrell Fredland arrived, I led him to his site and told him that a bunch of his friends were already there... He asked who and I gave him some names, he said he didn't know any of them and as it turns out, those folks just wanted to be camped close to the Backroad Stringband because of the great jamming that went on at their site last year!

Terry Ruddy, Mark McHale, Scott Degen, Diana Stanford and myself served up somewhere around 400 hamburgers and refreshments with blueberry pie and ice cream to many of those that were already camped at the Festival grounds. There were lots of smiles and laughs while food was being prepped and served.

After the BBQ on Thursday, in advance of the programmed events, The River City Playboys treated us to another great traditional Bluegrass performance in the tent that the next day would become the Blueberry Patio Bar. Their performance was as reminiscent of the night they played for the tribute to Gene Zwozdesky last March... and of course jamming followed.



The River City Playboys -l to r Curtis Appleton, Marc Ladouceur, Byron Myhre, Matt Hotte and Zach Daniel Robertson

The Festival offers more than one can possibly enjoy with 3 stages and 3 jamming tents, workshops and dances plus the Pioneer Museum and the very convenient access to the town of Stony Plain's amenities.

The Share the Chair program is a great opportunity to 'drop in' and enjoy one of the shows on the main stage in a very comfortable red chair that's been placed to allow for a great view of the main stage performances.



One happy couple enjoying the thoughtful comfort of the Share the Chair Program

BLUEBERRY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL -A LITTLE HISTORY...

The Blueberry Bluegrass Festival dates back to 1985 the first year that the Festival was organized by Chuck Skinner at the Golden Spike Community Hall. The next year the Festival was held was 1987 and had re-located to the Blueberry Hall just north of Beach Corner. For 7 years, the Festival occupied this quaint location until ambitions of a greater Festival event encouraged organizers to move on to the Stony Plain Rodeo Grounds location.

The list of past performers is really a who's who of the Bluegrass and Country music scenes. Including the Father of Bluegrass himself -Bill Monroe and his Bluegrass Boys. Pioneer performers of the Bluegrass world include Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys, The Del McCoury Band, Mac Wiseman, J.D. Crowe and the New South, Hot Rize, The Seldom Scene, Special Consensus, Charlie Sizemore, Claire Lynch and the Front Porch Stringband, Rhonda Vincent and the Rage, The McDades, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, The Boxcars, The Whites, Grasstowne, The Lonesome River Band, The Spinneys, Lost Highway, The Earls of Leicester, Jerusalem Ridge, Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers, Down to the Wood, The David Grisman Bluegrass Experience, John Reischmann and the Jaybirds, Marty Stuart and his Fabulous Superlatives, Sierra Hull and Highway 111, Jeff Scroggins and Colorado, Suzy Bogguss, Pharis and Jason Romero, Blue Highway, Calvin Vollarath, Old Man Luedecke, The Foghorn Stringband, Russell deCarle, Alfie Myhre and Friends, and our very own Kayla Hotte and her Rodeo Pals among many many others.

How lucky are we to have this Festival and it's dedicated team of organizers right here in our backyard? Many of those folks are members of our club the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society!

With the development of the Heritage Park Facility the future success of the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival and many other events has brightened incredibly... it's one of those "if you build it, they will come" type of opportunities that piques the imagination to levels not yet realized.



2018 Blueberry Bluegrass Festival *program guide cover*

The town of Stony Plain awarded the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival with the 2018 Award of Creative Excellence. This award provides recognition of the community building success inspired by the Blueberry Bluegrass & Country Music Society Festival Board of Directors with their event partners and sponsors. Of course no event could operate without the backing provided by the team of dedicated volunteers, many of whom count their years of support in decades.

The Festival experienced a challenge just 3 short years ago when the long serving President stepped down without a named successor. It seemed that the future of the event was in question. Community building giant Gene Zwozdesky -a beacon of vision, optimism and confidence- chaired the meeting in February of 2017 that elected Anna Sommerville as President of the Board. Together the Board worked to build that year's Festival.

Upon hearing of the award from the Town, Gene was heard to say "Let's go out there and get some more!". He would be so proud to know that the IBMA has also recognized the excellence of the Blueberry Festival.

There's one Gene quote that resonates deep within me, one I also know to be true "There is more power in WE than in I". The 'we' refers to the entire community of folks that are the Festival and includes the fans, the performers, the sponsors, the Town, the Volunteers, and the Board. I, for one, am very grateful for the effort and the opportunity to be part of this community.



