

A.A. BONDY

Birmingham, Alabama’s A. A. Bondy has a southern drawl and honest lyrics and songwriting style that shines through to all who search for freshness and creativity from a young singer-songwriter. He has found the perfect outlet for his raspy voice and acoustic blues, akin to Rolling Stones ballads or Bob Dylan.

ABIGAIL WASHBURN

If American old-time music is about taking earlier, simpler ways of life and music-making as one’s model, Abigail Washburn has proven herself to be a bracing revelation to that tradition. She – a singing, songwriting, Illinois-born, Nashville-based claw-hammer banjo player – is every bit as interested in the present and the future as she is in the past, and every bit as attuned to the global as she is to the local.

ALISON BROWN QUARTET

Progressive bluegrass banjoist Alison Brown made her name not only as a virtuoso instrumentalist, but as an accomplished jazz-influenced composer, a combination that earned plenty of comparisons to Béla Fleck and David Grisman. She began playing the banjo before reaching her teens and developed quickly, winning numerous contests and even getting a chance to perform at the Grand Ole Opry.

ALLOFASUDDEN

San Francisco band AllofaSudden’s songs are rooted in the American rock tradition. Since 2006, they have built a reputation throughout California for their driving rhythms, fiery guitar playing, and layered harmonies. Jambase says, “Unafraid to play big, there’s something of ‘70s Santana to them but also the bump of New Orleans soul-rock and no small part of pure jam culture exploration.”

THE BAND OF HEATHENS

Texas outfit The Band of Heathens is constantly being compared to The Band because of the musical finesse that overlays their timeless, roots-y core. They pay subtle homage via their songs to the artists at the core of the Americana canon, including Tom Petty, Tony Joe White, the Grateful Dead, Leon Russell & George Harrison.

BÉLA FLECK, ZAKIR HUSSAIN & EDGAR MEYER

Masterful genre-benders and the leading virtuosos on their respective instruments, Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain and Edgar Meyer move with ease among the worlds of classical, bluegrass and world music. Three of the most limitless creators and composers in the history of music, they touch every geographical and stylistic corner of the musical world.

THE BELLE BRIGADE

The California-based brother-and-sister duo is one of the most thrilling new bands you’re going to hear all year. Inspired by their love for Fleetwood Mac, Simon & Garfunkel, The Beatles and Stevie Wonder, their artfully arranged, free-wheeling songs brim with breezy, California melodies and bracing pop harmonies.

BILL KIRCHEN

Named “a Titan of the Telecaster” by Guitar Player Magazine, Kirchen celebrates an American musical tradition where rock ‘n’ roll and country music draw upon their origins in blues and bluegrass, Western swing from Texas and California honky-tonk. His career spans over 40 years and includes guitar work with Nick Lowe, Emmylou Harris, Doug Sahm, Elvis Costello and many more.

BILL ORCUTT

Bill Orcutt was already a significant name in experimental noise-rock circles when he released his solo debut. Long interested in cutting-edge art, he has a Master’s in English, has made several experimental short films, and has played in several punk bands including Miami’s Harry Pussy. His music has garnered acclaim from the likes of Sonic Youth’s Thurston Moore and Sebadoh’s Lou Barlow.

BLAME SALLY

Blame Sally is a collaboration of four Bay Area solo female singer-songwriters who have recorded and performed together frequently over the past decade. The group represents some of the best of the modern folk pop scene, with potent poetry set to an eclectic mix of instrumentation.

THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA

The Blind Boys of Alabama are recognized worldwide as living legends of gospel music. Celebrated by The Grammys and The National Endowment for the Arts with Lifetime Achievement Awards, inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, plus singing for two presidents in the White House, they have attained the highest levels of achievement in a career that spans over 70 years and shows no signs of diminishing.

BOB MOULD

Guitarist/singer/songwriter Bob Mould was initially a member of Hüsker Dü, one of the most influential American bands of the ‘80s. His music reveals self-reflection and an unflinching examination of the world around him. Henry Rollins says, “Bob is the real deal, writing and playing music for music’s sake. He’s a great songwriter and performer. I have been a fan of Bob’s for thirty years now with no end in sight.”

