



## British Bluegrass e-Newsletter No. Nine

April

This is the ninth of a series of semi-regular BBN e-Newsletters. BBN is published by the British Bluegrass Music Association (BBMA).

Those interested in joining the BBMA can do so by contacting the Membership Team, Clare and David Rozzell, 26 Martin Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO3 6JZ  
[membership@britishbluegrass.co.uk](mailto:membership@britishbluegrass.co.uk) .



**The 13th European World of Bluegrass Festival will be held in Voorthuizen, the Netherlands, on 13 – 15 May 2010.**

**The EWOB Festival provides a chance for some of the finest bluegrass bands from Europe and the USA and Canada to play side by side for promoters, music agents, radio and press. The three-day EWOB Festival is the both the highlight of the bluegrass year in Europe, and the apex of the month-long European World of Bluegrass, busy weeks of festivals and concerts mostly concentrated in the Worldwide Bluegrass Music Month of May. The EWOB Festival is always held in the Netherlands (Holland) and generally features 42 bands, including four or five guests from the USA and Canada.**

**Special U.S. guests at EWOB 2010 will include the Kathy Kallick Band, from the San Francisco area; the Sharon Cort Band from Nashville, Tennessee; Wayne Taylor and Appaloosa, from the Washington, D.C., area; and Grandpa Banana, in a duo with David Thom, from the San Francisco Bay area; Viper Central, from Vancouver, Canada; Hungry Hill, from north-western Canada; Featured European bands this year include Blackjack, Acousticure, Bluegrass Stuff (with Swiss vocalist Tabea Anderfuhren), Goodwill, Blueland, Ile Auto, G-Runs 'n' Roses, Dawgmatic, Rawhide, Springfield, Sidlo, Wyrton, Sunny Side, Blue Velvet Band, Quartier Francais and many more. On Saturday night you can enjoy the No. 1 European Bluegrass Band 2009, Downhill Ramblers, from Sweden.**

**EWOB is much more than a festival.** Like IBMA's World of Bluegrass in Nashville, EWOB is a professional trade event that works hard to equip our bands with professional tools to build their careers. And every year, the musicians who play at EWOB choose our most exciting band as the #1 European Bluegrass Band for one year that the EWOB Festival sends to Nashville to play at IBMA's World of Bluegrass.





Mandolin player and outstanding lead vocalist **David Davis** was inducted into the Alabama Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame last month.

The Cullman, Alabama, native has led his band, the Warrior River Boys, for 26 years forging a unique place for his artistic flair. He has appeared live for over two million people in 45 states, all Canadian provinces and even the Bahamas. The group itself actually continues a 40-year musical legacy.

"I am tremendously honored to be included among these talented honorees", Davis said. "I accept this honor on behalf of so many great players and singers who came through the band in last 26 years from Alabama and other states."

He credited his early musical opportunities to the influences of his late father Leddell Davis, his maternal grandfather J.H. Bailey and all his family, including his uncle Cleo Davis, who was one of Bill Monroe's first recruits.

Davis also thanked the late honoree Garry Thurmond for giving him his start in professional music. "Being accepted by your peers and friends is something we work hard for and it is appreciated," he said.

He said that he is extremely proud of his Alabama musical roots drawing upon the heritage of other Alabamians including Hank Williams and the Louvin Brothers to fuel his creativeness. "For the last three albums, I have been making a conscious effort to create music that will appeal to all ages while remaining the most traditional sound out there," he said. "I have been working to find the right balance between the traditional sound that we are respected for preserving while creating music that will cross all music genres."

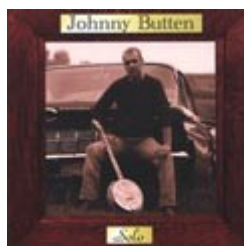
Currently the Warrior River Boys includes Marty Hays playing bass, Owen Saunders playing fiddle, Robert Montgomery on banjo and Brad Folk on guitar.

Davis said Bill Monroe was innovative for his time and he is working to bring a new approach to the tradition for today. "We are continuing to find that needle in the haystack to create a style with the traditional roots that will be accepted by today's audiences," he said.

Other inductees were Herb Trotman, Ginger Boatwright, the Brasher Brothers and the late guitarist Garry Thurmond, formerly of the Flint River Boys and Warrior River Boys.

