

## MARK LANEGAN

Over the past 25 years, Mark Lanegan has left a distinctive mark on the contemporary rock scene. Between 1985 and 1996, he served as the vocalist and front man for the Screaming Trees, the trend-setting grunge band from Seattle. Beginning in 1990 he launched an overlapping solo career, creating thoughtful, singer-songwriter material deeply influenced by the blues. Reviewers have often noted the prowess of Lanegan’s vocals, alternately described as grainy and sublime, as well as his ability to deeply embody his carefully penned lyrics.

## MARTHA WAINWRIGHT

Martha is the daughter of folk legends Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle, and sister of acclaimed singer songwriter Rufus Wainwright. With a hugely expressive voice and an arsenal of powerful songs, Martha is a beguiling entertainer and a refreshingly different, new force in music.

## MC HAMMER (FRIDAY MORNING KIDS’ PROGRAM)

With mega-hits like ‘U Can’t Touch This’ and ‘2 Legit 2 Quit,’ Hammer’s superstar-status and entertaining showmanship make him a household name and hip hop icon. He has sold more than 50 million records worldwide.

## MIKE FARRIS & THE ROSELAND RHYTHM REVUE

His voice connects and mesmerizes in such a way that it doesn’t matter if the songs are his own compositions or ones sung 200 years ago. As Mike puts it “this music - it’s so beyond us, we only perpetuate it. We are just cooks in the kitchen.” If so Mike Farris is one “cook” with an immediate voice. “Mike Farris has enough heart, soul, and power to light up a city. He mixes up the elements and turns them into something new, beautiful, and uniquely his own.” - Buddy Miller

## MIKE SCOTT & STEVE WICKHAM OF THE WATERBOYS

Having begun a musical career in the 1970s which has continued to this day, Scott has been described as a “madman or genius, depending on your point of view” by Record Collector Magazine and is well known for his radical changes in music genres throughout what Scott refers to as his “allegedly unorthodox” career. Steve Wickham is an Irish musician described by Mike Scott as “the world’s greatest rock fiddle player” and by New Musical Express as a “fiddling legend.”

## 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.

## NATALIE MAINES

Maines is a singer-songwriter and activist who achieved success as the lead vocalist for the female alternative country band the Dixie Chicks. Born in Lubbock, Texas, Maines considers herself a rebel who “loved not thinking in the way I knew the majority of people thought.” Her debut solo offering, “Mother,” (co-produced by Ben Harper) was released in May of 2013.

## NICKI BLUHM & THE GRAMBLERS

The San Francisco-based band and its striking front woman with a girl-next-door demeanor step out with a luminous, heartfelt patchwork of California folk-rock, brisk Americana and show-stopping soul, punctuated with fresh four-part harmonies, crisp rock guitar and Nicki’s soaring, nuanced vocals that some critics say remind them of Linda Ronstadt.

## NICK LOWE

Nick Lowe has made his mark as a producer (Elvis Costello-Graham Parker-Pretenders-The Damned), songwriter of at least three songs you know by heart, short-lived career as a pop star, and a lengthy term as a musicians’ musician. But in his current ‘second act’ as a silver-haired, tender-hearted but sharp-tongued singer-songwriter, he has no equal. Lowe brings wit and understated excellence to every performance, leading Ben Ratliff of the New York Times to describe his live show as “elegant and nearly devastating.”

## PATTY GRIFFIN

Griffin’s new record “American Kid,” much of which Griffin says “was written to honor my father,” returns to typical Patty Griffin territory, which is to say that it features a group of remarkably powerful, personal and unpredictable songs arranged and performed in a style that doesn’t entirely repeat anything she’s done on her previous albums while drawing on all of them. Yet Griffin’s catalog is among the most unified in modern popular music, because her singing is as unmistakable and inimitable as her songwriting.

## PAUL KELLY

Australian songwriter Paul Kelly’s lyrics capture the vastness of the culture and landscape of Australia by chronicling his life and experiences for over 30 years. David Fricke from Rolling Stone calls Kelly “one of the finest songwriters I have ever heard, Australian or otherwise.”

## PETER ROWAN BLUEGRASS BAND FEATURING YUNGCHEN LHAMO

Grammy-award winner and six-time Grammy nominee, Peter Rowan is a bluegrass singer-songwriter with a career spanning over five decades. From his early years playing under the tutelage of bluegrass patriarch Bill Monroe, and following his stint in Old & In the Way with Jerry Garcia and subsequent breakout as both a solo performer and bandleader, Rowan has built a devoted, international fan base. Since her 1989 pilgrimage on foot from her beloved homeland of Tibet, Yungchen Lhamo has emerged as the world’s leading Tibetan vocalist.

## PIETA BROWN

Pieta Brown is a striking poet-songwriter with a seductive voice and an unmistakable style. With one foot in her Iowa home and one in Alabama where she grew up, she is a mercurial sort - a free-spirited beauty who is both self-possessed and disarmingly unaffected. Not easily categorized, her music is a unique blend of alt-country, folk, blues and indie-rock that speaks to music fans around the world and has garnered rave reviews.

## POOR MAN’S WHISKEY (FRIDAY MORNING KIDS’ PROGRAM)

Northern California’s outlaw music bards bring a reputation for high-energy live shows and an incomparable fusion of bluegrass/old time, southern rock, and old school jam to stages and festivals world wide.

## RALPH STANLEY & THE CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOYS

When legends come to mind there is one star that shines above them all; that is none other than the legendary icon Dr. Ralph Stanley. For over 6 decades he has become one of the most influential artists of all time. He is not only an American treasure but and international icon - he received the Living Legend award from the Library of Congress in 2006.