BRIGHT EYES

Bright Eyes is the musical vehicle of Conor Oberst, a young singer/songwriter from Omaha, Nebraska who first attracted the attention of the indie music world in 1994 - when he was just 14 years old. Oberst has spent the last 20 years building a body of work that draws from the great pantheon of American blues and folk music artists.

BROKEDOWN IN BAKERSFIELD

Brokedown in Bakersfield is a collective of acclaimed West Coast artists (Nicki & Tim Bluhm, Scott Law, Lebo, Steve Adams & Dave Brogan) joining forces in a spirited tribute to the Bakersfield sound: California country music made raw and rocking, spiked with twang and sweetened with heartfelt harmonies while drawing from the powerful songbooks of Merle Haggard, Buck Owens and Gram Parsons.

BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE

The Canadian musical collective’s sound can be considered a combination of all of its members’ respective musical projects, and is occasionally considered baroque pop. It is characterized by a very large number of sounds, grand orchestrations featuring guitars, horns, woodwinds, and violins, and unusual song structures.

BUCKETHEAD

Buckethead is a virtuoso guitarist and multi instrumentalist who has worked within several genres of music which span such diverse areas as progressive metal, funk, blues, jazz, bluegrass, ambient and avant-garde. He was voted number 8 in GuitarOne magazine’s “Top 10 Greatest Guitar Shredders of All Time.”

BUDDY MILLER

Soulful Americana songwriter, singer, and producer Buddy Miller began his career in the early ‘60s as an upright bassist in high school bluegrass combos. He made his name as both a solo artist and a crucial collaborator with the likes of Emmylou Harris, his wife Julie Miller, and Steve Earle. He has recently played a pivotal role in helping to assemble Robert Plant and the Band of Joy.

CASS MCCOMBS BAND

Critics are singing the praises of songwriter Cass McCombs, and his fan-base grows by the day. McCombs’ honest approach to getting his music heard relies on the power of compelling live performances that showcase his disarming manner and unique songs. John Peel once called him “unobtrusively brilliant.”

CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE

Harmonica master Charlie Musselwhite’s life reads like a classic blues song: born in Mississippi, raised in Memphis and schooled on the South Side of Chicago. A groundbreaking recording artist since the 1960s, Musselwhite continues to create trailblazing music while remaining firmly rooted in the blues.

CHRIS ISAAK

From the beginning of his career, Chris Isaak has earned his good luck the hard way - by consistently delivering excellent work, both onstage and in the studio on a series of accomplished albums.The Stockton, CA-born crooner combines rockabilly, country, rock and sweet melodies to deliver passionate music that feels decidedly lived-in.

CONSPIRACY OF BEARDS

Conspiracy of Beards is a 20-member a capella male choir which performs exclusively the songs of the legendary poet, novelist, and singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen. Transforming Cohen’s simple melodies into complex 4 to 5 part harmonies, their sound ranges from tender to robust. One can hear influences of contemporary, jazz, gospel, barbershop, classical and even doo-wop styles in the unique arrangements by chorus members.

DARK STAR ORCHESTRA

“Continuing the Grateful Dead concert experience!” DSO shows are built off the extensive catalog of the Grateful Dead, recreating the magic in a way that will delight Deadheads both young and old. “The most talented and accomplished tribute band out there. Fanatical attention to detail.” (Rolling Stone)

DAVID BROMBERG QUARTET

Bromberg has played with everyone, toured everywhere, and can lead a raucous big band or hold an audience silent with solo acoustic blues. His range of material, based in the folk and blues idioms, continually expands with each new album to encompass bluegrass, ragtime, country and ethnic music. Jerry Jeff Walker calls him “...the reason man created stringed instruments.”

THE DEL MCCOURY BAND & THE PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND

The Del McCoury Band, one of the most honored groups in bluegrass history, performs original and traditional American roots music with eloquent musicianship.The Preservation Hall Jazz Band is a New Orleans national treasure, featuring some of the city’s finest and most exciting musicians. Together, the two groups create a seamless blend of soul-lifting traditional harmonies as hot and lively New Orleans jazz meets the high and lonesome sound of the Appalachians.