Davis and the Warrior River Boys continue to be among the top recording artists in their industry. Their latest Rebel Records CD *Two Dimes And A Nickel* was number 11 on the March Cashbox Top Bluegrass Albums chart.

For more information about the group, visit [www.daviddavisandwrb.com](http://www.daviddavisandwrb.com) . For more information about Rebel Records, visit [www.rebelrecords.com](http://www.rebelrecords.com)



Taunton-born **Johnny Butten**, the world's fastest banjo player, has signed with instrument maker Recording King. As their new endorsee, Butten will be playing the new RK-Elite-75, which was introduced by Recording King as their most traditional pre-war style banjo ever. Modelled after the original Mastertone banjos of the 1930s, the all-new Recording King RK-Elite offers players vintage sound and handcrafted construction.

Johnny Butten has played with the best of them - Bill Keith, Kenny Baker, Josh Graves and Peter Rowan - to mention four stellar bluegrass musicians. He is an international multi-award winner, with the Guinness World Records fastest banjo player, European fiddle player of the year nominee 1997, won the Band of the Year award at the BCMA, 1989, with his band Hard Cash, to name a few of his credits.

The new RK-Elite-75 has professional components like a classic Mastertone-style tone ring, true steam-bent 3-ply maple rim and nitrocellulose lacquer finish that put this banjo in a category by itself. With classic design features like the vintage-style double-cut Recording King peghead and custom Flying Eagle-style peghead and fretboard inlay, this banjo proudly carries Recording King's 75-year history into the present.

Featuring a one-piece mahogany resonator and a one-piece slim profile mahogany neck and Mastertone-style tone ring, the RK-Elite is a professional-level banjo with craftsmanship and features that usually command hundreds of dollars more on competing banjos.

The RK-Elite comes with a Recording King vintage hardshell case and has Recording King's limited lifetime warranty.

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

[http://recordingking.com/banjos\\_rkelite75.html](http://recordingking.com/banjos_rkelite75.html)



AcuTab Publications announced the release on 16 March of their newest instructional DVD, *Secrets Songs & Tunes* by **Sierra Hull**. It offers four hours of insight and instruction from this young mandolin prodigy on two DVDs, with a printed booklet. Hull has been the recipient of considerable praise for the past six years, well before the release of her debut CD, *Secrets*, on Rounder Records in May of 2008. She had been featured on stage with Alison Krauss at age 13 and was recruited by Rounder as she entered high school. Sierra said that she was very flattered by their early interest, but wisely decided that she needed to be artistically prepared before putting herself forward on a major release – so she waited until the ripe old age of 16.

She was similarly recruited by the prestigious Berklee College Of Music, who offered a full, four year scholarship to attend the school in Boston. At the IBMA convention during her senior year, then new Berklee President Roger Brown tailed her like a college recruiter chasing a star tailback. Though initially uncertain about college with an active touring schedule in the offing, Sierra ultimately accepted a Berklee Presidential Scholarship and began her studies there in the Fall of 2009.

In her AcuTab DVD, Sierra teaches seven songs and solos from *Secrets*, plus two tunes from a limited-release CD she recorded at age 13. She goes into great detail demonstrating the solos, putting even the more complex pieces (like *Smashville* and *Hullarious*) within the reach of intermediate level mandolin players. There is also a wealth of wisdom – wise well beyond her years – imparted as the material is presented, whether it is fingering, attack, arrangement advice or suggestions about pick direction.



You can help to save the Bean Blossom Music Park in Brown County, Indiana - and the annual festivals held there in memory of Bill Monroe, father of bluegrass music and founder of the park as a venue dedicated to bluegrass - by voting for a \$250,000 grant to Bean Blossom

from the Pepsi Refresh project. The **Bean Blossom Brown County Jamboree Preservation Foundation, Inc.**, says:

“The monies from the Pepsi Refresh Project will allow the Foundation to continue to host music events that will increase public awareness of the special history, heritage, and music of Brown County, Indiana, and in particular, the music of Bill Monroe, by purchasing, conserving and operating in perpetuity the Bean Blossom Music Park.

The vision is for a permanent music park and educational centre grounded in the history of the musical events at Bean Blossom that will allow local and regional artisans and bluegrass music artists and promoters the continuation of thousands of visitors to the festival site each year from all over the world who come to enjoy the events at Bean Blossom continuing the nearly seventy-year-old musical tradition for future generations.”

