

THE HORNPIPE

Seven Mountains Bluegrass Association's Quarterly Members' Newsletter

2024 OCTOBER/.NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 🎵🎵 Volume 20 🎵🎵 Issue 4



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2024-2025 Winter Concerts Begin!

All shows start at 7:00

Members \$22 🍷 Non-Members \$25

Credit Cards Accepted! (Fees could apply)

Goodwill Fire Company

2318 S Queen St, York, PA

I-83 Exit 16 A, 1 mile south on PA-74

Alcohol Free 🍷 Concessions Sold



Deeper Shade of Blue
October 12, 2024



Nothin' Fancy
December 14, 2024



Big Country Bluegrass
November 9, 2024



Ralph Stanley II & The Clinch Mountain Boys
January 11, 2025



Fast Track
January 25, 2025

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GIL RHOADS



also arranged by Dick Beckley. If you were unable to attend, you missed some good times of music and fellowship.

Around 160 SMBA members attended the summer picnic at Hershauil Park, where we enjoyed great weather and a barbeque buffet. An opening set was played by Long Acre Hollow Band from Lebanon County, which included fiddler and mandolinist Mollie Longenecker, who is one of our recent scholarship recipients. David Davis and The Warrior River Boys were every bit as good as Dick Beckley promised they would be!

Sadly, the picnic show was one of the last concerts of David Davis, who died on September 15th at age 63 from an automobile accident not far from his home in Alabama.

We are in the process of making changes to our website, which you should be able to see soon. Making the technical changes to “the back end” is important. I encourage someone to contact me if you think

you can give a bit of time to make occasional posting updates. Some people think since making website postings involves computers, that only “a younger person” can update it. While helping with our website could be a wonderful opportunity for a younger person to get involved, our designer says that “even an older person who knows how to post on Facebook” can be trained.

A dinner meeting of the SMBA Board is scheduled for the first week of November at John’s Diner off Route I-83 near the PA Turnpike. If you are curious about how you can become more involved with SMBA, please talk with me this month to see if it would be beneficial for you to be invited as a guest to attend the Board meeting in November.

I look forward to seeing you at the fall shows, and talking with you about how your interests and skills can be welcomed within the leadership of SMBA !

Sincerely,
Gil Rhoads

Greetings !

I am excited as we begin our fall/winter season. This newsletter presents another year of great concerts that Music Chair Dick Beckley has scheduled for us to enjoy. I look forward to seeing you there!

Crystal and I felt blessed to be able to share our Wild County Farm to host four summer concerts that were

Seven Mountains Bluegrass Association P.O. Box 224 Lawn, PA 17041

2024 Officers:

Gil Rhoads	President	717-554-6747
Vacant	Vice President	
Patsy Kline	Treasurer	717-202-9423
Steve Hammond	Secretary	717-773-7387

SMBA Board Members serving as Committee Chairs:

Dick Beckley	Music	717-395-7128
Bob Bishard	Library/Jams	717-957-4349
Walt Crider	Historian	717-887-2308
George Fishel	Picnic	717-580-7838
Steve Loden	Videography	717-371-4549
Amanda Lynn McDowell	Social Media	717-669-3338
Sue McKinsey	PR	717-244-4428
Dave Nesbit	Newsletter Editor	717-691-9491
Kristen Schneider	Scholarships	717-443-8359

Board Members serving as Trustees:

David Emerick, Canyon Moore, Jean Snyder,
Ursula Sheaffer and Burt Wills

SMBA Established 1982 Incorporated 1999

Mission Statement:

The purpose of SMBA is to preserve, promote and enjoy bluegrass and to bring the music to an ever increasing number of people.

The Hornpipe

is a quarterly newsletter for members of Seven Mountains Bluegrass Association, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation.

Newsletter Deadlines

December 1st deadline for January 2025
Inquiries, comments and submissions proposed for publication should be sent to the Editor’s attention before the stated deadlines. Email to:

Newsletter.SMBA.Bluegrass@gmail.com

Hodgepodge of SMBA News

Observing that a year passes by quickly and he still has a few things he hopes to complete, current SMBA **President Gil Rhodes intends to allow his name to be submitted as a nominee for a second term.** Gil is aware of at least one potential nominee for Vice President. SMBA members who are interested in learning more about Board service should contact Gil. If such contacts are made in October, an invitation to attend the annual Board meeting in November as a guest is possible.

Cliff Weber volunteered to be *The Hornpipe's* next Editor. A Lewisberry resident, Cliff is a retired Veteran who enjoys traveling. Referring to his offer to become the next Editor, Cliff said "I am so happy to start on this journey." Since being Editor includes a seat on the Board, President Gil will ask for formal endorsement of Cliff at the Board's November meeting. Cliff will meet with the current Editor in November and be prepared to assume the role of Editor beginning in 2025.

