

# PICKIN' POST

The official publication of Louisville's Bluegrass Music Association

Winter 2018 issue 67

*May your holiday season  
be filled with Peace, Love  
and Bluegrass*

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- Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars at IBMA
- BA/Clarksville Parks Bluegrass Band Scramble 2018
- Newtown Performs

....and much more

## Baby It's Cold Outside !

It's that time of year when you need to pay extra attention to your instruments. If exposed to extreme temperatures, your instrument can expand, shrink or warp causing the wood to crack and glue joints to break. Be sure that you don't sit your instrument too close to a heat source or keep it in an overly hot or dry room. It's a good idea to put a humidifier in your case or keep a humidifier going in your home. Anything from 40 to 50 percent humidity is ideal. It's best to keep it in the case rather than expose your instrument to the temperature and humidity fluctuation of a room. Remember to get it out of the back of the van after the gig too !



Don't let this happen !

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***"Snowflakes are falling,  
my old home's a calling  
Tall pines are humming,  
Christmas time's a coming "***

***~ from the popular bluegrass song  
Christmas Time's A-Comin'  
by Tex Logan***

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### New and Renewing Members

Welcome to our newest members:

Daniel Haddix: Crestwood, KY  
Brannock McCartan: Crestwood, KY  
Jeff & Connie Schilffarth: Louisville, KY (Members # 1,284 & 1,285!)

Sheree Smith: Madison, IN  
Stewart Family Band:  
Mark Stewart, Judy Stewart, Katie Gill, Kent Stewart,  
Tony Rothrock: Mt. Washington, KY

Many thanks to the following renewing members, for their continued support of BA and its mission:

Kyle Ellison: Louisville, KY  
Shawna Hodges: Murfreesboro, TN (Last membership May 2014. Welcome Back, Shawna!)

Richard Jones: New Albany, IN  
Gary Kelly: Louisville, KY  
Jim Leach: Auburn, AL  
Bill Wolfe: Louisville, KY

### Pickin' Post

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Robin Thixton, Editor  
The official publication of  
BLUEGRASS ANONYMOUS  
*Louisville's Bluegrass Music Association*

**Mission Statement:** *Bluegrass Anonymous, Louisville's Bluegrass Music Association, is dedicated to promoting and supporting bluegrass music, preserving its tradition, and nurturing its growth by providing inclusive opportunities for pickin', singin', and listenin'.*

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## Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars at IBMA

~ by Larry Smith, President, Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars, Inc.

Many of you may know, the largest and oldest organization dedicated to young bluegrass musicians, Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars, has moved it national headquarters to Louisville, Kentucky and BA member Larry Smith has been appointed it's new President! The future of bluegrass music is getting brighter and brighter. Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars, including BA's own 9 year-old Ashlyn Smith, had a big presence at this year's IBMA in Raleigh, NC. TBS brought together about 140 members to participate in youth events at the Raleigh Convention Center. IBMA had a Youth Picking Room set up just for the kids. A great many famous stars each spent an hour or so (in many cases two hours) visiting and jamming with all the kids including IBMA Hall of Fame inductee Ricky Skaggs, Rhonda Vincent & the Rage, and Emerging Artists of the Year, The Po' Ramblin' Boys just to name a few. Youngsters were seen jamming and making friends everywhere throughout the building and having a GREAT time!

So, if anyone has any fear that bluegrass music might be drying out, just look around. The future is in good hands! As the new president of TBS, I am so very happy to bring this 15 year-old organization to Louisville and look forward to working hand in hand with Bluegrass Anonymous to keep the music we love alive and well! My wish is that more organizations, like IBMA, will embrace young pickers and provide places for them to meet and grow! Special Thanks to Joe Mullins (IBMA Chairman) for meeting with me and other TBS officers for an hour and answering our questions concerning young pickers and bluegrass lovers!



