

ABALONE DOTS

International sensations from Sweden, Abalone Dots fuse bluegrass, pop, alt-country & rock, all based in sweet harmony and sparkling instrumentals, into a new sound they call “softgrass.”

AIMEE MANN

Aimee Mann has always been at the forefront of contemporary songwriters. From “Voices Carry” to the Oscar-nominated “Save Me,” she has always been known for her clever, literate, and dryly witty takes on life, love & the state of the world.

ALLEN TOUSSAINT

Toussaint is one of America’s greatest musical treasures. The New Orleans native has been making hit records for over 40 years; his massive influence on American music reaches deep into the idioms of rhythm and blues, pop, country, musical theater, blues & jazz.

ALLISON MOORER (SONGWRITER CIRCLE AND SUNDAY SET)

Moorer is one of the most technically gifted vocalists in contemporary country. She released the Buddy Miller-produced *Mockingbird* last year, an album mainly of covers of songs by female singer-songwriters including her sister, Shelby Lynne.

AMADOU & MARIAM

Amadou & Mariam, known as “the blind couple from Mali,” met almost 30 years ago at Mali’s Institute for the Young Blind and found they shared an interest in music. Their music features exuberant vocals, propulsive grooves & guitar licks that embrace blues, rock and the hypnotic sounds of their homeland.

AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS

Based in Austin, the Lizards have honed their music into a wickedly-funny art form. Trademarks of a Lizards’ song are highly literate, sharply pointed lyrics that poke fun at politics, love, religion & culture in general.

THE BAREFOOT NELLIES

Though the Barefoot Nellies often joke that they play “traditional bluegrass, just a fifth higher,” they constantly push those boundaries to include elements of classic honky-tonk and Western swing to get their driving, energetic sound.

BILLY BRAGG

Billy Bragg was recently described by *The Times* (London) as a “national treasure.” In the three decades of his career, Bragg has become perhaps the most stalwart guardian of the radical dissenting tradition that stretches back over centuries of England’s political, cultural & social history.

BILLY JOE SHAVER

“Billy Joe Shaver may be the best songwriter alive today.” – Willie Nelson
Billy Joe Shaver never became a household name, but his songs became country standards during the ‘70s & his reputation among musicians and critics hasn’t diminished during the ensuing decades.

BOOKER T. & THE DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS

Hammond B3 alchemist Booker T. Jones is one America’s most prolific, distinguished & instantly recognizable musical forces. His new album is backed by the choice accompaniment of the capable Southern rock visionaries Drive-By Truckers.

BOZ SCAGGS & THE BLUE VELVET BAND FEATURING JAMES COTTON, AUSTIN DE LONE, NICK LOWE, BUDDY MILLER, DEREK O'BRIEN, WES STARR, JIMMIE VAUGHAN & JACK ‘APPLEJACK’ WALROTH

Boz Scaggs has hand-picked this amazingly impressive line-up for a special performance that pays tribute to the legendary bluesman, Jimmy Reed.

THE BROTHERS COMATOSE

Rather than playing music *to* the audience, the Brothers Comatose invites the crowd to engage in the bluegrass musical experience, encouraging stomping, drumming, hooting & hollering.

BUDDY MILLER

Buddy has created a niche in American music all his own. Emmylou Harris, in whose band Buddy has served for many years, calls the Ohio-born Nashville transplant “one of the best guitar players of all time.” Steve Earle, another former bandmate, pronounces him “the best country singer working today.”

THE CHIEFTAINS

The Chieftains are recognized for bringing traditional Irish music to the world’s attention. They have uncovered the wealth of traditional Irish music that has accumulated over the centuries, making the music their own with a style that is as exhilarating as it is definitive.

THE CLAIRE LYNCH BAND

Claire Lynch’s sweetly pure voice has always been in high demand. Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt, Ralph Stanley and Emmylou Harris (among others) have called on her to sing on their records, while Lynch’s original songs have been covered by A-list folks in the acoustic world. But it’s Lynch leading her own band that garners the most accolades – including two Grammy nominations, countless specialized awards and other nominations.

