



Graveyard Pete & The New Appalachian Sound

Win ISSA Band of the Year!



ATLANTA — Independent roots outfit Graveyard Pete & The New Appalachian Sound captured the Bronze Award for USA Band of the Year at the 2025 International Singer-Songwriters Association (ISSA) Awards on Saturday, August 23, at the Byers Theatre in the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center. The band celebrated the result shortly after the show, posting “2025 Bronze Band of the Year... We got one, baby!” and thanking the ISSA team and supporters.

This year’s ceremony brought finalists from around the globe to metro Atlanta; ISSA confirmed the red-carpet schedule and start time for the event, which capped a weekend of activities including the Summit, a pre-party in Alpharetta and an after-party following the awards. Graveyard Pete & The New Appalachian Sound entered awards weekend after being named an official 2025 finalist by ISSA in multiple categories, including Band of the Year—part of a field whittled down from tens of thousands of fan votes before final judging by prior gold-level winners.

The win arrives...Continued on page 2

Stars Shine at 2025 ISSA Awards After-Party

ATLANTA (Aug. 25, 2025) — Following the 2025 International Singer-Songwriters Association Awards at the Byers Theatre, the celebration continued at the Wild Wing Café in Alpharetta, where the official after-party lit up the night.

The post-show stage featured standout performances from Aaron DeYarmon, Shalaine Stebner, Rich Allen, Jason Cole, Matt Maloof and many more, each bringing their own signature style to the crowd of fellow nominees, winners, and fans.

From heartfelt acoustic sets to full-throttle Americana, the lineup showcased the depth and diversity of talent honored at this year’s ISSA Awards.



Aaron DeYarmon Post Party Performance

Chandler & Amy Jo Win Songwriting Gold

ATLANTA (Aug. 25, 2025) — At the 2025 International Singer-Songwriters Association Awards, Trenton Chandler was named Male Songwriter of the Year and Amy Jo earned Female Songwriter of the Year, spotlighting their rising success on the indie music stage.



Aaron DeYarmon walking from stage after accepting Band of the Year award.

Continued from page 1...The win arrives on the heels of the band's busy summer in Columbus, Ohio. They released their debut LP *Castles in the Sand* in June and appeared live on WCBE 90.5 FM's "Live From Studio A" ahead of their album-release show at Eldorado's. The group describes its sound as an award-winning blend of folk, rock, blues, and Appalachian roots—an approach that's also garnered recognition from organizations like the World Songwriting Awards and the Josie Music Awards.

ISSA, founded to spotlight independent artists, stages its annual awards each August in the Atlanta area and recognizes winners in gold, silver, and bronze tiers across U.S. and international divisions. (The association published full winners lists for prior years and scheduled this year's show for August 23.) With the Bronze now in hand, Graveyard Pete & The New Appalachian Sound turn back to a slate of Ohio shows this fall as momentum for *Castles in the Sand* continues.



Aaron DeYarmon & Amy Jo



2025 ISSA Award Winners Group Photo



Aaron "The Rev" Hymes



Emily Judson Wins Gold

ATLANTA (Aug. 25, 2025) — Singer-songwriter Emily Judson captured the Gold Female Emerging Artist of the Year award at the 2025 International Singer-Songwriters Association Awards, marking a breakthrough moment in her rising career. Pictured left is Aaron DeYarmon, Cece DeYarmon, Emily Judson, Brandon Judson



Michael Botte Interviewing Lark



Aaron DeYarmon & Tamanie Dove



Michale Botte & Kristenicole

SANDY SPRINGS, Ga. (Aug. 23, 2025) — The International Singer-Songwriters Association (ISSA) Awards kicked off in style with a lively red carpet outside the Byers Theatre at the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center.

Nominees, presenters, and guests from across the globe walked the carpet, stopping for photos and interviews with media hosts including Amy Jo and Michael Botte. The atmosphere buzzed with anticipation as artists celebrated their nominations and shared excitement ahead of the ceremony.

The red carpet event set the tone for an evening dedicated to honoring the best in independent music, blending glamour with the grassroots spirit of the singer-songwriter community.



Warm Thank You

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Todd and Jill Apfel, the entire ISSA team and of course Mama Dove for their tireless work in making the 2025 International Singer-Songwriters Association weekend such a resounding success. From The Summit to the unforgettable Award Show at the Byers Theatre, and the lively pre- and post-parties in Alpharetta, every detail reflected your dedication, vision, and passion for supporting independent artists around the world.

Because of your hard work, artists and fans alike enjoyed not only a celebration of music but also an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and be inspired. Thank you for giving so many voices a stage and for creating memories that will last a lifetime.



AK Cody



Like the sign says...



Andrew & Jodi Chappell, Dave Nudo, Trenton Chandler, Matt Maloof, Alyssa Joy Clarke, Rich Allen, Eric LeBlanc, so many others



Aaron & Rick Spins

THE 2025 ISSA AWARDS



A Night with ISSA



A Night with Mama Dove



Aaron & Angela



Thankful



Keywest Cowboy & Graveyard Pete