BLUEBERRY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL AUGUST 2 - 4, 2019



Key Program Pages highlighting the lineup, daily activities, jams and workshops found on 3 stages and in 3 jam locations at The Blueberry Bluegrass Festival

FRIDAY

Hosted Jams	Fillmore Stage Indoor Stage	Outdoor Stage	NBCMS Stage Pioneer Museum
Jessie & the Gents 10:30 am NBCMS Jamming Tent	The Strawflowers 100 pm	High Fidelity 230 pm	Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am to 10:00 am see poster for details
Rugged Little Thing 12:00 pm Blueberry Patio	Jessie & the Gents 2:00 pm	Lonesome Ace Stringband 3:00 pm	Instrument Workshops 8:50 am to 1:00 pm see poster for details
The Strawflowers 5:00 pm Grove RV Open House	Growing Old Men 3:00 pm	Steve Fisher Band 4:30 pm	Master Session with High Fidelity's Jeremy Shepherd & Curtis Rose Lecture: "Brother David Sharp" 1:15 pm
The Backroad Stringband 10:30 pm Blueberry Patio	Hanne Kah 5:00 pm	Bill & the Belles 5:30 pm	Rugged Little Thing 2:15 pm
		OPENING CEREMONIES 6:30 pm	Instrument Workshops Museum Stage 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Musicals with Ben Whittle Growing Old Men Carter with John Leland Growing Old Men Chickenshire String Band with Chris Cooke Lonesome Ace Stringband Single with Al Latham Steve Fisher Band Fiddle with Edie Fergle Bill & the Belles Band with Matt Skusek (The Cleverlys)
		Meet up at the Blueberry Patio Serving 3 - 9 pm	
		COUNTRY DANCE Troy's Old Time Dance Band 10:00 pm	

Stony Plain, AB
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SATURDAY

Hosted Jams	Fillmore Stage Indoor Stage	Outdoor Stage	NBCMS Stage Pioneer Museum
Growing Old Men 10:30 am NBCMS Jamming Tent	Master Session Boris & Fiddle with Joe Mullins & Lane Lane 10:15 am	Visit the Petting Zoo	Pancake Breakfast 9 to 11 am
Bill & the Belles 12:00 pm Blueberry Patio	Master Session Mandolin Madness with The O'Brien & Lane Lane 11:15 am	Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers 1:00 pm	Ukulele Workshop 10:30 am to Noon
Backroad Stringband 2:00 pm Grove RV Open House	Rugged Little Thing 12:30 pm	John Reischman & the Jaybirds 2:00 pm	Try the Scavenger Hunt
Fiddle Workshop TBA 1:30 - 3:00 pm NBCMS Jamming Tent	Steve Fisher Band 1:30 pm	Jessie & the Gents 3:00 pm	Blueberry Patio Serving 2 - 9 pm
John Reischman & the Jaybirds 6:00 pm Pavilion	No Blu 3:00 pm	Growing Old Men 4:00 pm	
Steve Fisher Band 6:00 pm NBCMS Jamming Tent	Bill & the Belles 3:30 pm	No Blu 5:00 pm	
Backroad Stringband 10:30 pm Blueberry Patio	Front Country 4:30 pm	Break for Dinner	
	Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers 5:30 pm	Tim O'Brien Band 6:45 pm	CHECK OUT THE JAMMING
	COUNTRY DANCE The Western Flyers 10:00 pm	High Fidelity 8:00 pm	Blueberry BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

SUNDAY

Hosted Jams	Fillmore Stage Indoor Stage	Outdoor Stage	NBCMS Stage Pioneer Museum
Likeliest Jam Session 10:00 am Blueberry Patio	Cowboy Church Service 10:00 - 11:30 am	PANCAKE BREAKFAST Pioneer Museum 8:00 to 11 am	Master Session Texas Fiddle & Guitar Featuring The Western Flyers 1:00 pm
Lonesome Ace Stringband 10:30 am NBCMS Jamming Tent	CKUA LIVE ON LOCATION Bluegrass Hour 12 NOON	Cowboy Poetry 12:00 pm	Blueberry Patio Serving 2 - 8 pm
Rugged Little Thing 2:00 pm	Lonesome Ace Stringband 1:15 pm	Jessie & the Gents 2:00 pm	
Fiddle Workshop with Benjamin Ockler 1:30 - 3:00 pm NBCMS Jamming Tent	High Fidelity 2:15 pm	The Strawflowers 3:00 pm	
No Blu 5:00 pm Pavilion	The Barefoot Movement 3:15 pm	Paint something creative at the Craft Tent	
Backroads Stringband 6:00 pm NBCMS Jamming Tent	John Reischman & the Jaybirds 4:15 pm	Break for Dinner	
	OPEN STAGE Uptown Folk Club 5:00 - 6:30 pm	John Reischman & the Jaybirds 7:00 pm	
	There's Shopping in the Pavilion	The Barefoot Movement 8:00 pm	

Stony Plain, AB
Blueberry BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

BLUEBERRY -THE PERFORMERS

The days are very full and each opportunity to enjoy a performance or a workshop, or participate in a jam provides value beyond measure.