THE DEVIL MAKES THREE

With a punky perspective on vintage American blues, Santa Cruz’s The Devil Makes Three is a breath of fresh musical air. Laced with elements of ragtime, country, folk and rockabilly, the critically praised, drummer-less trio brings forth a genuine approach to acoustic music that is deeply steeped in rhythm.

DEVOTCHKA

For more than a decade, DeVotchKa has been melting its sweeping collection of influences into an authentic and totally original blend of rock ‘n’ roll. The Gypsy-tinged quartet from Denver creates a diverse sound that some describe as polka-rock - in fact, the band is a cross-pollination of numerous influences, including cabaret, spaghetti westerns, and the immigrant dance music of Eastern Europe.

DIVE BAR DUKES

The Dukes are a combo of honky-tonk, blues, and americana, emphasizing good musicianship and improvisation without straying from a rootsy sound that is not quite country, not quite indie. Nashville-born front man Hans Holzen has toured extensively with Carrie Rodriguez and has appeared on A Prairie Home Companion & Austin City Limits.

DR. JOHN & THE LOWER 911

Malcolm John “Mac” Rebennack, Jr., better known as Dr. John, is a New Orleans-born singer/songwriter, pianist and guitarist, whose music combines blues, pop, jazz as well as Zydeco, boogie-woogie and rock and roll. The winner of five Grammy awards, Dr. John was inducted to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2011.

DRY BRANCH FIRE SQUAD

For more than 25 years Dry Branch Fire Squad has been one of bluegrass music’s most popular bands, renowned for its spry mix of front-porch standards, modern ballads, and the old-time sounds from which bluegrass first sprang. They have performed numerous times for the National Council for the Traditional Arts & the Smithsonian Institution.

EARL SCRUGGS

Scruggs popularized a 3-finger banjo-picking style (now called Scruggs style) that is a defining characteristic of bluegrass music. Although other musicians had played in 3-finger style before him, Scruggs shot to prominence when he was hired by Bill Monroe to fill the banjo slot in the Blue Grass Boys. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards.

ELBOW

The dark, breathless romance of Elbow’s songs, their intensity on-stage and tales of life, love and politics will stir your soul. After 18 years together they hit the big time after winning the coveted Mercury Prize in 2008. Injecting a wide range of emotions into their music, Elbow have become cult heroes and are one of the 21st century powerhouses of British music.

EMMYLOU HARRIS

Emmylou Harris has performed at every HSB since its inception and remains one of the most classic songwriters the world has to offer. Few artists have achieved such honesty or revealed such maturity in their writing. Forty years into her career, Emmylou Harris shares her hard-earned wisdom with candidness and beauty, and never stops looking ahead.

THE FELICE BROTHERS

The Felice Brothers explore a multitude of sounds and instrumentation throughout their music. It’s inspired, imaginative, heady, menacing, passionate, and rollicking. Most importantly, it’s steadfastly authentic, expanding upon the dark, woozy undercurrent of ramshackle barroom blues, vaudevillian atmospherics and surreal storytelling.

FITZ & THE TANTRUMS

In just a year or so, soulsters Fitz & the Tantrums went from the living room to the main stage. The recipe for meteoric success? Six killer musicians, five dapper suits, irresistible songs, and a lot of serendipity. Few performers deliver such unrestrained blasts of soul-clapping, get-down-on-the-floor, moneymaker shakers as Fitz & the Tantrums. They were named a “band to watch” in Rolling Stone (2011).

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

Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Joe Ely and Butch Hancock have been friends for almost 40 years, and members of that life-of-its-own musical entity known as The Flatlanders for nearly as long. Formed in Lubbock, Texas, the band has had considerable influence over the country-rock genre and the three members have each taken their places among Texas’ most respected singer/songwriters.