The Hornpipe's current Editor, Dave Nesbit, intends to complete the January–March edition before Christmas for mailing immediately after the holiday mail rush. **If you have an item for Dave Nesbit's final edition of *The Hornpipe*, email it by December 1st to the address on page 2.**

Many of you will notice, and no doubt be disappointed, that there is **no Member Spotlight by SMBA past-President Bill Aldinger included in this edition of *The Hornpipe*.** This is due to health issues, which Bill generally reported to the Editor. Bill has permitted the Editor to share that **"we are optimistic that Bill will feel able to contribute a Member Spotlight to the next edition!"**



The Editor and his wife, Marcia, attended the International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) annual conference, the "World of Bluegrass," during the last week of September in Raleigh, NC. IBMA might correctly claim that it is "the most important week in bluegrass."

Tickets priced around \$300 were required to attend three days of educational seminars about bluegrass history, relevant business practices for performers, and issues common among associations; instrumental, vocal and songwriting workshops led by top professionals; a variety of award presentations; and three nights of mini concerts at which dozens of different performers appeared every night at five different venues.

There was an additional cost to attend the main awards ceremony and a mini festival of two evenings of extended concerts featuring some of the industry's most popular bands. The Editor did not stay for those events, but SMBA members Diane and Reuben Shetler, Terry Mandell, and Dave Emerick did.

Without the expense of tickets, many enjoyed free opportunities to jam in hallways and attend "showcase" mini concerts hosted simultaneously, usually by recording studios. Music was heard in as many as ten indoor venues including meeting rooms in the Convention Center and nearby hotels, nightclubs and outdoor street venues.

A fair guess is that nearly a hundred bands played a total of more than five hundred sets. By the end of the week, attendees who listened to music every day from late morning until the wee hours of the next day felt as if we had been drinking from a fire hose.

Hundreds of young attendees brought string instruments. Electric instruments and drums

were rare. Although some "traditionalists" might have dismissed some of the music as "rock and roll," the Editor believes that Bill Monroe would have approved of it as "innovative acoustic music rooted in a tradition of folk, old time, blues and jazz that used great songwriting and harmony to reflect timeless traditions and present times." Seeing so many young, talented pickers and singers perform both original material and traditional material delighted The Editor, who feels confident that the future of bluegrass is safe.

"SMBA's own" Ironwood Drive, which includes Werner family members, showcased impressively. Another young family band, Echo Valley from Butler, PA, has been tentatively scheduled for a 2025 show at Wild Country Farm.

SMBA is a respected venue which interests many established performers. Since our concert schedule is nearly full until 2026, a number of well-known bands said they would be open to perform a Saturday afternoon show at Wild Country Farm if we have an opening when they are passing through our area between festivals, as Larry Stephenson did this past summer.

Dillsburg resident, Kevin Neidig, won IBMA's Flatpicking Guitar Contest. He was awarded a Martin Custom Herringbone 28-style Dreadnought acoustic guitar from Elderly Instruments; and he earned a spot to compete in the 2025 National Flatpicking Championship at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas.

Next year, IBMA's annual conference will be in Chattanooga, Tennessee during the week September 16-20, 2025. A round-trip, one-stop flight from HIA or BWI to Chattanooga starts at \$250; or Chattanooga is a ten-hour drive of 675 miles from our concert venue, the Goodwill Fire Hall.

The Editor and spouse hope to attend IMBA in Chattanooga.

CONCERT “APPETIZERS”

Read and whet your appetite to attend!



October 12 - Deeper Shade of Blue

Anyone who has seen this band with us the last several years knows they are one of the most popular bands playing our stage, with our attendees. They are from North Carolina, one of the hotbeds of bluegrass in recent years. Troy Pope leads this band with his great vocals and guitar work. Scott Burgess on bass and lead vocals lends his sterling voice on duets and quartet numbers. This band is particularly known for their great gospel quartet renditions, which are very popular with our audience. Milom Williams on mandolin and Frank Poindexter on dobro round out their gospel quartet. Their newest member is Chad Day on banjo. If you have never seen this band, you really need to do so. They are top tier. Join us for a great night of music, opening our season.



November 9 - Big Country Bluegrass

We have been patiently waiting for Big Country to re-form and travel the road again after a three or four year layoff. First Covid, and then some serious health issues for most of the band, caused them to shut down. Our last date three years ago was canceled, and we're really excited to have them back with us again. They are the most popular hardcore traditional band ever to play our stage. Tommy Sells on mandolin and his wife Teresa on guitar are the co-leaders of this band. Eddie Gill on guitar and lead vocals is reminiscent of the great Dave Evans with his powerful vocals and defines the sound of this fine traditional band. Daniel Martin has joined this new version on banjo. Fans of the Wildwood Valley Boys may remember Daniel playing here with them. As of this writing the bass and fiddle positions have not been determined, but Tommy told me that Don Rigsby has been playing fiddle and lending his vocals to the mix on most of their shows. As for myself, I am really looking forward to seeing and hearing that combination. Longtime bass guy, Tony King, has been seriously ill, so we cannot say at this point if he or a new face will be keeping time on the bass. Folks have been asking about this band and begging for their return and, God willing, they will be here on November 9. Come see and hear one of the very best!