DARRELL SCOTT BAND

Scott’s solo CDs & touring gigs with Steve Earle’s Bluegrass Dukes (of which he remains a member), Guy Clark & Sam Bush have steadily drawn reviews even payola can’t buy. Rolling Stone listed his 2003 CD, *Theatre of the Unheard*, in their list of Critics’ Top Albums and compared him to Clark and Springsteen “at their best.”

DAR WILLIAMS (SONGWRITER CIRCLE)

Personally inspired by the spindly live feel of late ‘70s/early ‘80s albums by the Police, Elvis Costello & the Pretenders, Williams’ elegant, worldly songs showcase her beautifully intimate, bell-clear voice.

DAVE ALVIN & THE GUILTY WOMEN

What started as a one-off performance at last fall’s HSB Festival has now become a full fledged act. Last year, Dave & band members blazed through their set, surprising each other at every turn. “It just felt so natural,” says Alvin. “It was like I had been playing with them for a hundred years.”

THE DEL MCCOURY BAND

Vince Gill says it simply, “I’d rather hear Del McCoury sing ‘Are You Teasing Me’ than just about anything.” For 50 years, Del’s music has defined authenticity for hardcore bluegrass fans as well as a growing number of fans among those only vaguely familiar with the genre.

DOC WATSON & DAVID HOLT

Doc Watson has had a profound influence in traditional, folk and bluegrass music ever since coming to national attention in the early ‘60s. A master at both flatpicking and fingerstyle guitar, Watson’s skills are legendary.

Four-time Grammy Award winner David Holt is a musician, storyteller, historian, television host and entertainer, dedicated to performing and preserving traditional American music and stories. Holt plays 10 acoustic instruments and has released numerous recordings of traditional mountain music and Southern folktales.

DR. DOG

A little folk, blues, indie rock, soul, bluegrass & a whole lot of down-home harmonizing – the Philadelphia-based quintet filter the gamut of American popular music into its own idiosyncratic brand of blue-eyed soul.

DR. MAGPIE

Named for a bird that chatters & improvises, Dr. Magpie is composed of 6 of Berklee School of Music’s finest string instrument players, who’ve come together to create a sound that draws equally from Appalachia, New York & the free-wheeling Left Bank of pre-war Paris.

DRY BRANCH FIRE SQUAD

Dry Branch Fire Squad, founded by Ron Thomason, has been making music together since 1976 and they’ve only gotten better with age. They play aggressively traditional bluegrass music with instrumentation that is undeniably incredible, energetic and impressive.

THE DUHKS

Celtic fiddles, Irish reels, old-time banjo, gospel vocals & Latin percussion forge a common spirit within the uncommonly vibrant fusion of the Duhks. The young band from Winnipeg casts a wide net over traditional influences, breathing fresh life into age-old balladry.

EARL SCRUGGS

Earl Scruggs is noted for perfecting and popularizing a 3-finger style (now called Scruggs style) on the 5-string banjo that is a defining characteristic of bluegrass music. Scruggs was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards in 2008.

ELIZA GILKYSON

Over the course of 13 albums, Eliza Gilkyson has built a reputation as one of the most original & influential folk artists of our time. In 2003, she was inducted into the Austin Music Hall of Fame.

ELIZABETH COOK

Nanci Griffith has called Cook “this generation’s Loretta Lynn.” She melds a smart attitude with classic tradition to write an acclaimed cache of uncommonly cool songs.

ELVIS PERKINS IN DEARLAND

Known for their wide range of dynamics and eclectic instrumentation, Elvis Perkins in Dearland have frequently drawn comparisons to Leonard Cohen, Neutral Milk Hotel, Buddy Holly & The Band.