Po' Ramblin' Boys



Rhonda Vincent



Ricky Skaggs talks to the TBS Kids



# Po' Ramblin' Boys Win 2018 IBMA Emerging Artist Award

An interview with Josh Rinkel by Sonya Robles Cotton

**SRC:** How did the band get together?

**JR:** The band started in 2014 as one of the house bands for Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery in Gatlinburg, TN. It first began with CJ and a few local musicians. At the time I was running a small business at home in Kentucky and looking for a change. CJ was aware of my situation and called me up asking me if I wanted to move to town for a full time gig. I packed up and left Kentucky for Tennessee. About a month later, Jereme followed. We had played music together for years with Tommy Brown, Jereme's father, so we knew it would be a good fit. We had met Jasper a few times in the past at different bluegrass festivals and knew he was living in Gatlinburg. He was a bartender for the distillery and knew we were looking for a bass player and asked to audition. He got the job! We played weekly at Ole Smoky Moonshine together for 2 years before we started touring full time. We never planned to take PRB on the road but the amazing response we received led us to take the act on the road, and the rest is history!

**SRC:** What a great accomplishment, receiving the 2018 IBMA Emerging Artist award. What are your immediate goals following IBMA and this award?

**JR:** Thank you! We've always worked as hard as we could to get where we are now and we're not going to let winning an award change that. As far as the business side of things the award helps a lot, but we don't plan on riding that award as far as it will take us. We're going to keep working as hard as we have in the past, along with the momentum that comes along with winning an IBMA award. We're currently in the studio working on our first record for Rounder Records, so that'll keep us pretty busy for the winter until it's time to hit the road again in January.

**SRC:** Besides the award, was there any other event or activity at IBMA Raleigh this year that was special to you?

**JR:** Not an event in particular, but it seemed there was a lot more young people there this year taking music more seriously as something they could do for a living. I think too many people discourage kids from looking at music as something that can be a career. There was a sense of hunger to the younger bands this year. It's seemed like they wanted it to be more than a hallway jam, and I loved that!

**SRC:** When and where will you be performing in this region?

**JR:** November 17th at Willis Music in Florence KY, December 1st at Meadowgreen Appalachian Music Park in Clay City, KY. I'm sure there's more coming up so check our full schedule at [theporamblinboys.com](http://theporamblinboys.com)

**SRC:** It was a very wet Vine Grove Bluegrass Festival (9/20-22/2018), but we hear that you were there every day of the festival. Anything stand out during that event?

**JR:** It was a very wet weekend! This was the first year that we were the host band of The Vine Grove Bluegrass Festival so that was pretty special itself. Vine Grove is kind of our "Hometown Festival" because all of the band is from that area or has lived in that area at some point. It was good to be able to perform for some of our home-folks.

**SRC:** Any other info that you would like to share with our membership and readers?

**JR:** "Next Train South", our first single on Rounder Records is out now! Go download it! Keep your eye out for the full album, set to release some time in the spring of 2019!

The Po' Ramblin' Boys band members include C.J. Lewandowski (mandolin, rhythm guitar, lead vocals); Josh Rinkel(rhythm guitar, lead guitar, lead vocals, baritone vocals); Jereme Brown (banjo, lead vocals, tenor vocals) and Jasper Lorentzen (bass). The band's first disc, "Back to the Mountains", 2015 release on Random Records, is available at their website.



- BA would like to thank the folks who donated at the upper level for our membership in 2018. They are: Tom Fasses at the Bill Monroe Level; Maria & Jesse Schulz, Tom Dunham, Marshall Shelor, and Mike Schroeder at the Stanley Bros Level; Tom Fields, and the Jordan Family at the Grass Roots Level.
- BA Member and guitar player Dave Shattuck was asked to be part of the Norton Cancer Institute ribbon cutting for their new facility in the East End near Cabella's. Dave, as some of you may know, is a cancer survivor and he made many friends with staff and patients during his chemotherapy appointments when he, his partner Sonya Cotton, and a few other pickin buddies would take their instruments and pick while Dave received his chemo. The ribbon cutting was featured on WLKY news.

- Michael Cleveland won his 11th IBMA Fiddle Player of the Year award on September 27th. After the awards show he put together a great group for a showcase on the third floor of the Raleigh Marriott. The Group included Mike Munford (banjo), Nathan Livers (mandolin), Alan Bartram (bass), Josh Richards (guitar), Jeff White (guitar), Jason Carter (fiddle) and Michael. Congrats Mike !!