December 14 - Nothin' Fancy

This seems to be the year of returning very popular bands with our attendees. I have been an SMBA member since 2000, and Nothin' Fancy has been playing this stage ever since, every two to three years. They have always been a band our members requested, and shows are always very well attended. This year, they are celebrating their 30th anniversary as a band. Mike personally called me to say the band wants SMBA to be a part of this celebration, as we are one of their favorite places to play. They have incurred many band changes through the years, but their trademark sound has remained, essentially the same through it all. The constant has always been band leader Mike Andes on lead vocals and mandolin. Chris Sexton, a classically trained concert violinist is on fiddle and has been with the band almost as long as Mike, having joined in 1998. The rest of the band members are newer, but still perform in the tradition of former Nothin' Fancy versions. Jacob Fick is on banjo, Curt Gausman on guitar, and just plain “Jenkins” on bass. I've not seen them since Jenkins joined but understand he is quite the character in addition to being a fine bass player. I am assured he will entertain us and make us laugh, which is always a good thing. So, mark the date and come out to help Nothin' Fancy celebrate with us on their 30th Anniversary tour. They will be doing the songs they have done all through those many years on the road for us!

Regional Bluegrass Shows for October through December 2024

Events sponsored by SMBA at Goodwill Fire Company are in bold print !

October 5 - Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen; Carroll Arts Center; 91 W Main St, Westminster, MD; 7:30 \$25-\$28

October 5 - John O'Dell&The WindyRidgeBand; Rob's Bluegrass Barn; 821 View West Dr;Westminster, MD; 8:00 \$18

October 6 - Kenny Stinson & PerFect Tym'n; Wehrly's Auction House; 4067 Snyder Rd; Glen Rock, PA; 1:30; \$13

October 7 - Ironwood Drive; Manheim Farm Show; 502 E. Adele Dr; Manheim, PA; 5:00; \$TBD

October 12 - Deeper Shade of Blue; 7:00 \$22-\$25

October 16 -Tray Wellington; a SFMS show at Zoetropolis; 112 N. Water St, Lancaster, PA; 7:30; tickets from \$10 -\$24

October 20 - Carolyn Everly Band; Wehrly's Auction House; 4067 Snyder Rd; Glen Rock, PA; 1:30; \$13

October 25 - Country Gentlemen Show; Hub City Vinyl; 28 E. Baltimore St, Hagerstown, MD; 8:00; \$23

October 27- Troy Engle & Southern Skies; Young's Church; 7075 Wertzville Rd; Mechanicsburg, PA; 7:00; FWO

November 3 - Valerie Smith with Liberty Pike; Wehrly's Auction House; 4067 Snyder Rd; Glen Rock, PA; 1:30; \$13

November 9 - Big Country Bluegrass; 7:00 \$22-\$25

November 17 - Dede Wyland and Big Howdy; Wehrly's Auction House; 4067 Snyder Rd; Glen Rock, PA; 1:30; \$13

November 17 - Fireside Collective; Hub City Vinyl; 28 E. Baltimore St, Hagerstown, MD; 8:00; \$23

November 23 - The Seldom Scene; Carroll Arts Center; 91 W Main St, Westminster, MD; 7:30 \$35

November 24 - Summit Hill Band; Young's Church; 7075 Wertzville Rd; Mechanicsburg, PA; 7:00; FWO

December 1 - Sharon Blelski& & Moonlight Drive; Wehrly'sAuctionHouse; 4067 Snyder Rd; Glen Rock, PA; 1:30; \$13

December 6 - Bruce Molsky; Carroll Arts Center; 91 W Main St, Westminster, MD; 7:30 \$TBD

December 13 - Newberry&Verch; a SFMS show at Unitarian Church; 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg,PA; 7:30; \$10-\$24

December 14 - Nothin' Fancy; 7:00 \$22-\$25

December 15 - Shannon Leigh & TheGoodBygones; Wehrly'sAuctionHouse; 4067 Snyder Rd;Glen Rock, PA; 1:30; \$13

December 20 - Walt Michael & Co.; Carroll Arts Center; 91 W Main St, Westminster, MD; 7:30 \$TBD

December 21 - HeliconWinter Solstice Concert; Kraushaar Auditorium; 1021 Dulaney Valley Rd; Towson, MD

December 1 - Sharon Blelski& & Moonlight Drive; Wehrly's Auction House;4067 Snyder Rd;Glen Rock, PA; 1:30; \$13

December 15 - Shannon Leigh & TheGoodBygones; Wehrly'sAuctionHouse; 4067 Snyder Rd;Glen Rock, PA; 1:30; \$13

December 29 - Serene Green; Wehrly's Auction House; Glen Rock, PA; 1:30; \$13

Concert details are subject to change without notice!

Assume that all listed shows are cash only when buying a ticket at the venue. Call venue if price or time are not stated.

FWO (Free Will Offering) means attendees are encouraged to pay as they are able to support the musicians and venue.

















Submit details of January–March concerts by December 1st to: Newsletter.SMBA.Bluegrass@gmail.com.

We do not list concerts conflicting with SMBA events, which are usually on 2nd or 4th Saturdays.