EMMYLOU HARRIS

Few artists leave as profound an impact on contemporary & country music as Emmylou Harris. Blessed with a crystalline voice, a remarkable gift for phrasing & a restlessly creative spirit, she travels a singular artistic path, proudly carrying the torch of “cosmic American music” passed down by her mentor, Gram Parsons. She has played HSB *every year* since its inception.

THE FIREANTS (FRIDAY MORNING CHILDREN’S PROGRAM)

The Fireants is leading the trend of young upstart bands. Unlike most of their high school peers who tend to take to alternative rock, the Fireants’ members find their inspiration in roots, folk, Americana & bluegrass. Band member Ian Stewart was awarded one of two prestigious Daniel Pearl Memorial Violins in 2008.

THE FLATLANDERS FEATURING: JOE ELY, JIMMIE DALE GILMORE & BUTCH HANCOCK

For Texans, these 3 names represent a musical holy trinity. As individuals, they’ve amassed a remarkable array of accomplishments. Collectively, as the Flatlanders, they’re a Texas super-group with an increasingly formidable catalog in its own right.

GALACTIC

Galactic is a five-piece “jazz-funk-rock fusion” band from New Orleans. Taking popping snare drums, fat-back bass, muted organ and wah-wah guitars into proven, funky territory, Galactic is one-part natural acid jazz and two-parts New Orleans groove.

GILLIAN WELCH

Welch & her longtime partner David Rawlings present their haunting songs like rock & roll chamber music, with two acoustic guitars, and two voices welded together. Their tunes have been covered by such American legends as Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris and Solomon Burke.

GREAT AMERICAN TAXI

With Leftover Salmon’s former frontman Vince Herman steering the ride, Great American Taxi’s sound has been compared to a variety of roots-oriented bands including New Riders of the Purple Sage, a “Grateful Dead for the new millennium,” Wilco, Uncle Tupelo, the Byrds and more.

GUY CLARK & VERLON THOMPSON

Songwriting legend Guy Clark doesn’t merely compose songs, he projects images & characters with the kind of hands-on care and respect of a literary master.

Verlon Thompson is a man whose craftsmanship as a guitarist & harmony vocalist can be heard on some of the finest recordings made in the past 2 decades.

HAYES CARLL

If you haven’t already heard of Hayes Carll, you soon will. He is considered a main figure in the resurgence of Texas songwriters, writing in the Dylan-influenced tradition of Guy Clark and Townes Van Zandt.

HAZEL DICKENS

Hazel Dickens was born the eighth child of an eleven-child mining family in West Virginia. Her music is characterized by not only her high lonesome singing style, but also by her provocative pro-union, feminist songs. Her voice is still among the most powerful and moving of all bluegrass singers.

JESSICA LEA MAYFIELD

NPR declared, “a mature sound that seems evolved beyond her years,” & *The Huffington Post* proclaimed, “lilting, aching and magnetic,” while *Time Out New York* praised her debut album as an “impressive debut” & Pitchfork hailed it an “8.2...fascinating and endlessly listenable...”

JOHN PRINE

Early on in his illustrious career, Kris Kristofferson helped to bring Prine into the scene, stating that he wrote songs so good that “we’ll have to break his thumbs.” Now, he has taken his place as one of the most influential songwriters of his generation. He’s been given a Lifetime Achievement Award by BBC Radio & has been inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

JORMA KAUKONEN

In a career that has already spanned a half-century, Kaukonen has been the leading practitioner and teacher of fingerstyle guitar; one of the most highly respected interpreters of American roots music, blues & Americana. He is a founding member of both Jefferson Airplane & Hot Tuna and a member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

KEVIN WELCH, KIERAN KANE & FATS KAPLIN

Kevin, Kieran & Fats have a refreshingly unorthodox, unscripted instrumentation & two distinct songwriting flavors (Welch’s & Kane’s) united by a fluid, rhythmic pulse that give way to an intoxicating oil-and-vinegar-like effect.