The Bean Blossom Jamboree Foundation was created as an avenue to save the Bean Blossom festival property from development by operating the festival site and continue the traditions and history of Bill Monroe including the heritage of country, gospel, folk, and particularly bluegrass music.

The festival site is located approximately 50 miles south of Indianapolis and was host to seven music festivals in 2009 attracting 100,000 visitors from all over the world.

Each person can vote 10 times a day. There isn't any time to lose, voting ends April 30th, 2010. <http://www.bbjfoundation.org/>



#### New and forthcoming CDs .....



Darren Beachley & the Legends of the Potomac *Takeoff* (Patuxent Music); The John Hartford String Band *Memories of John* (Red Clay Records); Donna Ulisse *Holy Waters* (Hadley Music Group); Tim Stafford and Steve Gulley *Dogwood Winter* ;



Although there hasn't been any official confirmation, there are reports that the Gibson Brothers; Dale Ann Bradley; and Amy Gallatin, Roger Williams & Stillwater are booked to appear at the Appalachian & Bluegrass Music Festival that takes place at the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh, Northern Ireland, from 3 to 5 September. <http://www.nmni.com/uafp>

For booking information contact Ulster American Folk Park, Mellon Road, Omagh, BT78 5QY

Tel: + 44 (0)28 8224 3292





Rick Townend is assembling an archive of recordings featuring the playing of his brother **Andy Townend**. He would be most grateful to hear (Tel: 07951 571198 or [richard@stjulians.co.uk](mailto:richard@stjulians.co.uk)) from anyone who has any live recordings, or recordings of radio programmes, of Andy playing with any of his bands:

- The Echo Mountain Boys/Echo Mountain Band
- Orange Blossom/Orange Blossom Sound
- Dave Plane & Andy Townend
- The Townend's Special Bluegrass Service (TSBs)

... or any other combinations

At some time in the future Rick will put together an album featuring the best of Andy's playing. You can read a bit about Andy Townend at [www.ricktownend.co.uk/AndyTownend.htm](http://www.ricktownend.co.uk/AndyTownend.htm) and also on John Baldry's web-site at [www.btinternet.com/~john.baldry/mando/townend.html](http://www.btinternet.com/~john.baldry/mando/townend.html) . You can get CD versions of Andy playing with the Echo Mountain Band and Townend's Special Bluegrass Service (contact Rick – see above) and a cassette of him with Dave Plane from Dave (12 Sandy Lane, Orpington, BR6 0DY, Tel: 01689 824718).



The 2011 **Kentucky Music Hall of Fame** inductees were named last month. Among those honoured are The Goins Brothers, Molly O'Day, Keith Whitley and Patty Loveless.

The **Goins Brothers**, Raymond and Melvin, played together on and off for over 30 years beginning in 1963, after Raymond left the Lonesome Pine Fiddlers, a band that he helped to found in 1938. From early 1966 until the spring of 1969, Melvin worked with the Stanley Brothers through the last months of Carter Stanley's life and the formative period of Ralph's solo leadership.

The Goins Brothers' band continued until a heart attack in 1994 slowed Ray down. He retired in 1997, while Melvin continued as Melvin Goins & Windy Mountain. The brothers played mountain string music and bluegrass music for 50 years. Ray passed away in 2007.

**Molly O'Day**, born Lois LaVerne Williamson a farm in Pike County, Kentucky, was a country music vocalist who had some degree of fame and commercial success in the late 1940s. Despite her short recording career, lasting only five years, she became a legend in her own lifetime. O'Day is best known for singing *Tramp on the Street*, the song that earned her a Columbia recording contract. Her later years were devoted to evangelistic work. She passed away on 5 December 1987, aged 64.

**Keith Whitley**, from Ashland, Kentucky, became known first as a teenager when, with Ricky Skaggs, he performed Stanley Brothers songs. The duo were heard by Ralph Stanley himself and for a brief period were members of Ralph's band, the Clinch Mountain Boys. Later Whitley worked with J D Crowe & the New South before, in the early 1980s, moving to Nashville and starting on a career in mainstream country music.

From 1984 till his premature death, in 1989, due to alcohol poisoning, Whitley recorded several top-selling albums for RCA Records and had five consecutive No. 1 country hit singles, the last two posthumously.

Whitley, whose own singing was heavily influenced by Carter Stanley and Lefty Frizzell, continues to influence an entire generation of singers and songwriters.