Priority is given to concert venues within 40 miles of York, PA.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

Here is the SMBA Show Schedule for January through May, 2025:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|
|  | Jan 11, 2025 |  | Ralph Stanley II & Clinch Mountain Boys |
|  | Jan 25, 2025 |  | Fast Track |
|  | Feb 8, 2025 |  | Lonesome River Band (Ironwood Drive to open) |
|  | March 8, 2025 |  | Kody Norris Show |
|  | March 22, 2025 |  | Donna Ulisse |
|  | April 12, 2025 |  | Darren Nicholson Band |
|  | May 10, 2025 |  | Wilson Banjo Company |
|  | July 26, 2025 |  | Picnic - Country Gentlemen Tribute |



Seven Mountains' Summer Members Picnic at Hershaull Park . . .

A Good Time Was Had By All!

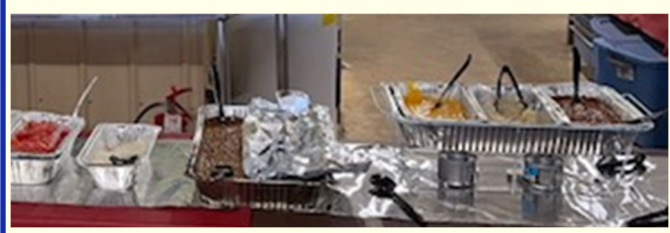
These photos are provided by the courtesy of Steve Loden



The **Long Acre Hollow Band** from Lebanon County, including SMBA scholarship recipient Mollie Longenecker on fiddle and mandolin, warmed up the crowd, while **David Davis and the Warrior River Boys** "got ready" (below).



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These photos are provided by the courtesy of Steve Loden

An Artificially Intelligent Understanding of Bluegrass

What is Bluegrass Music?

The Hornpipe Editor defines it as: *acoustic music, often featuring vocal harmonies, and all or some of these six instruments: banjo; fiddle; mandolin; double bass; guitar and dobro.* Yes, “Jimmy Martin had a drummer!” But the Editor prefers that rhythm be kept by the mandolin and bass. Maybe you disagree.

You have probably been part of, or witnessed, a passionate discussion about **what does or does not “deserve to be called bluegrass.”** What better way to resolve this issue than to **“ask AI for the answer!”**

No doubt you have heard of “Artificial Intelligence” or AI. For those whose awareness is minimal, **Google defines AI as:** “a field of science concerned with building computers and machines that can reason, learn, and act in such a way that would normally require human intelligence, or that involves data whose scale exceeds what humans can analyze.”

There are many sources of AI offered by competing technology companies. **The version of AI that the Editor consulted for this article is ChatGBT.** The Editor first heard of AI when it was reported years ago that students were caught using AI to create term papers. So as not to be a plagiarist, the Editor confesses that much of the substance of this article came from ChatGBT! **The ChatGBT (AI) definition of bluegrass is provided in the middle column of this page.**



The above cartoon is from the “Lessons With Marcel” YouTube channel.

AI’s Definition of Bluegrass:

In response to the question “how is bluegrass music defined,” ChatGBT offers this:

Bluegrass music is a genre of American roots music that evolved from Appalachian folk traditions. It’s characterized by its use of acoustic instruments and its distinctive sound, which blends elements of folk, blues, and jazz.

Here are some key aspects that define bluegrass music:

Instrumentation: *Traditional bluegrass typically features a lineup of acoustic instruments, including the banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and upright bass. The dobro (a type of resonator guitar) is also common in many bluegrass bands.*

Stylistic Features: *Bluegrass music is known for its fast tempo and virtuosic instrumental solos. The music often includes complex, high-pitched vocals and intricate harmonies, typically performed in a high, lonesome style.*

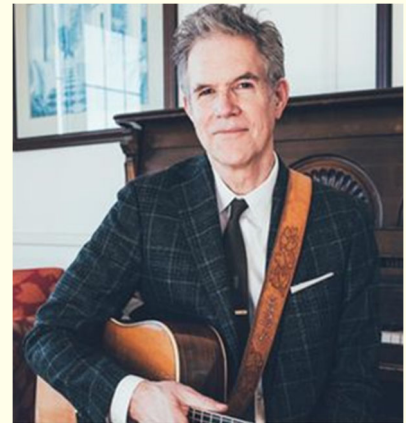
Form and Structure: *Bluegrass songs are often structured around a series of verses and instrumental breaks, with each musician taking turns to showcase their skills during “breaks” or solos.*

Song Themes: *Lyrics often reflect themes of rural life, personal experiences, and storytelling. Common subjects include love, hardship, and the natural world.*

Roots and History: *Bluegrass originated in the 1940s, with Bill Monroe often credited as its primary pioneer. His band, the Blue Grass Boys, which included notable musicians like Earl Scruggs on banjo and Lester Flatt on guitar, played a significant role in shaping the genre.*

Overall, bluegrass music is celebrated for its technical proficiency and its ability to blend traditional sounds with a modern, energetic approach.

Is he really “Threatened?”



Chris Jones, pictured above, is a humorist who writes for *Bluegrass Today*. He is also the leader of the bluegrass band, Chris Jones and The Nightdrivers; and he has been an award-winning SiriusXM radio host.