FRANK FAIRFIELD

It is easy to picture Frank Fairfield supine in the back of a boxcar, plucking his battered banjo while shuttling across a black Southern sky.This virtuoso banjo and fiddle player from California’s central valley is only in his 20s, but his old-time aesthetic and old-time sound reveal a weathered and wizened soul.

GILLIAN WELCH

Welch first appeared on the scene as a young singer/songwriter armed with a voice and sensibility far beyond her years, earning widespread acclaim for her deft, evocative resurrection of the musical styles associated with the roots of traditional and early country music. She and her musical partner David Rawlings are described by The New Yorker as “at once innovative and obliquely reminiscent of past rural forms.”

GOMEZ

Throughout their illustrious career, Gomez have always been pioneers in their craft and they continue to lead the pack today.They are known by many for their genre-blurring music. Spin Magazine says, “Long before My Morning Jacket spiked their Southern-rock jams with early-’80s electro beats, these Brits were mixing space-age electronica into their funky art-blues brew.”

GREENSKY BLUEGRASS

This quintet from Michigan has been staying up late at all the coolest festivals and stopping to play your favorite clubs and theaters across America for more than 12 years now.They are a team of friends that traverse the country making music they enjoy and are especially known for throwing a great party.

GUY CLARK & VERLON THOMPSON

Texas-born Guy Clark is a national treasure and folk icon, crafting masterful, poignant melodies and insightful lyrics.Tough, bare-boned and dryly sentimental, his beautiful songs reflect an old-fashioned honesty and integrity. Long-time collaborator Verlon Thompson spins stories with a novelist’s eye and a poet’s ingenuity. “Verlon sparkles as a songwriter,” says Clark. “He’s inspiring.”

HOT BUTTERED RUM

Initially formed as an acoustic string band, numerous years of constant touring has transformed Hot Buttered Rum into a plugged-in, percussive powerhouse. Their left-coast rock reveals an access to jazz, country, world music and stage chemistry that delights listeners at every turn. Relix Magazine praises: “Stunning instrumental and vocal virtuosity.”

HUGH LAURIE

A classically trained musician, Hugh has played piano and guitar on several of his TV shows (he plays Dr. House on the hit series “House”) and follows in the footsteps of other actors who have pursued music careers. Produced by Joe Henry and recorded in LA and New Orleans, his debut album is a celebration of New Orleans blues, a genre that drives Hugh’s musical raison d’être.

IRMA THOMAS

Irma Thomas is “The Soul Queen of New Orleans.” She remains one of America’s most distinctive and classic singers, a treasure from the golden age of soul music that is as compelling and powerful as ever. Once you hear her sing, whether the song is pop or gospel or R&B, you never forget the warmth and power of her honey-and-butter voice.

JASON ISBELL & THE 400 UNIT

After spending six years with Southern rock outfit Drive-By Truckers, Alabama singer/guitarist Jason Isbell left the band to pursue a solo career. He has honed his songwriting skills and funneled his talents in recent years, creating a bluesy, punk-infused lesson in guitar tones and Southern swagger as well as melancholic country ballads and a familiar Muscle Shoals sound.

THE JAYHAWKS

Minneapolis band The Jayhawks perfect a captivating sound that seamlessly blends the elegant folk-rock of the Byrds, the adventurousness of the Buffalo Springfield, the hippie-billy soulfulness of the Flying Burrito Brothers and the soaring harmonies of the Beach Boys. Their performance at HSB captures the ultimate line-up of this great American band in full flight.

JESSICA LEA MAYFIELD

This uncommonly mature 22-year-old singer-songwriter from Kent, Ohio balances the warm-hearted with the cold-blooded. She gets to the stark emotion of classic country, evoking images of dimly lit barrooms, roadside motels and late-night longing with her brilliantly mesmerizing, unadorned voice at front and center.

JOE PURDY

Born and raised in bluegrass country — Fayetteville, Arkansas — Joe Purdy quickly developed an appreciation for music by listening to Sam Cooke, Otis Redding, Buddy Holly, Tony Rice & Doc Watson as a child. His voice is startlingly intimate and his sweet, folk-flavored melodies coupled with the warm tones of an old guitar inspire audiences to drop what they’re doing and just listen.