Pikeville, Kentucky-born **Patty Loveless** is most widely known for her country music career that began in 1975 as a full-time member of the Wilburn Brothers' band, as the lead female singer. After a near 10-year hiatus in North Carolina, Loveless returned to Nashville to a recording career with MCA, Epic and Saguaro Road, which realised five No. 1 country hit singles.

Loveless has endeared herself to bluegrass music enthusiasts with her albums *Mountain Soul* (Epic, 2001), *Bluegrass & White Snow: A Mountain Christmas* (Epic, 2002) and her most recent release *Mountain Soul II* (Saguaro Road Records, 2009). Following the release of *Mountain Soul* she made several well-received appearances at bluegrass music festivals.

The Kentucky Music Hall of Fame & Museum, situated in Renfro Valley, honours Kentucky performers, songwriters, publishers, promoters, managers, broadcasters, comedians and other music professionals who have made significant contributions to the music industry in Kentucky and around the world.

**The Induction Ceremony will take place on 7 April, 2011, at the Lexington Center, Bluegrass Ballroom, in Lexington, Kentucky.**



North West Leicestershire is going to have its first ever all-day bluegrass event. The event, the **Appleby Bluegrass Day** is to be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 30th August at Sir John Moore Foundation premises, Top Street, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire, DE12 7AH.

During the day there will be beginner / intermediate workshops with tutors Joe McIlvenny (banjo), Guy Rogers (guitar), Dan Norton (mandolin) and Eleanor Cross (fiddle). After the workshops there will be an organised slow jam.

Following that is an evening concert with Phantom Horse, Joe McIlvenny's Bluegrass Revue, Salmagundi and more exciting acts to be announced.

There will be a full licensed bar running all day and plenty of places to pick, including the foundation's extensive lawns. Hot food will also be available at approx £5.00 a head.

Prices will be announced shortly.

The venue is a 17th century hall, a Grade I listed building, built and designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1697. <http://www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk/>

For further information contact Guy Rogers Tel: 0796 106 1489, 19 Mill Lane, Heather, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 2QF E-mail: [guy@salmagundi.me.uk](mailto:guy@salmagundi.me.uk) .



With the success of his last release, *Help is on the Way*, which included the first ever Bluegrass Gospel #1 on the Singing News Southern Gospel Charts, **Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver** are back with a new album - *Light On My Feet and Ready to Fly* (Horizon Records HR12762) - that provides the great vocal prowess, instrumental finery and spiritual message of his prior Gospel recordings. With a nearly all-new line-up, the album includes Corey Hensley on guitar and vocals; Jason Leek on Bass and vocals; Dale Perry on banjo, guitar and bass vocals; Josh Swift on resophonic guitar; Jason Barie on fiddle and

Lawson, who is featured playing mandolin as well as the lead vocalist on half the songs on the album.

The tracks for the album were recorded in February at the Crossroads Studios in Arden, North Carolina, with veteran Crossroads engineer Van Atkins doing the recording and mixing.

A link offering a great insight into the studio mixing process can be seen at the Crossroads blog page. Lawson tells us, "*Light On My Feet and Ready to Fly* has something for every bluegrass Gospel fan. It includes original songs coupled with older ones for a cohesive recording I know folks will enjoy". <http://www.crossroadsmusic.com/blog/2010/02/van-atkins-and-doyle-lawson-mixing-in-the-studio/>

The new CD was released on 30 March and is available at [www.doylelawson.com](http://www.doylelawson.com) , [www.crossroadsmusic.com](http://www.crossroadsmusic.com) , iTunes, Amazon and at stores carrying bluegrass music.



Chris Stapleton, lead singer and the most obvious identifiable characteristic of **The SteelDrivers**, has left the band to focus more on song writing and his family.

Stapleton has been replaced by **Gary Nichols**, a soulful singer from Alabama.

Donald Gary Nichols II, born in the Muscle Shoals area in 1978, has had three single releases for the Universal label. His first, the self-penned *Unbroken Ground*, reached No. 39 on the country music charts in 2007.

The SteelDrivers' remaining original band members are Richard Bailey (banjo), Mike Fleming (bass/vocals), Mike Henderson (mandolin/vocals) and Tammy Rogers (fiddle/vocals).

Stapleton is featured on the forthcoming CD – the band's second – due for release on Rounder Records.