Jones published a four-minute YouTube video in September about how AI is a threat to bluegrass professionals since it performs everything faster, better and cheaper.

Jones remembers from his experience working on a dairy farm “when AI had a different meaning.” For you city folk, Chris was referring to *artificial insemination!*

Words alone fail to capture Jones’ humorous video delivery in which he suggests how bluegrass professionals should respond to AI.

Jones suggests that bluegrass music professionals should: “Declare that ‘slickness is dead’ . . . it needs to die . . . We need to embrace the rough edges . . . the soul . . .” Ironically aware that his “anti-AI strategy” contradicts years of training of how to become more a polished pro, Jones says “I need to make mistakes . . . be more inarticulate . . . talk about how the music makes me feel.”

Jones concludes: **“the future for all of us is to be more human, have a little more edge, make mistakes, and be a little more stupid!”**

The Top Ten All-Time Bluegrass Songs and Bands

As listed by ChatGBT

Here's a list of ten influential and iconic bluegrass songs that have left a significant mark on the genre:

1. **"Foggy Mountain Breakdown"** – Earl Scruggs
This instrumental is a cornerstone of bluegrass and showcases Earl Scruggs' innovative banjo style.
2. **"Blue Moon of Kentucky"** – Bill Monroe
Written by Bill Monroe, this song is one of the defining pieces of bluegrass music.
3. **"Rocky Top"** – The Osborne Brothers
An upbeat and lively song that's become a staple in bluegrass and country music.
4. **"Man of Constant Sorrow"** – The Stanley Brothers
A traditional song popularized by The Stanley Brothers and famously featured in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*
5. **"The Ballad of Jed Clampett"** – Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs
This song became widely known as the theme for *The Beverly Hillbillies* TV show.
6. **"I'll Fly Away"** – Albert E. Brumley
Although often associated with gospel, this song is a favorite in bluegrass circles for its uplifting melody and message.
7. **"Blue Ridge Cabin Home"** – The Stanley Brothers
A classic example of the heartfelt, narrative style of bluegrass songwriting.
8. **"Dueling Banjos"** – Arthur "Guitar Boogie" Smith; popularized by Eric Weissberg & Steve Mandell.
Famous for its lively banjo duel, this song became widely known after its appearance in the film *Deliverance*.
9. **"The Old Home Place"** – The Dillards
A beloved bluegrass tune reflecting nostalgia and the theme of returning home.
10. **"My Last Days on Earth"** – The Seldom Scene
Known for its emotional depth and intricate harmonies, this song is a significant part of the bluegrass canon.

These songs span the evolution of bluegrass and highlight different aspects of the genre, from traditional roots to modern interpretation.



Here's a list of ten of the most influential bluegrass bands, known for their impact on the genre:

1. **Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys** - Often considered the father of bluegrass, Monroe's band set the standard for the genre.
2. **The Stanley Brothers** - Known for their close harmonies and traditional sound, they were pivotal in popularizing bluegrass.
3. **Flatt and Scruggs** - With their hit "The Beverly Hillbillies" theme, they brought bluegrass to a wider audience.
4. **The Osborne Brothers** - They blended bluegrass with country, introducing a new sound while staying true to the roots.
5. **The Seldom Scene** - Known for their innovative approach and urban bluegrass style, they expanded the audience for the genre.
6. **New Grass Revival** - Pioneers of progressive bluegrass, they fused rock and jazz elements into traditional bluegrass.
7. **The Infamous Stringdusters** - A modern band known for their virtuosic playing and creative arrangements.
8. **Punch Brothers** - Blending bluegrass with classical and jazz influences, they're known for their innovative sound.
9. **Yonder Mountain String Band** - They brought bluegrass to the jam band scene, infusing it with improvisational elements.
10. **Nickel Creek** - This trio revitalized bluegrass in the early 2000s with their contemporary style and strong songwriting.

Each of these bands has made significant contributions to the evolution of bluegrass music!

Remember . . . The opinions expressed above are from ChatGPT !

Song & Story submitted by Jessica Mary Buck

“a Singer of Olde Songs”

"I'm Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes"

"I'm Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes"

Would've been better for us both had we never
In this wide and wicked world had never met,
For the pleasure we've both known together
I'm sure, love, I'll never forget.

[Chorus]

Oh, I'm thinking tonight of my blue eyes
Who is sailing far over the sea
I'm thinking tonight of my blue eyes
And I wonder if he ever thinks of me

Oh, you told me once, dear, that you loved me;
You swore that we never would part
But a link in the chain has been broken
Leavin' me with a sad and aching heart.

[Chorus]

When the cold, cold grave shall enclose me
Will you come near and shed just one tear?
Will you say to the strangers around you
A poor heart you have broken lies here?

[Chorus]



“Mother” Maybelle Carter
(1909-1978)
Bluegrass Hall of Fame Photo

"I'm Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes" is a country/folk song discovered by A. P. Carter, a collector of old songs and lyrics. It is considered to be a hillbilly folk song, the basis of early country music. It is a sad tale of lost love far across the sea, similar to traditional English folk music.