KIMMIE RHODES

Singer-songwriter Kimmie Rhodes is a native Texan. Her multi-platinum selling songs have been recorded by such stellar acts as Willie Nelson, Wynonna Judd, Trisha Yearwood, Joe Ely, John Farnham, Waylon Jennings, Peter Frampton, Mark Knopfler and Emmylou Harris, who states, “Kimmie has the voice of a beautiful child coming from an old soul.”

THE KNITTERS

The Knitters – John Doe, Exene Cervenka, Dave Alvin, Jonny Ray Bartel & D.J. Bonebrake - have been rambling a tangled map of American musical highways since way back in the 20th century. They are pioneers of country punk, cowpunk & folk punk.

LAURIE LEWIS & THE RIGHT HANDS

If you listen down the back roads of acoustic Americana you’ll soon realize this soft-spoken, sweet-singing California fiddler, singer & songwriter is something very special. “Laurie is one of the pre-eminent bluegrass and Americana artists of our time,” says IBMA executive director Dan Hays.

LITTLE FEAT

For 4 decades, Little Feat has been billed as one of the best live rock ‘n’ roll bands ever. They also remain one of the most active. They have survived and thrived under the radar because their music is important, influential and has tremendous multigenerational magnetism.

LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND

Let’s come out and say it: Lyle Lovett is one of the all-time great American singer-songwriters & should be recognized as such. His voice is unique, but his antecedents are recognizable. In his work, two roads come together: the trail blazed by the great Texas storytellers like Townes Van Zandt & Guy Clark, and the crooked highway navigated by sophisticated wise-asses such as Randy Newman and Tom Waits.

MALO

Malo is one of the most successful and enduring Latin rock bands in the world; this year they’re celebrating their 37th anniversary. Their biggest hit, “Suavecito,” reached number 18 on the Billboard charts in April of 1972. They’ve played all over the world & have performed on bills with the Rolling Stones & Queen.

MARIANNE FAITHFULL

Marianne Faithfull is one of the most original female singer-songwriters England has ever produced. She possesses that rare ability to transform any lyric into something compelling & personal.

MARLEY’S GHOST WITH SPECIAL GUEST COWBOY JACK CLEMENT

Marley’s Ghost has built a singular reputation among discerning roots-music lovers for its instrumental virtuosity, ultra-tight four-part harmonies & animated live performances.

For more than half a century, Jack Clement has found himself surrounded by some of the world’s greatest singers, songwriters & instrumentalists. This was no accident. His brilliance was recognized early on by Sam Phillips, whose Sun Records studio was the cradle of rock ‘n’ roll.

MARSHALL CRENSHAW

A critic’s darling, pop-minded Marshall Crenshaw enjoys a reputation as one of the finest songwriters of the era, with roots in classic soul music & British Invasion songcraft.

MARTY STUART & HIS FABULOUS SUPERLATIVES

With both his traditional style & eclectic merging of rockabilly, honky-tonk & traditional country music, Stuart has never abandoned his bluegrass roots and often collaborates with such string-band legends as Earl Scruggs, Del McCoury and Old Crow Medicine Show.

MAVIS STAPLES

A 40+ year-plus veteran of the music scene - a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and one of VH1’s ‘100 Greatest Women of Rock and Roll’ - Staples (both with the Staple Singers and on her own) is responsible for blazing a rhythm & blues trail while never relinquishing her gospel roots.

MC HAMMER (FRIDAY MORNING CHILDREN’S PROGRAM)

After last year’s smashing success at HSB, MC Hammer is back due to popular demand! Hammer brings huge energy onto the stage & he does it in a way that allows people from all walks of life to enjoy it & dance.

MIKE FARRIS & THE ROSELAND RHYTHM REVUE

This southern-bred rock-n-soul’er has fought his share of personal demons, emerging from the shadows with a new life with help from his own musical heroes, from Son House, Pop Staples, and Mahalia Jackson to Coltrane, Cash and Cooke, to Jimmie Rodgers, Louis Armstrong and the brothers Vaughan (for whom Farris did a stint in Double Trouble.)