<http://www.gary-nichols.com/index.html> <http://www.steeldrivers.net/>



Details of the line-up for the relevant days of the 37th Annual Telluride Bluegrass Festival have been released. They are as follows...

**Thursday, 17 June: Sarah Jarosz; Keller & the Keels; Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile; Josh Ritter & the Royal City Band; Del McCoury Band; Alison Krauss & Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas; and the Tim O'Brien Band.**

**Friday, 18 June: Ben Sollee; John Cowan Band; Cadillac Sky; Peter Rowan; Hot Rize; Court Yard Hounds; Lyle Lovett; and Leftover Salmon.**

**Saturday, 19 June: The Hillbenders; Jerry Douglas, Omar Hakim & Viktor Krauss; Imelda May; Yonder Mountain String Band; Telluride Troubadour; Bela Fleck, Zahir Hussain & Edgar Meyer; Sam Bush Band; and Edward Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros.**

**Sunday, 20 June: The Deprung Monks; Vasen; Carolina Chocolate Drops; Brandi Carlile; Mumford & Sons; Dave Rawlings Machine; the Telluride House Band featuring Sam Bush, Bela Fleck, Jerry Douglas; Edgar Meyer; Bryan Sutton and Stuart Duncan.**

The annual festival takes place at Telluride, Colorado.

Tickets can be purchased on line <http://www.bluegrass.com/telluride/tickets.html>

For more information, visit [the festival homepage](#) .



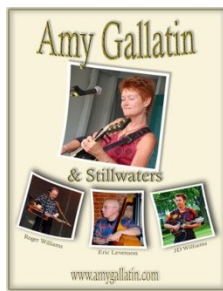
The Toy Hearts (from Birmingham, England) are now fully endorsed by **BlueChip Picks**. All three of members of the band use a different pick from the Knoxville, Tennessee, company's extensive range. Sophia Johnson uses the TD60 guitar pick, Hannah Johnson uses the 50 mandolin pick and Stewart Johnson uses the dobro/reso thumb pick, BCT-reso1M.

What the band members love about these picks is that they have the closest consistent tone to using a real shell pick, but they don't wear down in the same way. Gone are the rough edges and so too the need for filing, buffing and reshaping picks after each gig.

Hannah commented, "They are amazing picks and the Toy Hearts feel privileged to endorse such a great quality product. I can safely say that we are all enjoying trying to wear them down in the studio and on stage .... and, of course, it goes without saying that we are chuffed to bits to be recognised enough to start getting endorsements from companies that we genuinely love and respect."

The Toy Heart's third album, *Femme Fatale*, will be released "around May/June", according to their website. <http://thetoyhearts.com/>

For more information on all the picks made by BlueChip please visit: [www.bluechippick.net](http://www.bluechippick.net)



Amy Gallatin, Roger Williams & Stillwaters are still seeking to fill dates on their tour that begins during the weekend of 3-4-5 September at the Appalachian & Bluegrass Music Festival, Omagh.

Other confirmed dates are .....

10 Sept. Heart of England Bulkington War Memorial Club, Stafford Close, Bulkington, Bedworth

11 Sept. The Music Pool, The Courtyard Cafe, Penhaligon Way, Hereford (lunchtime)

<http://www.courtyard.org.uk/>

11 Sept. Bluegrass Plus Club, Community Amateur Sports Club, Woodplace Lane, Coulsdon, Surrey (evening).

17-18 Sept. Cornish Bluegrass Festival, Newquay, Cornwall

22 Sept. Greenock Arts Council, Arts Guild Theatre, Campbell Street, Greenock, Scotland

23 Sept. Acoustic Music Club, Polish Club Bennoch House, Bennoch Road, Kirkcaldy, Scotland

24-25-26 Sept. Moniaive Bluegrass Festival, Moniaive, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland

Gigs in Ireland are being sought for the period from 6 Sept. to 9 Sept.

Likewise gigs, preferably in the south of England (although a gig in the Midlands may be acceptable), are being sought for 12 Sept. to 15 Sept.

Finally, gigs in the north of England and the south of Scotland are needed for the period 19 Sept. to 21 Sept.



For those of you with edgy tastes, the Livestock Festival takes place from 13 Aug. to 15 Aug. at The Red Lion, Church Street, Stratton Audley, near Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX27 9AG.