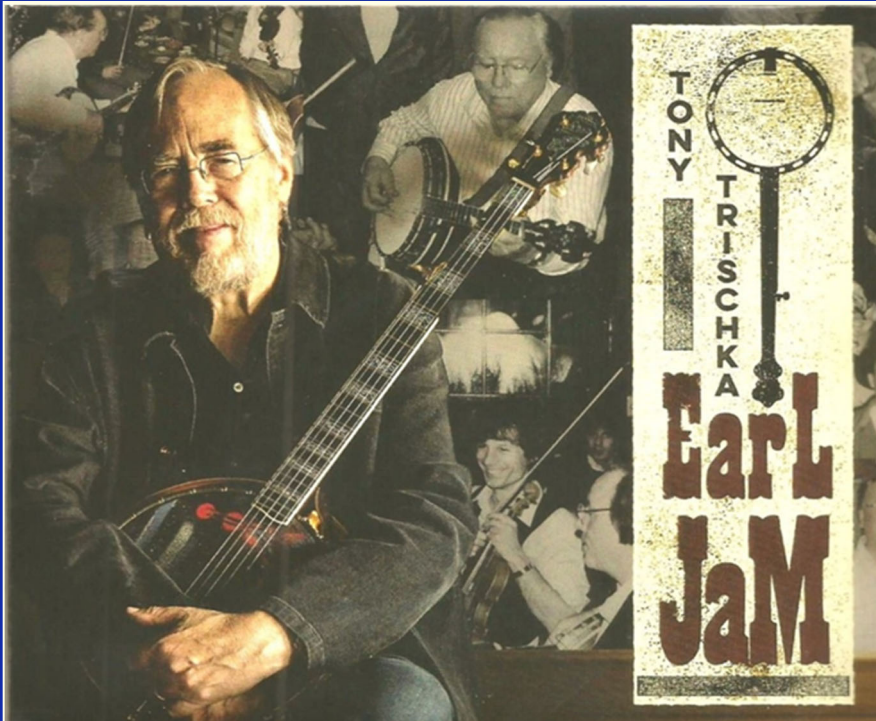
Many artists, both popular and country, recorded it, including Bing Crosby, Gene Autry, Burl Ives and the Andrews Sisters, and it became a hit in 1929. In February 1939 on XET Station, Mexico, Sara Carter (now divorced from A. P.), dedicated the song to her long lost boyfriend Coy Bayes, who was in California. Upon hearing it, Bayes realized that Sara still cared for him. They soon got back together, and on February 20, 1939, the couple were married at Brackettville, Texas

Mother Maybelle used her unique Carter picking style on the song, playing the bass notes with her thumb and the treble strings with her fingers. She was the first country artist to use the guitar as a lead instrument, instead of simply for rhythm, and the first to use finger picks on a guitar. The song was recorded on the Carter Family album "My Clinch Mountain Home" and in 2006 in Ralph Stanley's complete album of Carter Family songs.

Earl Jam

A Tribute to Earl Scruggs by Tony Trischka

A CD Review by Walt Crider



The songs on the CD include:

- ♫ Brown's Ferry Blues
- ♫ San Antonio Rose
- ♫ Chinese Breakdown
- ♫ My Horses Ain't Hungry
- ♫ Roll On Buddy
- ♫ Freight Train Blues
- ♫ Casey Jones
- ♫ Dooley
- ♫ Cripple Creek
- ♫ Amazing Grace
- ♫ Lady Madonna
- ♫ Bury Me Beneath The Willow
- ♫ Shout Little Lulu
- ♫ Little Liza Jane
- ♫ Amazing Grace Postlude

Earl Scruggs was the most influential five string banjo player by far. This year would have been his 100th birthday. Tony Trischka had a great idea of how to celebrate it!

Trischka listened to over two hundred tunes of John Hartford and Earl Scruggs jamming over the years. Then, he enlisted a number of his talented friends. He got help from the likes of Del and Ronnie McCoury, Billy Strings, Sierra Ferrell, Bronwyn Keith-Hynes and many more. Then, he created a recording of fifteen classic songs of Earl Scrugg's music as closely as possible.

Tony plays each one, note by note, just like Earl did. This release shows Tony's efforts and we are the lucky ones to experience his works! A great selection was made. I'm sure you will recognize and enjoy the songs!

Trischka says that there are many people to thank for this huge effort. I'm sure it was a joy to have done. The recording was released this June by Down The Road Records. The foreword on the liner notes was by Neil V. Rosenberg, who was inducted to the Bluegrass Hall of Fame for his work as an author and historian.



Earl Scruggs (1924-2012)
Bluegrass Hall of Fame Photo



Exploring a Bluegrass Rabbit Hole with *The Hornpipe* Editor

We will begin with a trivia question: **Who is the first Pennsylvanian to become a member of the Grand Ole Opry?** You will get that answer, and “more than you bargained for,” as you read this.

The way *The Hornpipe* has been formatted over the past two years relates to the Editor’s understanding that the most economical way for the printer has been to use two 11” x 17” pages, which are printed on two sides and folded in the middle to generate sixteen total 8 1/2 x 11 inch pages.