Every Festival offers so much for so many in addition to the music and this year's Blueberry was a splendid example. The market place inside the main pavilion is a great place to meet performers and purchase their discs and souvenir items. There were many local artisans present with everything from hand made guitars and wood carvings to pottery. The kid's petting zoo is always a favourite with goats and sheep and roosters and smiles. There was face painting, ice cream, specialty coffees and food trucks. There was outdoor putting for the golf crowd (mostly the kids). I hope that I haven't left anyone out.

Friday morning we hit the ground running with pancake breakfast at the Pioneer Museum followed by instrument workshops and hosted jams.

The performances started at 1:00 with The Strawflowers performing a nice mix of Old Tyme, Folk Roots, Bluegrass and New Grass on the Fillmore Stage.

Myhre's Music was there with a great booth full of the sort of merchandise that one just can't get enough of from strings to T's to mugs to instruments and expertise. Myhre's provided a Martin D-28 guitar for the raffle with the winning ticket being drawn on Sunday evening prior to the Barefoot Movement closing out the show. The very happy winner was Patsy Blois from Grande Prairie. Patsy plays guitar and bass fiddle with the Backroad Stringband from Grande Prairie. Congratulations Patsy!



The Strawflowers -l to r Bruce Ziff jaw's harp and clawhammer banjo, Pamela Johnson guitar and vocals, Zach Daniel Robertson bass fiddle, guitar and vocals, and Hannah Goa fiddle

The Strawflowers kicked off the performances at Blueberry on the Fillmore Stage at 1:00 on Friday afternoon. They performed 3 delightful sets on 3 stages over the 3 days of the Festival. Their sets included a classic rendition of John Denver's Ballad of St Anne's Reel and some of their own beautiful tunes -"Cluckhold Hen" and "Slaughter House" written by Hannah Goa, and "Dear Prairies" written by Pamela Johnson. Zach Daniel Robertson lead a fun and fast version of "Rabbit In A Log". The range of harmonies between Zach's more traditional Bluegrass voicing and Pamela's silky voice gives the band a unique range of sound! They closed with the crowd singing backup on "Y'all Come".



The Tim O'Brien Band -l to r Shad Cobb, Jan Fabricious, Tim O'Brien, Mike Bub and Patrick Sauber

Headliners **The Tim O'Brien Band** provided 2 great shows on Saturday and Sunday with Tim O'Brien's multi instrumental (guitar, mandolin, fiddle) lead and vocals, Patrick Sauber's incredible guitar and banjo, Shad Cobb on fiddle, Mike Bub on bass and Jan Fabricious harmony vocals with wonderful sets of mainstream bluegrass. Tim hails from West Virginia and the rest of the band are widespread over the U.S.A., Tim is a singer / songwriter, founding member of 'Hot Rize' and honky tonk and Celtic crooner who was a guest performer with the infamous traditional Irish music band the Chieftains in Nashville on their "Old Plank Road" recording. Tim has travelled many musical paths and brought a traditional bluegrass sound to Blueberry where he was heard to say that "Bluegrass is even better than it sounds". They opened with a driving train song called "Train on the Island" and closed with a beautiful rendition of the old fiddle tune "Little Annie".

BLUEBERRY -THE PERFORMERS CONTINUED

I love to discover 'new to me' music. This year's Festival provided many opportunities for that. While I wasn't able to enjoy the performances of all of the bands, as they were taking place on multiple stages and I had my own volunteer duties, I was able to discover many (I would say most)! I should next time pay closer attention to the program bios when it indicates 'one time performance only!'



Among the 'new to me' groups were co-headliners **Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers** providing 2 fantastic sets Friday and Saturday. I've seen many shows that I've loved but this I would have to rank among the best ever. Joe Mullins is a showman par excellence. He's part Gospel Preacher, part DJ, and a Gentleman through and through. The stories of their roots and experiences amongst the great Bluegrass community had me completely spellbound. The timing for introductions of each member of the band lead into their individual leads on songs, flowing smooth as Golden son. Joe's roots and current residency are in Ohio, the Buckeye state. The Radio Ramblers like story songs, they've been together for 13 years and have 8 albums to their credit. Their most recent "For The Record" includes a Bill Anderson tune called "The Guitar Song", it was recorded in collaboration with Del McCoury. This act is so strong, they won the 2019 IBMA Entertainer of the Year award AND the IBMA Collaborative Recording of the Year award for "The Guitar Song" with Del McCoury.

Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers -l to r Jason Barle fiddle, Mike Terry mandolin and vocals, Joe Mullins banjo and vocals, Randy Barnes bass and vocals, Duane Sparks guitar and vocals. "It's good to be reminded of where our roots first took the ground" -Joe Mullins Blueberry Festival 2019

John Reischmann and the Jaybirds without a doubt one of the classiest and deeply thoughtful guys in the Old Tyme and Bluegrass world. John appears to be very straight faced on stage, although it's really just his beard that's hiding the fact that he is having the time of his life on stage! He has the most beautiful and intricate mandolin picking style that springs delight in the band's melodies. Clean, rhythmic, traditional, tone, taste and groove are words that make me think of John and the Jaybirds. This band has been together since 2000. John is from Vancouver, Trisha Gagnon -Chilliwack, Nick Hornbuckle -Nanaimo, Gregory J. Spatz (who is also an award winning novelist) -Seattle, and Patrick Sauber (joined the group in 2017) -makes his home in Los Angeles. The band produces a soul stimulating blend of Appalachian Old Tyme, Bluegrass and Folk Roots tunes. Many pure instrumentals and some strong vocal melodies characterize this band. This band obviously enjoys playing together, their talented performance puts them at the top of the acoustic music world.



John Reischman and the Jaybirds -l to r Gregory J. Spatz fiddle, John Reischman mandolin, Trisha Gagnon bass fiddle, Patrick Sauber guitar, Nick Hornbuckle banjo

BLUEBERRY PERFORMERS - CONTINUED

High Fidelity - l to r Corrina Rose Logston, Vickie Vaughn, Jeremy Stephens, and Daniel Amick

Another cool new find was **High Fidelity**. This incredibly talented young group of 5 stellar Rebel Records recording artists draw their inspiration from the traditionalists in Bluegrass. Jeremy Stephens plays guitar and is lead vocalist, Corrina Rose Logston is the fiddler and 1st harmony vocalist, Daniel Amick is the mandolinist and also plays guitar, Vickie Vaughn is the bassist, and missing from the lineup at Blueberry was Kurt Stephenson who plays banjo and 2nd harmony vocalist. The band has been described as the new Johnson Mountain Boys by some, for their next generation drive to play traditional Bluegrass. They got together in early 2014, they entered and won the International Band Championship at the 40th annual Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America (SPGMA) Awards in February of that year. They were also nominated as IBMA New Artist of the Year. Their inspiration comes from bands like the Stanley Brothers, Reno & Smiley, the Louvin Brothers and Jim & Jesse. No end to classic bluegrass from this crew!



Toronto natives **The Lonesome Ace Stringband** provided 3 excellent sets, one on each of the stages, performing on each day of the Festival. Folks here love this band! We've had the chance to get to know them at performances and workshops and jams. They're a great bunch of guys that have an incredible set of complimentary skills that shines through in their unique and modern Old Tyme sound. One distinguishing characteristic of this 'Old Tyme' group is the story telling lyrical component within their songs. A new listener would be surprised to discover this band is a threesome. The band consists of John Showman on fiddle, Chris Coole playing clawhammer banjo, and

Max Heineman on bass and each of them can be a lead vocalist as well. These guys are a really tight unit. As journeyman musicians with strong Bluegrass skills they developed their chops together on stage at the Dakota Tavern in Toronto as the house band for 7 years playing 10 sets every weekend. That much time together has really connected these guys in a way that brings intuitive comfort and depth to their sound with tasteful accompaniments that shows how close they are. On the heels of a spectacular album "When The Sun Comes Up", they plan to release their 4th album in November. I can hardly wait!

BLUEBERRY -THE PERFORMERS CONTINUED

Bill and the Belles -l to r Kalia Yeagle fiddle and vocals, Andrew Small bass fiddle, Kris Truelsen guitar and vocals, Helena Hunt banjo, banjo ukelele and vocals

Bill and the Belles provided us with the opportunity to slip back to the 1920's in their music. Their charm came through in a fast friends type of relationship with the audience as they introduced themselves through their freewheeling and lighthearted music. They became the house band for WCYB -the radio station in Bristol, Tennessee broadcasting the monthly live radio show 'Farm and Fun Time' from the Birthplace of Country Music Museum. Bill (Kris Truelsen) is the host and producer of the show and has supplied musical breaks, jingles and songs for the program. 'Farm and Fun Time' was a live broadcast from the region in the 1940's and 1950's that featured legendary performers such as Flatt & Scruggs, the Stanley Brothers, the Osborne Brothers and Mac Wiseman. This truly is a revival of times past. They shared some of the jingles they have written for the radio station sponsors which, I hope, they will share with us on a future recording... tunes like the snappy "Dip Dog" written for a local hot dog vendor! The band hails from Johnson City, Tennessee. Enjoy some fun times spent looking through the videos on their website, songs like "Finger Pointin' Mama" and "That'll Be Just Fine".

Jessie & The Gents from Switzerland brought us a real high energy set with a taste of the Country roots of their acoustic music and just a hint of Cajun' that seems so natural within the diverse community of the tiny country that shares such a long border with France and has such powerful neighbours. What a delight to discover this band that was so grateful to be here 'just a little outside' the centre of the Bluegrass Universe. The haunting harmonies of "Jolene" were amazing. The band consists of Jessie Hardegger vocals and mandolin, Rick Noorlander vocals and guitar, Geri Zumbrunn vocals and bass, Rainer Hagmann fiddle, and Putzie Mayr vocals and dobro with an occasional Cajun' accordion on demand. Their first album together was released in the fall of 2017 and then in May of 2018 they won 1st prize in the Swiss Country Music Awards with Best Song "I Ain't Gonna Ride With You". They obviously have fun playing together and their energy is shared in an infectious manner with their audience. By the end of the show, the crowd was on their feet screaming for an encore!