JOHN PRINE

One of Chicago’s most beloved heroes, Prine’s body of work has become the high-water mark of American songwriting. His work flirts with everything from acoustic folk to rockabilly to straight-ahead country. From his first album on, he became known as a genuine “songwriter’s songwriter.” Evidence of this is the long list of songwriters who have recorded his songs, including Johnny Cash, Bonnie Raitt, the Everly Brothers, John Denver, Kris Kristofferson, Carly Simon, Ben Harper and Joan Baez.

JOLIE HOLLAND

Texas-born singer and songwriter Jolie Holland is a founding member of The Be Good Tanyas.The perceived space between ancient and modern seems to fade away when listening to her music – her work has always been characterized as timeless. She navigates a new approach to rock that is built upon folk, blues, country and jazz traditions.

JONATHAN WILSON

Wilson’s music is steeped equally in the woodsy contours of his Blue Ridge Mountain childhood experiences and the atmospheric guitar reveries of Neil Young and Quicksilver Messenger Service. Warm, supple melodies etched in layers of stringed instruments and willowy organ motifs accompany his earnest, North Carolinian drawl as he tells tales of humane values lost and found.

JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE

Son of Steve Earle, stepson of Allison Moorer, and named for songwriter Townes Van Zandt, songwriter Justin Townes Earle has some huge shoes to fill and he easily lives up to the challenge with gusto and raw talent. “Earle sings like a honky-tonk hero and thinks like a 21st century man. He’s sharp and young, and has soul to burn,” says Guitar Aficionado.

KIERAN KANE, KEVIN WELCH & FATS KAPLIN

Kane, Welch & Kaplin have played HSB nearly every year since its inception 11 years ago. Musicians, songwriters and old friends - when they sit down together, the audience is instantly engulfed in a softly glowing bonhomie. It’s a glow stoked by fast-flying sarcasm and the musical way they seamlessly create music that grows in stature as time passes.

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON & MERLE HAGGARD

American musical legends Merle Haggard and Kris Kristofferson perform together! Merle Haggard’s distinguished fifty year-plus career easily places him as one of the most influential country artists of all time. Kris Kristofferson is a Grammy and Golden Globe winner; a member of the Songwriter Hall of Fame and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

KURT VILE & THE VIOLATORS

Once compared to Leonard Cohen, Tom Petty, Psychic TV, and Animal Collective in the same album review, Kurt Vile can bring to mind anything from Leo Kottke to My Bloody Valentine, Bob Seger, and Nick Drake. Still, he pieces together these disparate elements so seamlessly and unpretentiously that such reference points are rendered pointless by the singularity of his sound.

LAURIE LEWIS & THE RIGHT HANDS

Laurie Lewis has established herself as one of the finest, most diversely talented artists in traditional American music today.The California-born artist is one of the first bona fide female bluegrass stars who was born outside the music’s native southland, and thus a pivotal figure in transforming the music from a regional genre into a truly international musical language.

THE LOW ANTHEM

The Low Anthem offers music meant to be held, savored, contemplated, and occasionally stomped along to. The Providence, RI, trio has a distinctly human touch in an era of instant uploading and ephemeral expression – quiet, intimate, full of longing, and often hauntingly beautiful. They combine folk and blues arrangements with the elegance of chamber music and the fervor of gospel.

MAXIM LUDWIG & THE SANTA FE SEVEN

Maxim Ludwig’s deeply personal and wild live shows mix his influence of early rock and roll, classic soul, and songwriting craftsmanship and have earned him comparisons to Bob Dylan, The Band, Bruce Springsteen, Elvis Presley and caused the Los Angeles Times to label him as a “brash maverick” who “views rules as something to be broken, not followed.”

MC HAMMER

PERFORMING ON THURSDAY FOR THE CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

MC Hammer is rapper, entertainer, business entrepreneur, dancer and actor who is considered a forefather and innovator of pop rap, and is the first hip hop artist to achieve diamond status for an album. His performances are incredibly infectious and fun, creating an atmosphere of celebration and joy.