The line-up includes Harry's Tricks; The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band; Andrew Cronshaw and Tigran Alexsanyan; Bigg Taj; Modeste; Amira Kheir; Los Chinchies; Jali Fili Cissokho; The Holloway Jug Band; and The Knights Of Mentis.

Early bird tickets can be obtained by E-mail [mail@livestockfestival.co.uk](mailto:mail@livestockfestival.co.uk)

For more information about this event contact the venue Tel: 01869 277 225 or go to the festival website <http://www.livestockfestival.co.uk/>

Livestock is proud to support the [Anthony Nolan Trust](#), the charity that takes back lives from leukaemia.



Pioneering folk musician and advocate **Alice Gerrard** was recently named among the 2010 North Carolina Folklore Award Winners of the Brown Hudson Award and the Community Traditions Award.

Gerrard has been a musician and a proponent of traditional music since the 1960s, when she made the first of her recordings with Hazel Dickens on the Folkways Label. A native of the West Coast, Gerrard discovered traditional southern music while attending Antioch College in Ohio. Later, she made trips to the mountains of North Carolina and Virginia to visit and learn from traditional musicians, playing with them on field recordings and later in the studio.

Gerrard has recorded and played with some of North Carolina's most loved artists, including Elizabeth Cotton, Tommy Jarrell, and Joe and Odell Thompson. She also participated in the Southern Folk Festival tours as part of Anne Romaine and Bernice Johnson Reagan's Southern Folk Cultural Revival Project, which brought white and black musicians together in

the midst of the Civil Right's struggles to share songs and perform with one another in concerts throughout the south.

In 1987 she founded the Old Time Herald, still the premier publication devoted to old time music, and two years later moved her home and the magazine to Durham. She continues to make recordings as a solo artist and with Brad Leftwich and Tom Sauber as Tom, Brad and Alice.

The International Bluegrass Music Association honoured Gerrard with a Distinguished Achievement Award in 2001. In 2009 she was the Lehman Brady Visiting Professor of Documentary Studies at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she shared her knowledge with a new generation of field recorders.



Recently Richard Hawkins, the editor of the Bluegrass Ireland Blog, provided some statistics to help evaluate the changes that have taken place in **bluegrass music in Ireland**.  
<http://bluegrassireland.blogspot.com/>

Focusing on those areas where there has been significant growth, he compared the number of bands and festivals that were listed in the last edition of the European Bluegrass Directory and those submitted for the forthcoming edition.

His investigation revealed the following .....

	2008/9	2010/11
Bands	14	22
Festivals	10	15

The figures for bands in 2010/11 include two from among a growing number of young 'acoustic Americana' bands who make use of bluegrass or old-time material.

The figures for festivals in 2008/9 included those which present bluegrass / old-time music among other genres. Nearly all the new events listed for 2010/11 are specifically bluegrass/old-time events (though they are very small in size at present).

The new directory also includes one merchandiser, DanGem Bluegrass (Craigavon, Armagh) in Northern Ireland. As well as selling banjos and other instruments, this company organises an annual banjo camp and monthly bluegrass get-togethers, and supports the established Omagh festival, so it helps the scene here in several ways.  
<http://www.dangem.co.uk/>





The talent committee of the Spring Bluegrass Festival in Willisau, Lucerne, Switzerland, has announced their line-up for their 11th festival, which takes place on 8 May.

The festival takes place on two stages and presents a colourful variety of musical styles focusing on bluegrass music.

Bands scheduled to appear are .....

Uncle Earl (USA)  
Kathy Kallick Band (USA)  
Red Grass (CAN)  
Sacred Sounds of Grass (D)  
Bluegrass Cwrkot (CZ)  
Viper Central (CAN)  
MoonRise (CH)

For further information, contact Paolo Dettwiler, Lehenmattstrasse 177, CH-4052 Basel, Switzerland.  
Tel: Phone +41 61 311 09 03 E-mail - [paolo@bluegrass-willisau.ch](mailto:paolo@bluegrass-willisau.ch)  
[www.bluegrass-willisau.ch](http://www.bluegrass-willisau.ch)



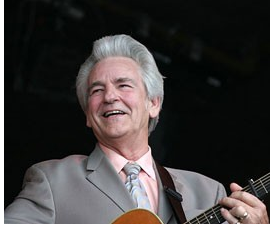
Bulgarian bluegrass songstress **Lilly Drumeva** is planning a tour in the UK with Czech group Monogram in the first two weeks of November 2010.