- BA sends a shout-out to long-time bluegrass musician and B.A. member, Wayne Mabe, who is recovering from a stroke. Wayne was instrumental in starting the Vine Grove jam that was held for many years in the courthouse and he is one of the founding members of the Vine Grove (KY) Bluegrass Festival. We wish you a speedy recovery, Uncle Wayne!



- Thank you to Felecia and Justin Moreschi (former BA Board Member) for creating and donating the beautiful guitar wall art to BA. It was raffled at the November 10th Band Scramble and won by Indiana resident Herb Gerber.

# NewTown Wows Crowd at 2018 BA Band Scramble and Concert



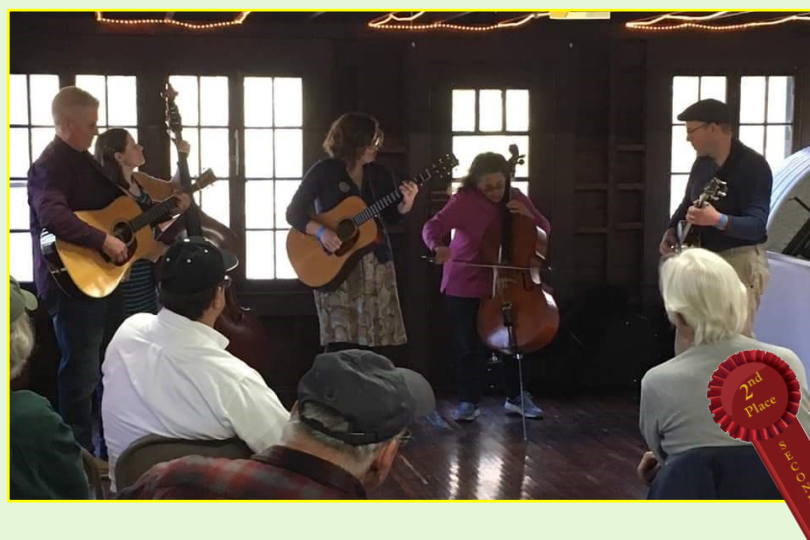
Clarksville (IN.) Parks Department and B.A. have teamed together since October 2011 to provide musical entertainment during the park's Fall Celebration. B.A. has hosted a bluegrass music Band Scramble during the event. This year BA was able to add another component to the event, by highlighting the music of the nationally-known bluegrass band, NewTown, based in Lexington, KY. This was an effort to promote bluegrass music in an outlying county of Jefferson County, KY. Funding for the addition was made possible by a grant that B.A. won in July 2018, from **Imagine Greater Louisville 2020**,

made possible by the Jennifer Lawrence Arts Fund at the Fund for the Arts. Advertising by B.A., Clarksville Parks, Louisville Public Radio and others brought 89 patrons to Endris Lodge at Lapping park on a cold November 10<sup>th</sup> afternoon to enjoy the contemporary music of NewTown. The audience was appreciative of NewTown's multi-talented group, including the vocals of wife and husband team, Kati Penn (fiddle) and Jr. Williams (banjo/guitar). A young man carrying his infant were walking in the park and heard the music. He said, "I thought Allison Krauss was singing in here and I had to see what was going on. How lucky I was to stumble upon this great music." NewTown has a new CD, "Old World", on the Mountain Home Music Company label and the band was spotlighted in the days following their performance at Clarksville Parks on Sirius Radio, Bluegrass Junction. To listen to NewTown and order their new disc, go to [www.TheNewTownBand.com](http://www.TheNewTownBand.com). And, don't miss a chance to hear this award-winning group!