Since this edition of *The Hornpipe* did not have a Member Spotlight, any summer festivals to announce, or other urgent matters to report, the Editor realized we had an extra page to fill!

Hours after beginning an internet journey into The Rabbit Hole in search of interesting topics, this article evolved. The reader may decide if the result is interesting and worthwhile. But the Editor was captivated and amused by the connection of three interesting facts.

In the beginning, the Editor was searching for shows to list on Page 5. As usual, one thing led to another. His search led him to a relatively new venue, Ragamuffin Hall. This 180-seat concert venue in an otherwise abandoned church was redeveloped by Conrad Fisher, a young singer-songwriter. Fisher’s venue has a Mifflin, PA address, even though it is located 14 miles away from that Post Office in the middle of farmland in rural Juniata County. Use Google Maps and search for Ragamuffin Hall for the definition of “the middle of nowhere” or “unlikely venue.”

Fisher reportedly grew up on a flower farm near Intercourse, PA, before moving to Nashville for a few years to pursue his talent as a singer and songwriter. The Editor chose not to interrupt Fisher for an interview, but

much has been reported by the media and others. It is all positive about this remarkable and creative young man.

Kody Norris was the first to tell the Editor about Ragamuffin Hall. Kody travels there occasionally with his band to do some songwriting or recording with his friend, Fisher. The Kody Norris Show played a sold out concert before leaving. The Editor wondered “how can The Kody Norris Show sell out *there*?”

Soon after talking with Kody, the Editor heard that The Malpass Brothers made a similar trip to Ragamuffin Hall and also sold out. Others have too. Fisher has already sold out an October Joe Mullins concert as well as a December Rhonda Vincent show.

Since Ragamuffin Hall is around 80 miles and an hour and a half from the SMBA epicenter of Goodwill Firehall, its shows are not included on page 5. But the Editor intends to make a trip there someday to see a concert and satisfy his curiosity.

Somewhere in Ragamuffin/Fisher part of The Rabbit Hole, the Editor stumbled upon a YouTube of “Take Me Back to Pennsylvania.” Fisher co-wrote that song a few months ago with an 84 year-old who was also raised on a farm in rural Pennsylvania before moving to Nashville, where she became known as “Miss Country Soul.” **(This is a hint to the opening question!)**

As the Editor was pondering the factors of promoting a successful bluegrass show prior to attending the IBMA event reported on page 3, he talked with his friend Dick Beckley. Dick singled out the band Cutter & Cash and The Kentucky Grass as the next, up-and-coming band who the Editor could try to meet at IBMA.

The Editor’s research discovered that Cutter & Cash are great pickers,

classic country, “and then some.” One of their new releases is a cover of “Mamas Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys,” the Waylon Jennings & Willie Nelson classic.

Since the stars, Cutter & Cash, are still in grade school, the Editor figured that they might not attend IBMA, so he searched for their agent. The Editor could not find an agent, but he did see that their recently released singles were produced by a “CMA and Grammy Award winner and a revered 56-year legend of the Grand Ole Opry.” **(This is another hint to the opening question!)**

Cutter & Cash's producer is credited with “breaking the Grand Ole Opry’s gingham curtain” as the first to wear a mini-skirt on stage. Ken Burns reported this as her challenge to Opry manager Ott Devine’s dress code: “Okay, this is what America is wearing and I’ll make you a deal. I won’t wear a miniskirt in the back door if you don’t let anybody wear one in the front door.” Devine caved. **Need more clues?**

The same Pennsylvanian received an Honorary Doctor of Arts from Tennessee’s Lincoln Memorial University in 2019, which was the alma mater of her late second husband, Gene Ward.

Arguably, Pennsylvania’s greatest contribution to Nashville, Jeannie Seely, is pictured below.



SMBA Encourages Young Bluegrass Musicians !

Update on Scholarship Program

This year's scholarship program awarded \$250 scholarships to six young musicians ranging in age from 11 to 16. The students came from four families and used three different instructors.

Scholarship winner Bryson High was among the 40 children who attended the Delaware Valley Bluegrass Academy. Bryson also attended the Gettysburg Bluegrass Kids' Academy, where he played mandolin and sang on stage. Mollie Longenecker, another SMBA scholarship recipient, helped out with the beginners and jammed throughout both festivals.

Mary Rachel Nalley-Norris invited Mollie to join her on stage to play with The Kody Norris Show at the Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival in May. A photo of Mollie playing with the Long Acre Hollow Band at the SMBA summer picnic is on page 6 of this newsletter. Mollie was also among the "Reading Musical Foundation Rising Stars" on the Main Stage at The Kutztown Folk Festival in July.

Over the summer, SMBA received more than \$400 in donations towards for the Scholarship Fund. For more information about how to participate as an instructor, or to get an updated one-page application to be a scholarship recipient, contact Patsy Kline at patzkline@comcast.net.

Photo credit to Marie Mari for the picture below of Mollie Longenecker from The Kutztown Folk Festival.



The Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival's Kids' Academy is pictured below. Patsy Kline supplied the photo, was an instructor, and is picture kneeling at the far right.