Lilly Drumeva is a well known figure on the international bluegrass scene. She formed Lilly of the West in 1997 and with that band she has toured successfully throughout Europe and the USA. Over the years, Drumeva worked with different musicians, releasing eight albums to date. Her latest CD, *Lovin' You*, received a positive review in Maverick magazine recently.

She also hosts bluegrass and country music shows on Bulgarian national radio and TV and represents her country in several bluegrass associations.

Monogram is one of the leading bluegrass bands in Europe. Formed 1991 in Prague, they played at major festivals in Europe and the USA. They have been voted Czech Bluegrass Band of the Year several times, and were winners of La Roche Bluegrass Festival contest in 2008. The individual band members have been voted instrumentalists of the year. Monogram has released three albums to date.

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



Bluegrass legend **Del McCoury** has been declared the Artist of the Year for 2010 in Pennsylvania Governor's Arts Awards.

McCoury began his illustrious career just 50 miles from York in the bars of the Baltimore waterfront. Now, more than 50 years later, the one-time farm boy has taken bluegrass music across the country and around the world, earning widespread acclaim as its foremost ambassador by balancing a profound immersion in its traditions with a wide-open appeal to listeners young enough to be his grandchildren.

In 1967 he formed the Dixie Pals and for 20 years he worked out of York County honing his already superior skills while playing to audiences far and near.

In 1987 he began working with sons Ronnie and Robbie and changed the name of his group to The Del McCoury Band. From the early 1990s, McCoury's increased profile earned dozens of awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association and NARAS, appearing at venues as varied as Carnegie Hall and the Bonnaroo Music Festival with his own band and with artists ranging from Phish to Dierks Bentley. In 2003 he became a member of the world-acclaimed Grand Ole Opry cast.

Yet whether he is entertaining a youthful audience numbering in the hundreds of thousands, appearing at a hard-core traditional bluegrass festival or presiding over his own freewheeling DelFest, McCoury has become universally acclaimed as a bluegrass patriarch whose commitment to musical excellence is surpassed only by his geniality and easy rapport with listeners. And though his career has led him to reside near Nashville, Tennessee, McCoury remains proud to call York County home and still maintains his Civil War era farmhouse a few miles out of town, where he sneaks away when his schedule allows.

The award will be presented on 8 April in McCoury's hometown of York, Pennsylvania. The annual awards are a 29-year gubernatorial tradition honouring outstanding Pennsylvania artists, arts organizations and patrons who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the arts.

The awards ceremony at the Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center, York, will be free, open to the public and followed by a ticketed reception.



The **Sharon Cort Band** will start their 'Kiss the Banjo' tour with a debut appearance on 14 May at the European World of Bluegrass gathering in Voorthuizen, Netherlands.

Their appearance there will be followed by a tour of Ireland, France and Switzerland.

Cort, who is well known in Europe for having completed several tours in the late 1990s, has chosen 2010 to return to the musical arena.

Preliminary dates for the tour are:

14 May: EWOB, Voorthuizen, Netherlands

16 May: Stichting Boet'n Deure, Staatsbossen van Oodorn, NL. Tel: +0031 (0) 599 850361

22 May: Country Festival TBA Paris, France

25 May-5/31 (Ireland dates TBA)

3 June: Country & Bluegrass Festival, Montgeron, France

4 June: Country Western Festival, Montigny sur Lioge

18 June: Col Des Roches Festival, Hotel Jet d' Eau, Le Col 15 2400 Le Locle, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 32 931 46 66

Cort is noted for her powerful, sensitive vocals, her original songs and her top-notch band members.

On this trip the Sharon Cort Band will include Jean Marie Redon (France; banjo), Tom Corbett (USA; mandolin) and Sean McKerr (Ireland; bass). Fiddler Aaron Till (USA) will join the band for a few dates.

Further Information Contact Terry Harkleroad, Mitero Entertainment, 1-888-301-3529  
[terry@miteroentertainment.com](mailto:terry@miteroentertainment.com)



Send news, information and CDs for review purposes to:  
Richard F Thompson, 14 Lime Grove, Lichfield, Staffordshire, England WS13 6ER  
[bluegrassmercury@googlemail.com](mailto:bluegrassmercury@googlemail.com)

For further information about the BBMA visit <http://www.britishbluegrass.co.uk/>