MOONALICE

Moonalice is a band of seasoned players exploring new musical territory with a passion. They conjure up a heady brew of roots, rock, rhythm and blues and more, peppered with spirited doses of improvisation and surprise. Their debut album was helmed by acclaimed producer T Bone Burnett.

NATALIE MACMASTER

Natalie MacMaster: wife, mother & virtuoso Cape Breton fiddler. She is an electrifying performer whose passionate proficiency on the beloved four-string amplifies the traditional East Coast sound for contemporary times.

NEKO CASE

Neko Case has The Voice, rough around the edges but possessing a formidable strength & range, that causes critics and fans to swoon. Along with that voice is an artistry with a trajectory that is fascinating to watch unfold & grow. Where it will take her, and us, is the thrilling part.

NICK LOWE

Somewhere in London a musician carries the keys to the musical kingdom. He has been performing for more than 40 years, but is as fresh today as the first time he stepped on stage. His songs are as solid as the earth, yet carry no lingering hype or heaviness. He is Nick Lowe, the “Headmaster of British Rock.”

ODC/DANCE

ODC/Dance is performing “24 Exposures.” Set to a suite of pieces from the Appalachian albums of Mark O’Connor, Yo-Yo Ma & Edgar Meyers, this piece celebrates the trajectory of the company’s evolution from natural to virtuosic movement, from the elegance of form to the heat of personal relationships.

OKKERVIL RIVER

Propelled by the cryptic songwriting of frontman Will Sheff, the Austin band makes literate rock that’s as explosive as it is thoughtful and intimate. Combining folk-rock inspirations & alternative rock sways, they create a particular visionary sound, strongly founded on darkly profound lyrics.

OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW

Old Crow Medicine Show have come full circle playing their own brand of American roots music with a rock and roll attitude. “One of the greatest bands that *A Prairie Home Companion* has ever had the pleasure to host.” – Garrison Keillor

OLD 97’S

Although they are one of the most enduring bands in the alt-country catalog, Old 97’s draw inspiration from a wider range of sources, from the twangy stomp of cowpunk to the melodic craft of power pop.

PAMELA ROSE WITH WILD WOMEN (AND OTHER FRIENDS)

Pamela Rose is a San Francisco jazz & blues vocalist who has thrilled audiences locally & internationally with her swinging, soulful style. Her rich, warm voice & easy rapport with excellent musicians moves jazz and blues audiences of all ages.

POOR MAN’S WHISKEY

Emerging from the SF Bay Area music scene, this quintet has developed a sound that is eclectic & engaging. PMW has been winning over national audiences with their upbeat performances, zany stage antics & infectious songs.

RALPH STANLEY & THE CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOYS

From California to Kentucky, people are drawn to the poignant, mournful sound of Ralph Stanley’s style. Different from all the rest, Ralph’s ability to hit the right notes and chords has made him a singer of trailblazing proportions.

RECKLESS KELLY

Reckless Kelly began making waves in Texas shortly after moving to Austin from Oregon. They’ve built a fiercely loyal fan base in the Lone Star state and Western territories, including the brothers’ native Idaho, and even industry-hardened Nashville.

RED WINE

Red Wine is one of the premier bluegrass bands in Italy and all of Europe, actively touring since 1978. Their style embraces traditional & contemporary bluegrass, country, gospel & swing.

RICHIE HAVENS

Richie Havens is gifted with one of the most recognizable voices in popular music. His fiery, poignant, always soulful singing style has remained unique and ageless since he first emerged from the Greenwich Village folk scene in the early 1960s.