MEKONS

Formed in the late 1970s, Mekons are one of the longest-running and most prolific of the first-wave British punk rock bands. Throughout their history they have worked collaboratively and collectively with everything credited to the band, never to individuals. Their mind boggling output consistently blurs the lines between high art and low.

MOONALICE

Moonalice is a band of seasoned musicians who feel that live music should be a communal experience where the listener and musicians feed and derive inspiration from each other. Their songs try to speak to everyone, mixing a variety of genres with extended musical improvisations that evoke a sense of adventure and exploration.

THE MOTHER HIPS

The Mother Hips have given us 20+ years of “California Soul.” Hailed by critics for their “rootsy mix of ’70s rock and power pop” (pitchfork.com) and for their unflinching ability to “sing it sweet and play it dirty” (New Yorker), the Hips produce psychedelic folk-rock that showcases the best of Americana storytelling and California-burnished roots.

M. WARD

M. Ward’s rise to international renown has been something of a slow burn. Initially a well-kept secret of his peers in the Portland, OR folk scene, his star continued to rise with each record’s release, and he is now one of the most acclaimed American musicians of the decade. His honey-soaked vocals, deft finger-picking, and beguiling lyrics have now caught the attention of audiences around the globe.

NELL ROBINSON & JIM NUNALLY

Nell Robinson is an up-and-coming musician from the San Francisco Bay Area, delivering fresh honky-tonk infused bluegrass and country music. The San Francisco Chronicle says, “Robinson’s heartfelt vocals and soaring harmonies are perfect for the traditional bluegrass standards and old country tracks.”

OLLABELLE

The New York quintet draws from a deep well of gospel, blues, bluegrass, and country influences to create timelessly resonant music that honors the integrity of its sources while remaining effortlessly contemporary. There is an intimate immediacy apparent in their performances and their songs represent hard times, loss, compassion, courage and hope.

OTIS CLAY WITH CHICK RODGERS

Otis Clay is one of the premier deep soul and gospel singers working today. His raw, fiery vocals drive an energetic and danceable blend of soul, R&B and blues in the tradition of such deep soul singers as Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett and Solomon Burke. Melvia “Chick” Rodgers’ powerful voice is a gift from God and her gracefully bold style touches ALL... and keeps them coming back for more.

OVER THE RHINE

Cincinnati, Ohio’s Over the Rhine recorded their brand new album with legendary producer Joe Henry. Their music, which they aptly dub “post-nuclear, pseudo-alternative, folk-tinged art-pop,” drifts effortlessly from country to R&B to gospel. They display superb musicianship, incredible vocals and lyrics that put most other bands to shame.

PATTY GRIFFIN

Patty Griffin took home the Grammy award in 2011 for “Best Traditional Gospel Album.” Well-known for her down-home crafting of songs, she is a natural songbird that can hush an audience with her performances and the power of her passionate storytelling and voice. In addition to her solo work, Griffin has been on tour with Robert Plant and the Band of Joy.

POOR MAN’S WHISKEY

PERFORMING ON THURSDAY FOR THE CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

The Bay Area’s outlaw music bards bring a reputation for high-energy live shows and an incomparable fusion of folk, punk, rock, and disco to stages and festivals world-wide. This “High-Octane Hootenanny” will certainly delight those interested in a foot-stompin’ good time.

PUNCH BROTHERS FEATURING CHRIS THILE

Collecting five singular abilities and viewpoints into one musical force, Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile have established their place among the most dynamic and talented presences in the roots and bluegrass genres. As performing and recording artists, composers and interpreters, technicians and stylists, they continue to push the boundaries of possibility while maintaining an unerring devotion to the basic audience experience.

RALPH STANLEY AND THE CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOYS

Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys are one of the most respected outfits in bluegrass. Fans are inevitably drawn to the poignant, mournful sound of Stanley’s style. Different from all the rest, his ability to hit the right notes and chords make him a singer of trailblazing proportions. A Bluegrass Hall of Fame member, he has brought the mountain style of bluegrass music to mainstream audiences.