Ironwood Drive to return to SMBA stage !

Steve Loden took the photo at the right, and it is now on the band's Facebook page. They are scheduled to as opening act before SMBA's Lonesome River Band show on February 8, 2025. In addition to playing an impressively full schedule at a number of venues in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, and participating at the 2024 IBMA Showcase in Raleigh, NC for emerging bands, they have already been scheduled to play at the 2025 Remington Ryde Festival. So, why are they listed here? Gideon and Stephen Werner, were SMBA scholarship recipients!



Bluegrass Radio Stations

Radio Stations broadcasting by "Air Waves" in Members' listening areas might also "Stream"

WDCV 88.3 FM - Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa

Davis Tracy plays bluegrass, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 8-10 AM

WDVR 89.7 FM www.wdvrfm.org Delaware, NJ

Echoes From The Hills with Rich Evans, Monday 12-3 PM

Bluegrass Horizon with Mike Wuerstel, Monday 7-10 PM

Country Comfort with Steve Misa "Country, Bluegrass and Americana," Saturday - 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Bluegrass Junction with Richard Evans Saturday 1-4 PM

WRGG 93.7 FM, Greencastle-Antrim area, Bluegrass Connection with Lanny Carbaugh, Weds- 6-8 PM

WIOO AM 1000 AM, Carlisle, PA and also 93.9 FM, 97.9 FM, 107.3 FM, WEEO 1480 AM

Opry Show with Tim Michaels Saturday 7-9 AM

WIOV 105.1 FM, Ephrata, PA Time Machine with Tim Michaels, Saturday 6 PM-12 Midnight

Sirius XM -Satellite Radio

Bluegrass Junction 24 hours a day Bluegrass. \$99/year by subscription

Streaming Bluegrass Radio Stations

🔗 www.bluegrassonthetube.com

🔗 www.bluegrassradio.com

🔗 www.banjoradio.com (featuring award-winning Kyle Cantrell, formerly with Sirius XM)

🔗 www.thebluegrassjamboree.com

🔗 www.worldwidebluegrass.com

🔗 www.bluegrasscountry.org

Editor's Note: It is not practical for the Editor to list every program or verify the radio information provided for convenience. If you discover that information is incorrect, or want to suggest a significant addition, please email the editor at the address on page 2 of this newsletter.

SMBA has Instruments to Lend to Members!

SMBA now has these instruments on hand to loan: a lap dulcimer, guitars, dobro, banjos, mandolin, full size fiddle and electric guitar.

Instruments that presently are out on loan include: an upright bass, a beginner guitar, a full sized fiddle and an electric bass with amp.

If you can donate an instrument to lend, or have an interest in borrowing an instrument, contact Patsy Kline. Since Patsy can do some basic repair and set-up for stringed instruments, even if the instrument you have for donation is not playable in its present condition, please let her know about that as well!

Email: patzkline@comcast.net or Call: 717-202-9423



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They have discounted instruments raffled
at SMBA picnics.*

Better Late Than Never!
Renew your Annual SMBA Membership
Please use the form below to update your information!

Membership Enrollment and Information Update Form

A household membership includes a family of two adults at the same address and their children, ages 18 and under. Memberships are \$15 and are renewable each year by January 31st. All SMBA members, including Board members and volunteers, are expected to pay dues annually. Your membership supports live bluegrass! Your cooperation makes it easier for our volunteer Treasurer!

Name of Adult(s): _____ Ages of Children: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Household Phone Number for Messages (Schedule changes, etc.): _____

Primary Email: _____ Second Email _____

SMBA is now using email to send a color version of the newsletter to save printing and postage, instead of only mailing the black and white version. Please choose one of these options: Do you want to receive the newsletter by: (1) email only ____; (2) by USPS ____ or (3) both ____

List any string instrument that you play: _____

List any band you play with: _____

Volunteer Opportunities: Check those which interest you!

Show Help: Chair Set Up _____ Membership Table _____ Merchandise Table _____

Instrument Lending "Library": Instrument Repair _____ Delivery & Retrieval _____

Picnic Help: Gate _____ Bake Sale _____ Raffles _____ Clean Up _____

Public Relations: Web Posting _____ Flyer Distribution _____

Newsletter Editing: _____ Compiling Calendar of Area Events _____

What current membership benefits are most important to you? _____

Is there a membership benefit you would like to see added in the future? _____

Mail this form and a check for \$15 payable to "SMBA" to the address below:

SMBA C/O Patsy Kline, Treasurer, P.O. Box 224, Lawn, PA 17041

Note: If you are a current member who is receiving phone messages, USPS mail, and email, then this form is not necessary, but updating your information is appreciated if you have any doubt.







Thank you!



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It's Time!

-  **Renew your past-due SMBA Membership !**
-  **Mark your calendars for the announced concerts !**
-  **Bring a friend to a future concert !**
-  **Talk with Gil Rhodes if you want to SERVE on the Board !**
-  **Volunteer to help with the 2025 SMBA picnic on July 26th !**
-  **Ask any Board member how you can help with SMBA !**

***To get your newsletter and other info by email:
Send a request to: patzkline@comcast.net***