RICKY SKAGGS & KENTUCKY THUNDER

2009 marks Skaggs’ 38th year as a professional musician. This 14-time Grammy Award winner continues to do his part to lead the recent roots revival in music. Known affectionately today as bluegrass music’s official ambassador, he has brought the genre to greater levels of popularity in the past few years than anyone could have imagined.

ROBERT EARL KEEN

Among the large contingent of talented songwriters who emerged in Texas in the ‘80s & ‘90s, Robert Earl Keen has struck an unusual balance between sensitive story-portraits and raucous barroom fun.

ROBYN HITCHCOCK & THE VENUS 3

Robyn Hitchcock is one of England’s most enduring contemporary singer-songwriters. Despite having been persistently branded as eccentric or quirky for much of his career, he has continued to develop his whimsical repertoire & expand his devoted audience.

RODNEY CROWELL

While Rodney Crowell first gained widespread recognition as a leader of the new traditionalist movement of the mid-’80s, he in fact is a singer, songwriter & producer with roots & ambitions extending far beyond the movement’s parameters.

ROGER KNOX & THE PINE VALLEY COSMONAUTS PRESENT THE ABORIGINAL COUNTRY & WESTERN SONGBOOK

Roger Knox is an Australian country singer known as the “Black Elvis” and the “Kaori King of Country.” Together with Jon Langford & the Pine Valley Cosmonauts, they will explore the uniquely obscure genre of Australian Aboriginal Country & Western Music.

ROSIE FLORES WITH JON LANGFORD AND THE PINE VALLEY COSMONAUTS

Rosie Flores blends rockabilly, honky tonk, jazz & Western swing along with her Tex-Mex heritage. She’ll be performing alongside Jon Langford and the Pine Valley Cosmonauts as they play hard-country Mekonic anthems.

STEVE EARLE (SONGWRITER CIRCLE)

Earle is a master storyteller. When he first came to prominence in 1986, he was viewed as a savior of country music and hailed by some as the “new Bruce Springsteen.” In the later part of his career he has become known as “the hardcore troubadour” due to his uncompromising political viewpoints.

STEVE EARLE & THE BLUEGRASS DUKES (SATURDAY SET)

On special occasions over the past few years, Earle has assembled his Bluegrass Dukes (Tim O’Brien, Darrell Scott & Casey Driessen) to perform live with him.

STEVE MARTIN WITH THE STEEP CANYON RANGERS

Yes, *that* Steve Martin: The wild & crazy comedian from “Saturday Night Live.” The actor, writer & musician (who has a new CD of his banjo music) will be joined by the Steep Canyon Rangers, a band whose deep dedication to bluegrass is heard in every note they play.

THE TIM O’BRIEN BAND

At the age of 12, West Virginia’s Tim O’Brien first heard a Bob Dylan record and decided to take up music. He is one of the founding members of the legendary Hot Rize & has been honored with the International Bluegrass Music Association’s Male Vocalist of the Year award.

TODD SNIDER

“Todd Snider is a true songwriter, with the heart and humor of John Prine, the wild unpredictability of Roger Miller, and a fresh, original spirit and freedom of imagination that’s absolutely his own.” – Kris Kristofferson

TOM MORELLO (SONGWRITER CIRCLE AND FRIDAY SET)

Morello is an innovative rock guitarist & revolutionary acoustic troubadour. Despite his famed electric style, his compositions as Tom Morello: The Nightwatchman are primarily based around the acoustic guitar.

WORLD PARTY

World Party is a British pop / alternative rock band that has been hailed as a glorious mixture of musical styles from the Fab Four to Sly & the Family Stone to Donovan, with Karl Wallinger’s abiding love of melody face-up at all times.

THE WRONGLERS

“Simple tunes played by complicated people.” Warren Hellman of the Wronglers is the founder of Hardly Strictly Bluegrass. His love of bluegrass and old-time music permeates every aspect of his life, and his excitement at playing on stage for an audience brings him a huge sense of involvement and satisfaction. The Wronglers have just released their debut album, *Jamming to Faint Praise*.