## 2018 Band Scramble a HUGE Success !!

November 10, 2018 saw one of the biggest turn-outs yet for the 8th annual Bluegrass Band Scramble and Jam session. 87 armbands were handed out, and to top it off, there were a bunch of new faces in the crowd (and THAT we like to see). The cool weather outside didn't put a damper on the hot pickin' in Endris Lodge at Lapping Park in Clarksville, IN. As always, the winners of the band scramble are chosen by the audience with hearty applause. The winning bands took home a bluegrass trophy and ribbon. Band Contest Winners: 1st Place ~ The Mountain Ears featuring Jamie Shaw, Mandolin; Lynn Lamb, Guitar; Brandon Kindoll, guitar; Brannock McCartan, Banjo (and youngest participant at age 12); Lori Gibson, Bass and Matt Gibson, Banjo. 2nd Place ~ Too Many Cooks featuring Jenny Morse, Bass; Gary Shean, Banjo; Ellen Weis, Cello; Rebecca Minnick, Guitar; Mark Stewart, Guitar. 3rd Place ~ Crooked Porch featuring Nick Chambers, Bass; Kyle Ellison, Banjo; Dan Robinson, Mandolin; Rick Jones, Guitar; Norm Pender, Harmonica; Rick Edwards, Guitar. The contest and jam session was followed up by a stand-out performance by Lexington group, NewTown (see article above). Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with setup and cleanup.

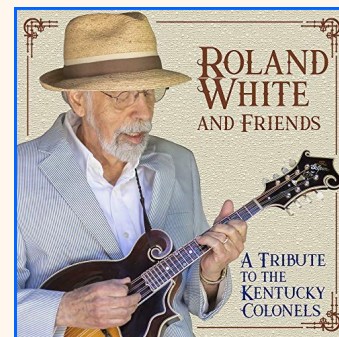


# Bluegrass Anonymous CD Reviews

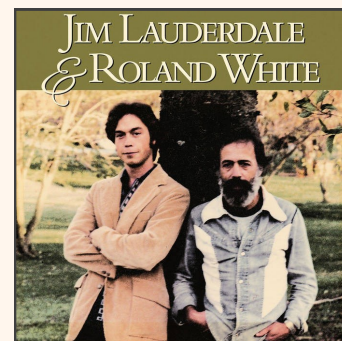
## Two New Releases from Roland White



Roland White is a master mandolin player and singer who was inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame in 2017. He is celebrating a period of his career with new recordings of songs he helped make classic a half century ago. "Roland White & Friends: A Tribute to the Kentucky Colonels" is a collection of hand-picked favorites, released from Mountain Home Music Company. In addition to Roland on mandolin and providing vocals, the disc includes: John Weisberger, Darin & Brooke Aldridge; Kristen Scott Benson; Aaron Bibelhauser (plays banjo on two tracks); Russ Carson; Gina Clowes; Jeremy Darrow; Nick Dauphinais; Jeremy Garret; David Grier; Brittany Haas; Josh Haddix; Justin Hiltner; Lindsay Lou; Kimber Ludiker; Patrick McAvinue; Drew Matulich; Darren Nicholson; Lyndsay Pruett, Jon Stickley; Billy Strings and Molly Tuttle. This disc is a loving tribute to White and the legacy of The Kentucky Colonels. Of this disc, Roland says "I want to say what an honor it is to play with the young and great musicians on this album. They made it happen so nicely. I would like to thank my wife and musical partner Diane Bouska for her work on this project."



"Jim Lauderdale and Roland White", a disc by the accomplished musicians and previously unreleased, sat in the vaults for almost 40 years. After Lauderdale left college in North Carolina he arrived in Nashville and he met Roland White. They recorded this disc in the basement studio of Earl & Louise Scruggs but it was never released. When master tapes were recently found the album was produced. It's a delightful listen that's not over the top, just fun, and includes the guitar work of a young Marty Stuart, Gene Wooten (Dobro; deceased Nov 2001), Terry Smith (bass; currently with The Grascals), Johnny Warren (fiddle; current Earls of Leicester) and Stan Brown (banjo).



To purchase either of these discs go to: [www.RolandWhite.com](http://www.RolandWhite.com).





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Tony Myers is a long-time member of this region's bluegrass community. He is a master at playing mandolin and a heck of good guitar picker and singer. We are honored to call him a member of B.A. and wish him the best in recovering from a recent health issue. Here's to hearing you playing that mando down the road soon, Tony!

- *Bluegrass Anonymous*



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