Jessie & The Gents -l to r Rainer Hagmann fiddle, Jessie Hardegger mandolin and vocals, Geri Zumbrunn bass and vocals, Rick Noorlander guitar and vocals, Putzie Mayr dobro and vocals

BLUEBERRY-THE PERFORMERS CONTINUED

I wish I could provide a write up on all of the performers at the Blueberry Festival, this truly would become a 'magazine' as it's been referred to by some... with no lack of regard for the rest of the lineup at Blueberry, you should know that I loved every show that I got to enjoy. You should know of my deep appreciation for the partnership in song writing and performance shared by John Lowell and Ben Winship. My appreciation runs so deep that I've been known to request THEM to play (at a jam) some of their self professed jam busting classics like "Madison Brown" and "Toolshed".

I loved the part of Nu Blu's set that I got to enjoy and wasn't able to see The Western Flyers, or Rugged Little Thing, or The Steve Fisher Band, or Troy's Old Time Dance Band. I guess that's what the future holds for me.

I think that it's important to mention the weather that was mostly very nice and cooperative outside of about a 5 hour window or perhaps all of Friday night. The prairie storm rolled in and hammered us with life threatening hail, SERIOUSLY! The Festival was shutdown due to electrical activity from the sky that was very quickly followed by tennis ball sized hail. The storm was so intense that several hundred vehicles and many tents and RVs were damaged. But that didn't put a dent (heehee) in the desire and energy of the crowd that came to enjoy the festival. It might have cooled them off a little on Friday night but the rest of the weekend was hot as expected!

The closing act was very exciting and I certainly look forward to discovering more about...



The Barefoot Movement -l to r Tommy Norris mandolin and vocals, Noah Wall fiddle and vocals, Katie Blomarz bass fiddle and vocals, Alex Conerly guitar and vocals. YES INDEED they are barefoot!

Nashville based **The Barefoot Movement** began their musical journey just 7 years ago. Their lush harmonies and hard driving rhythms bring energy and excitement to the crowd. They are as comfortable with the traditional Bluegrass tunes such as "Lonely Mississippi Blues" as they are with a cappella harmonies shown in "Early In The Morning" a chain gang style tune. When voice harmony coaches talk about 'the buzz' being a sign that harmonies are true, the crowd can feel The Barefoot Movement 'buzz' like in the

"Circle of Life". They mixed their set like I've never experienced with grassed up acoustic versions of the 1970's punk tune "Baby Love" and the incredible harmonies in a compilation of the Beach Boys "I Get Around" with a breakout into Ozzie Osbourne's "Crazy Train" returning to close with the finish of "I Get Around". The crowd loved them as was evident in the youngsters grooving out at the end of our row, and the young 80+ year old grooving in his seat in front of us! A band is obviously loved by the energy of the encore!

SHADY GROVE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY KAREN TRACE

*Karen Trace, Michael Shields, and Nigel Jackman
enjoying the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival*

The much anticipated, IBMA award winning Mile Twelve may have started a little late by Boston time, but the band no doubt realized it was going to have to shake off the jet lag quickly to perform on day one at the Shady Grove Bluegrass Festival. It was a cold and rainy evening at Broadway farm east of Nanton, Alberta but inside the quaint little pavilion the temperature started rising just after the opening remarks. By 9:15 pm it was red hot and it stayed that way thanks to Toronto's own Slocan Ramblers and Boston's Mile Twelve -who were making their Canadian debut. The talk amongst musicians standing at the back, including Dale Adkins of the Old Growth Quartet, was that Friday offered one of the finest festival evenings of music he had ever experienced.

Dale and Old Growth from Washington State kicked off the evening with a polished set of original and standard Bluegrass material. As their name suggests, the quartet is not new to the Bluegrass scene. Anchored by Kentuckian Joe Wilmhoff on base and vocals and Dale Adkins on banjo, guitar and vocals, this band has a long pedigree including stints with John Reischman and with grammy-nominated Kate MacKenzie and Frontline. In this latest configuration, the Old Growth Quartet also includes Don Share on guitar and vocals and Greg Spatz on fiddle. The latter name is, no doubt, familiar to those who follow John Reischman and the Jaybirds. This fine group of musicians delivered the kick-off with aplomb. (The group also generously offered their talents to workshops on Saturday morning.)