RECKLESS KELLY

The Austin-based roots-rockers are known for the integrity of their musical approach, the hard-core energy of their live shows and the fierce loyalty of their fans. Their songs and attitudes link them to a working-class tradition of socially conscious music that stretches from Woody Guthrie to Bruce Springsteen.

RICKY SKAGGS & KENTUCKY THUNDER

2011 marks the 52nd year since Ricky struck his first chords on a mandolin, and this fourteen-time Grammy Award winner continues to do his part to lead the recent roots revival in music. The diverse and masterful tones he creates come from a life dedicated to playing music that is both fed by the soul and felt by the heart.

RIVER WHYLESS

North Carolina’s River Whyless has quickly become known throughout the southeast for their fresh sound and the energy of their live show. The young up-and-coming band combines technical skill with the creative gifts of the band’s songwriters to produce a refreshingly organic acoustic sound.

ROBERT EARL KEEN

Robert Earl Keen has a place among the Lone Star State’s great storytellers and is part of the soul of HSB, having performed almost every year to ecstatic crowds. His craft is in his lyrics, which paint vivid and fascinating pictures of characters and places both real and imagined, bringing the listener on a journey into his world.

ROBERT PLANT & THE BAND OF JOY

Robert Plant (of legendary rock band Led Zeppelin) and the Band of Joy – Darrell Scott (acoustic guitar, mandolin, octave mandolin, banjo, accordion, pedal steel and lap steel guitar), Byron House (bass), Marco Giovino (drums and percussion), Buddy Miller (electric guitar, baritone, 6-string bass, mandoguitar) and Patty Griffin (vocals) – provide an irresistible groove that keeps their audiences hanging on their every note.

ROBYN HITCHCOCK

Coming to prominence in the late 1970s with The Soft Boys, British songwriter Robyn Hitchcock afterward launched a prolific solo career. His musical and lyrical styles are influenced by Bob Dylan, John Lennon and Syd Barrett. His lyrics include surrealism, comedic elements, characterizations of English eccentrics, and melancholy depictions of everyday life.

RUTHIE FOSTER

Ruthie Foster has been the pride of Texas for many years, but it has only been in the past few that the rest of the world has begun to discover this talented guitarist/singer/songwriter. Often compared to Aretha Franklin and Ella Fitzgerald, she is a new voice in old-school soul, gospel, folk and blues and puts on a stellar, riveting live performance.

RYAN BINGHAM & THE DEAD HORSES

Rolling Stone magazine writes that Ryan Bingham “earns his sepia-toned album cover with a dusty wood-and-steel sound, and despite being twenty-five, sings like Steve Earle’s dad.” The singer-songwriter’s preternaturally wizened voice complements his remarkably poignant songs, which resonate with roadhouse wisdom and rough-and-ready border-town piquancy.

SARAH ELIZABETH CAMPBELL

Campbell is distinguished by her hauntingly poignant voice, touching lyrics, straightforward vocal style, and depth of feeling. Her unvarnished vocal quality sets her apart from many other folk singers, along with the strength and passion discernible at the core of her music. She is a local favorite in her home town of Austin, Texas.

SEAMUS KENNEDY

Songwriter and entertainer Seamus Kennedy, originally from Belfast, Northern Ireland, has been performing for audiences all over the world for the past 30+ years. He has an endless supply of rib-tickling jokes, stories and one-liners which can leave an audience breathless from laughing so hard. He has the repertoire and the ability to make folks forget their cares for a while, to relax and enjoy themselves.

SELDOM SCENE

Since its inception in Maryland in 1971, Seldom Scene has thrived on playing bluegrass a little differently than everyone else. If other bands used a fiddler, Seldom Scene used a Dobro; if others relied on old standards, Seldom Scene played rock classics like J.J. Cale’s “After Midnight.” Through skilled musicianship and an urban approach to bluegrass, Seldom Scene has become one of the most influential bluegrass bands of their time.