*Mile Twelve -Bronwyn Keith-Hynes fiddle, Catherine
"B.B." Borwness banjo*



*Mile Twelve -David Benedict mandolin, Nate Sabat bass
fiddle, Evan Murphy guitar*

SHADY GROVE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL -KAREN TRACE ARTICLE CONTINUED

Mile Twelve methodically worked through cuts from their 2017 disc, "Onwards" as well as their latest recording "City on a Hill", showing the crowd that the band truly believes in its unique blend of new material and grassed up country. The group's musical mastery, which was on display both late Friday and Saturday, definitely won over the audience. Evan Murphy on guitar and vocals stepped up with a plaintive folkie voice and cut the air with misty originals like "City that Drowned" about hometown Boston and family. Other originals by New Yorker Nate Sabat on vocals and bass were evocative of the immigrant's American dream and the inevitable struggle to survive. However, it was the instrumental blanket woven by Bronwyn Keith-Hynes on violin now living in Nashville, David Benedict on mandolin, and BB (Catherine) Bowness on banjo that wrapped the material in love. Highlights included exchanges between the ladies on violin and banjo along with polished mandolin breaks by the stylish Mr. Benedict. The crowd also loved 6-foot-5 (ish) Nate pulling out his big ol' bow and diving deep into a classical offshoot or two. In the end it became very clear why this band has received an IBMA award in 2017 and two nominations in 2018 including Best Instrumental Bluegrass Recording for "Wickwire"

A weasel walks into the bar and sits right down.
The bartender, having overcome the shock of seeing
this cute little fella set himself down in between 2 of
his rogue regulars, says "What'll ya have?"

The reply clearly heard by all:
"Pop" goes the weasel.

One young cowpoke asked his pardner "Why does ol'
Slim always have one of those short assed little
Dachsunds with him everywhere he goes?"

His pardner gives him that look of 'why don't you use
your brain' and says
"Because he likes to say "git along little doggie" dummie"

After The Old Growth Quartet, Friday evening shifted to some high-octane Old Time dancing tunes with a hint of Cajun spice all courtesy of the Foghorn Stringband. Hailing now from Gaspe, Quebec and Portland, Oregon, these two couples come together whenever they can to bring audiences their love of old time dance music. Caleb Klauder on mandolin and Reeb Willms on rhythm guitar are well known to Blueberry audiences as part of the Caleb Klauder Country Band. However it is the chemistry with their old friends Stephen "Sammy" Lind on fiddle and banjo, and wife Nadine Landry on bass fiddle which seems to bring out an infectious old time joy (which they also shared at a fiddle jam Saturday morning.). The Friday audience particularly loved the women's voices on a couple of Hazel Dickens tunes including "Only the Lonely" as well as Nadine's high volume rendition of the Cajun treat "Mon Vieux Wagon". Not to be outdone, the men on vocals had the crowd clapping up a storm on a number of tunes including "Reuben's Train" from their latest recording, "Rock Island Grange".

Foghorn Stringband -l to r Caleb Klauder fiddle, mandolin, vocals, Stephen "Sammy" Lind fiddle, banjo, vocals, Nadine Landry bass, vocals, Reeb Willms guitar, vocals



SHADY GROVE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL -CONTINUED

With the joint now jumpin', the Queen Street east Slocan Ramblers happily stepped right into the fray. It seems that every time we see these boys in Alberta they just get faster and tighter. Still touring on their 2018 "Queen City Jubilee" disc, the Slocan Ramblers ripped it up with their mix of high-tempo, creative bluegrass stylings offset with a few claw-hammer old time and original tunes. With Alastair Whitehead on base and vocals, Darryl Poulsen on smokin' guitar and vocals, Frank Evans on Scruggs style banjo, claw hammer and lead vocals, and Adrian Gross on mandolin, the band knows how to travel beyond usual Bluegrass breaks to the fringes of jazz. Backed by Alastair and Darryl, Frank's old time voice on traditional tunes like "Groundhog" and originals like "Mighty Hard Road" makes you feel like you've heard them long ago. Adrian's instrumental lead-out on his newly-crafted yet-named trio of tunes simply leaves you breathless. It's easy to admire the band's musical chops acquired from Humber College and beyond. Congrats to the Slocan Ramblers on their much deserved 2019 IBMA Momentum award nomination and 2019 Juno award nomination for Tradition Roots Album of the Year.

While Friday was outstanding, Saturday deserves a special shout out. The Lonesome Town Painters from Vancouver stepped up and showed that they belong. Fresh from their NBCMS Wednesday concert at the Pleasantview Hall in Edmonton, the Painters performed an amazing set and won over the crowd with their passionate three part harmonies. The band with the best shoes in the business consists of Patrick Bartel on banjo, Jeremy Freeman on mandolin, Fred Beach on bass fiddle and Angelo Eidse on guitar and infectious grinning, these day-job musicians and singers were a perfect traditional Stanley Brothers foil to the rest of the menu. The nattily clad group was the only evening act to tackle the theme song, Shady Grove. The crowd absolutely loved it. Well done.

In short, the Shady Grove Music festival definitely delivered a very satisfying late summer treat to the 150 or so in the audience. If the Blueberry Festival is the pie then Shady Grove might just be the dollop of ice cream on a very sweet Bluegrass August in Alberta.

Note: Shady Grove is likely on the move from the Broadway farm near Nanton. Artistic Director Rhonda Shippy has already started booking bands for next year and is looking for a new venue. Stay tuned for updates from our friends at the Foothills Bluegrass Music Society.
 -Karen Trace, deputized cub reporter.

*Slocan Ramblers
 -Frank Evans and
 Darryl Poulsen*



*Slocan Ramblers
 -Adrian Gross
 and Frank Evans*

*The Lonesome Town Painters
 -l to r Jeremy Freeman
 mandolin,
 Fred Beach bass fiddle,
 Angelo Eidse guitar,
 Patrick Bartel banjo*



2019 IBMA AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED FROM RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Here is the complete list of winners according to a news release:

2019 International Bluegrass Music Awards Winners

Entertainer of the Year: Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers (1st win in this category)

Vocal Group of the Year: Sister Sadie (1st win in this category)

Instrumental Group of the Year: Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper (5th win in this category)

Song of the Year: "Thunder Dan" -by Sideline (artist), Josh Manning (writer), Tim Surrent (producer), Mountain Home Music Company (label)

Album of the Year: "Del McCoury Still Sings Bluegrass" -Del McCoury (artist), Del and Ronnie McCoury (producers), McCoury Music (label) (2nd win in this category -previous win in 2004)

Gospel Recording of the Year: "Gonna Sing, Gonna Shout" -Claire Lynch (artist), Jerry Salley (producer), Billy Blue Records (label)

Instrumental Recording of the Year: "Darlin' Pal(s) of Mine" -Missy Raines with Alison Brown, Mike Bub, and Todd Phillips (artist), Alison Brown (producer), Compass Redords (label)

New Artist of the Year: Billy Strings

Collaborative Recording of the Year: "The Guitar Song" -Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers with Del McCoury (artists), Joe Mullins (producer), Jerry Salley (associate producer), Billy Blue (label)

Female Vocalist of the Year: Brooke Aldridge (3rd win in this category)

Male Vocalist of the Year: Russell Moore (6th win in this category)

Banjo Player of the Year: Kristin Scott Benson (5th win in this category)

Bass Player of the Year: Missy Raines (8th win in this category)

Resophonic Guitar Player of the Year: Phil Leadbetter (3rd win in this category)

Fiddle Player of the Year: Michael Cleveland (12th win in this category)

Guitar Player of the Year: Billy Strings (1st win in this category)

Mandolin Player of the Year: Alan Bibey (1st win in this category)

IBMA Industry Awards

Broadcaster of the Year: Michelle Lee

Event of the Year: Blueberry Bluegrass Festival -Stony Plain, Alberta, Canada

Liner Notes of the Year: "Epilogue: A Tribute to John Duffey", Akira Otsuka, Dudley Connell, Jeff Place, Katy Daley

Graphic Designer of the Year: Michael Armistead

Writer of the Year: David Morris

Songwriter of the Year: Jerry Salley

Sound Engineer of the Year: Ben Surratt

Distinguished Achievement Awards: Katy Daley, Mickey Gamble, Dan Hays, Allen Mills, and Moonshiner

Information courtesy of the Raleigh News & Observer

MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

I recently had the pleasure of an insightful chat with Bruce Ziff, one of the founding members of The Strawflowers. Bruce is back from a year long research leave from the University of Alberta where he was able to become part of the community in the mecca of Old Tyme music while living in Independence, Virginia. Bruce shared with me many details and photographs of his life and times there that I wish to share with you.

I also spent two incredible weeks at NimbleFingers in August. I had amazing classes and dances and performances and a festival that I want to share stories and photographs of with you.

I also have a great little guitar tips sheet from Michael Shields while at Shady Grove that I want to share with you.

I write and publish this 'newsletter' that was recently referred to as a 'magazine'. The club partially sponsors this activity and from a cost and time perspective, I need to be responsible to them and myself. Please accept that I will have the opportunity to share this ahead, and that I intend to do so.

I sure have enjoyed my Festival filled summer! I've also enjoyed bumping into many of you along the way, seems this club likes to travel and bump into each other too. Thanks to all for your contributions to the workshops and jams that I've been able to share with you, I'm looking forward to more ahead.

I wrote briefly of a condition called Focal Dystonia in the last newsletter. I can't say that I have greater knowledge of that condition, but I am finding relief from the tension related troubles I've been experiencing. Much of the muscular tension that exists in me is from scar tissue from previous injuries and from activated muscle trigger points that have likely been that way for years. I've had many injuries and have healed okay for an average guy, but with greater performance demands from being a musician (like being an athlete in many ways) my healing didn't go quite far enough. The relief I'm getting comes through my Physiotherapist and IMS needling with heat and sort of a massage using a firm roll. I'm becoming more relaxed and comfortable in my posture which I'm noticing in my playing as well. Hard to believe an old guy can still make progress healing from old injuries.