SIMON JOYNER

Joyner’s connection to both the South (New Orleans) and the Midwest (Omaha) act as shadow characters throughout his large body of work – always reminding us that place is much more than mere scenery. Joyner’s songs and stories focus on struggling or haunted characters who confirm their humanity during moments of strength and weakness, disappointment, failure, and, of course, love.

SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS

Long the bards of downward mobility, Southern Culture on the Skids have always embodied a sleazy, raucous, good-natured, good-time take on the culture of the South. Recently described by Dwight Yoakam as “really on the outside, like Dick Dale meets Hank Thompson,” SCOTS have mixed high and low culture for decades, endlessly touring, serving up moonshine martinis and poultry picking for fans everywhere.

SOUTH MEMPHIS STRING BAND

The South Memphis String Band - Luther Dickinson (North Mississippi Allstars), Alvin “Youngblood” Hart (Grammy-winning bluesman) and Jimbo Mathus (Squirrel Nut Zippers) - is greatly influenced by the Mississippi Sheiks, Gus Cannon & the Memphis Jug Band and other string bands and jug bands of their ilk, as well as Mississippi Delta and Hill Country blues.

STEVE EARLE AND THE DUKES (AND DUCHESSES) FEATURING ALLISON MOORER

With a career spanning four decades, Texas singer-songwriter Steve Earle has grown into a renaissance man. Not only is he a musician and performer of the highest caliber, he is also an accomplished author, playwright, actor and political commentator. His wife and fellow singer-songwriter Allison Moorer adds another dimension of beautifully crafted vocals and heartfelt depth to the performance.

THE SWANSON FAMILY BAND

The Swanson Family Band is a rising group from the west coast of Florida. Drawing on influences including Bill Monroe, Earl Scruggs, Lonesome River Band and the Infamous Stringdusters, the band consists of mother, father, and children (and one family friend), each with amazing talent. Bluegrass Now Magazine praises their “unbridled enthusiasm and impressive talent.”

THOSE DARLINS

Those Darlins are three rip-roaring gals and a guy, all of whom met a half-decade ago at the Southern Girls Rock & Roll Camp in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Combining strait-up country with a healthy dose of garage-rock, lead singer Jessi Dalin sums it up nicely, “If you’re a rock & roll fan, you might not like country. But if you’re a country fan, you’re gonna like rock & roll.”

THURSTON MOORE

Moore is best known as singer, songwriter and guitarist of legendary NYC rock band Sonic Youth. For nearly 30 years, he has created everything from eccentric pop tunes to lengthy rock-outs to free-form noise experimentation to introspective acoustic sound.

WENDY BIRD AND HER BAND OF MISCREANTS

Wendy Bird is one of the great secrets of the Vancouver music scene. She is a natural singer, blessed with a deep blue voice, and a lot of soul. Besides working with producer Craig Northey on film scores, she can be heard on albums by Barney Bentall and the Legendary Hearts, Murray McLachlan, The Paperboys, David Gogo, Bob Kemmis and many more.

WOODS

Psychedelic-folk band Woods’ secret weapon is the quality of lead singer Jeremy Earl’s voice, melding the style of Jad Fair, Jonathan Richman and Neil Young. He sings at the peak of his powers, in a high soulful style that is bolstered by heavenly arrangements of backing vocals.

THE WRONGLERS WITH JIMMIE DALE GILMORE

The Wronglers and Jimmie Dale Gilmore perform with a grace and proficient fluidity that may sound deceptively simple. But beneath such seemingly effortless delivery there is a deep core of reverence for tradition, not to mention an equally deep core of exuberant delight and pure fun. The Wronglers features the benefactor of Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, Mr. Warren Hellman.

ZIGABOO MODELISTE - KING OF THE FUNKY DRUMS

Zigaboo Modeliste is a master drummer, rhythm innovator, percussionist, and New Orleans legend. Ziggy’s creativity has been a wellspring of funk influence for 30+ years. His innovative work as a member of The Meters as well as work with Keith Richards, Robert Palmer, and Dr. John has garnered him an unparalleled level of respect.