If this is something that you experience as well, think about the value of consulting with a Physiotherapist to see if you might experience benefits too. Like I heard at the last jam, "You just need to loosen up!"



CKUA's The Bluegrass Hour -hosted by our very own Darcy Whiteside plays a classic mix of Bluegrass and Old Time music spanning approximately 60 years of the genres. "I try to introduce bands from all over the world... stuff you've never heard before but hopefully will enjoy."

Darcy brings a variety of music coupled with an insightful focus on some of the history of this passion inspiring music.

The Bluegrass Hour can be heard Sundays 12 - 1 p.m. and Mondays 4 - 5 a.m. at 94.9 in Edmonton and area.

Calgary 93.7

Red Deer 107.7

Edson 103.7 Hinton 102.5

Whitecourt 107.1 Grande Prairie 100.9 Spirit River 99.5

Peace River 96.9

Athabasca 98.3 Fort McMurray 96.7 Lloydminster 97.5

Canmore Bow Valley 104.3

Drumheller Hanna 91.3 Medicine Hat 97.3 Lethbridge 99.3

THE PULSE...



The Club Jams

On Wednesday nights Bluegrass 101 starts at 7:00 p.m. and runs through until 8:00 p.m. and the following jam from 8:00 til 10:00 p.m.

Bluegrass 101 encourages participants to play and sing with a focus on one tune per week including some history of the tune! Singing is a large part of Bluegrass 101. Our fearless leader and instructor Darcy Whiteside accompanied with masterful bass rhythms and story rounderouting by Jim Storey to bring community and skill to their students. It's a fun and lively time and all are welcome. Singing makes you feel alive and full of life!

Why are there no banjos on Star Trek?
Because it's the future Man!

Why are banjo jokes so simple? So
drummers can get them too.

How do you tell if a fiddle is out of tune?
The bow is moving.

"What's the difference between a violin
and a fiddle?" Guy says "a violin has
strings and a fiddle has strangs". Buddy
says "No, dummie, you don't mind spilling
beer on a fiddle".

COMMUNITY EVENTS...

The Lonesome Ace Stringband concert is October 16, 2019 with supper at 6:30 pm and the concert to follow at 7:15 pm jamming will follow the cleanup and putting away of tables and extra chairs at jamming around 8:30



Our great club has an opportunity for one motivated member to become the **Equipment Director**. While I can't provide any details about this position, I can tell you that you'll become part of a great team that's currently serving the wonderful community we are all part of. Scott Degen, Grant Symons, and Carolynne Hotte are likely your best sources for more information if you're interested in this opportunity and becoming part of the team guiding this club into it's bright future.

If you would like to promote an event in the Newsletter, please e-mail Greg at winski.greg.winter@gmail.com with a description of the event, the date and location.

FRIENDS OF BLUEGRASS

**Myhre's Music**

The NBCMS members enjoy a special and long standing relationship with a local music store... A cornerstone of acoustic and roots music in Edmonton... a family owned and operated store with family values that has served the Edmonton area since 1967! Myhre's Music has been a great supporter and promoter of the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society, for which we say THANKS! Staff in the photo are left to right: Lydia Myhre, Catherine Robertson fiddle and violin luthier, daughter Haley, Byron Myhre, Alfie Myhre, Bob Potoniec, missing Thomas Slaymaker guitar luthier, George Back, and son Tanner Myhre.

Classified Ads -if you have an item you'd like to publish in the newsletter, please let Greg know by e-mail through the website or winski.greg.winter@gmail.com *each issue requires confirmation of your desire to re-publish your item.*



A guy walks into a bar and orders a drink. The bartender serves him and says "that'll be \$12". The guy says "\$12 YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING, I've only got \$10". The bartender says "well, have you got anything you can offer for trade?" The guy says "well, I know a good banjo joke". The bartender looks at him with one hairy eyeball and says "looky here, I play banjo... and that big tough bouncer at the door, he plays banjo... and that mean lookin' dude over there playing pool plays banjo... are you sure you want to tell your banjo joke?" The guy thinks about it for a bit and says "well not if I have to explain it 3 times!"

Contributors

Details of the IBMA from Anna Sommerville.

With gratitude, the websites and groups that have shared details of themselves, and the Raleigh News & Observer for the IBMA info.

Photographs from Grant Symons.

Article and photographs from Karen Trace and Michael

The cute little weasel joke from Maureen Winter.

The super cute little doggie joke (enhanced) from John Reischman... I wish I could remember the other one he told at NimbleFingers.

The 'I hope I didn't offend anyone' banjo joke from John Lowell.