## RICHARD THOMPSON

Thompson is a critically acclaimed, prolific songwriter, recipient of BBC’s Lifetime Achievement Award and was named one of Rolling Stone Magazine’s Top 20 Guitarists of All Time for his acoustic and electric virtuosity. Robert Plant, REM, Elvis Costello, Los Lobos, David Byrne, Del McCoury, Bonnie Raitt, and many others have recorded his work. “Richard Thompson has been called the finest rock songwriter after Bob Dylan and the best electric guitarist since Jimi Hendrix.” - Scott Timberg, L.A. Times

## ROBERT EARL KEEN

He paints musical portraits that are as vivid as sunsets over the great Southwest and stories that are as compelling and timeless as Cormac McCarthy novels. But what separates the Americana music pioneer from other songwriters is that he matches this lyrical literature with irresistible melodies, resulting in music that attracts thinkers and dancers alike. His songs are infused with such deep insight and humor that a new meaning and perspective is revealed with each listen, allowing his songs to grow more profound with time.

## ROBERT ELLIS

Inspired by the country, folk, and bluegrass records he’d heard while growing up in southern Texas, Ellis began playing shows around the city, eventually landing a Wednesday night residency at a local venue called Fitzgerald’s. His audience grew as a result of those weekly shows, nicknamed “Whiskey Wednesdays” for their rowdy nature.

## RYAN BINGHAM

Ryan Bingham has spent most of his life on the road, first on the rough-and-tumble rodeo circuit, then moving from town to town on the equally volatile roadhouse musical circuit. Those travels have given him plenty of material to draw from. The Americana Music Association honored Bingham with the organization’s top award in 2010: “Artist of the Year.”

## SALLIE FORD & THE SOUND OUTSIDE

Sallie Ford & The Sound Outside’s new record “Untamed Beast” is a visceral rock and roll romp. Like a cross between “Ella Fitzgerald and Tom Waits” Sallie has established herself as one of the most powerful female voices in indie rock. They recently made their national television debut on Letterman, were one of the most talked about new performers at Bonnaroo, the Newport Folk Fest and Bumbershoot, and were championed by Jack White and The Avett Brothers.

## SELDOM SCENE

“We try to find material that’s a little bit different, and approach the music in a little bit broader way than most bluegrass bands do,” said the Seldom Scene’s Dudley Connell. Since its inception in 1971, the Seldom Scene has thrived on playing bluegrass a little differently than everyone else through skilled musicianship and an urban approach to bluegrass.

## SHOVELS & ROPE

Shovels & Rope is a Charleston, SC band consisting of husband and wife duo Michael Trent and Cary Ann Hearst. Formed in 2010, they sing harmony driven folk, rock and country songs using two old guitars, a kick drum, a snare, a few tambourines, harmonicas, and and maybe a little keyboard sometimes. They tour constantly as a two piece, making as much noise as they can.

## SONNY & THE SUNSETS

Sonny & The Sunsets are the energetic accompaniment to the dynamic workings of Sonny Smith. Adopting a range of sounds - including ‘50s and ‘60s pop, old-time country, folk, and much more - Smith’s sardonic, laid-back style is interwoven throughout his compelling songwriting and vocals. What results is an ensemble stripped of superfluous noise that provides perfect accompaniment for Smith’s vintage callbacks.

## SPIRIT FAMILY REUNION

Spirit Family Reunion play homegrown American music to stomp, clap, shake and holler with. Ever since they started singing together on the street corners, farmers markets and subway stations of New York City, their songs have rung-out in a pure and timeless way. When Spirit Family Reunion gather to sing, there is communion. Strangers and neighbors come to rejoice in the sound, and there is no divide between performer and spectator.

## STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES

A protégé of legendary songwriters Townes Van Zandt and Guy Clark, Earle quickly became a master storyteller in his own right, with his songs being recorded by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris, Waylon Jennings, Travis Tritt, The Pretenders, Joan Baez and countless others.

## STEVE MARTIN AND STEEP CANYON RANGERS FEATURING EDIE BRICKELL

The new album “Love Has Come for You” features compositions that combine Steve Martin’s inventive five-string banjo work with Edie Brickell’s distinctive vocals and vivid, detail-rich lyrics. The band presents a unique hybrid of bluegrass and comedy that has been delighting audiences at their sold-out, critically acclaimed shows.

## THE STRING CHEESE INCIDENT

Over the past two decades, The String Cheese Incident has emerged as one of America’s most significant independent bands. Born in 1993 in Colorado’s Rocky Mountains, their history is packed full of surreal experiences, epic moments, groundbreaking involvement and huge accomplishments. They have been recognized for their commitment to musical creativity and integrity, for their community spirit, philanthropic endeavors, and for their innovative approach to the business of music.

## STURGILL SIMPSON

Nashville sounds like Nashville again on “High Top Mountain,” the debut release from singer-songwriter Sturgill Simpson. From furious honky-tonk and pre-outlaw country-rocking to spellbinding bluegrass pickin’ and emotional balladry, the album serves as a one-stop guide to everything that made real country music such a force to be reckoned with.

## SUPERMULE

Supermule raids America’s musical pantry to concoct a tasty blend of fresh, rooty ingredients. Liberal amounts of jazz, bluegrass, classical, and rock are used in varying proportions. One song is a thick, rich gumbo, the next is fluffier than Grandma’s buttermilk pancakes. The fruitful collaboration between members belies that old saw about too many cooks in the kitchen.

## TIFT MERRITT

The New Yorker has called Merritt “the bearer of a proud tradition of distaff country soul that reaches back to artists like Dusty Springfield and Bobbie Gentry,” a standard upholding that got underway in earnest with “Bramble Rose,” the 2002 solo debut that put her on the Americana map forever. Merritt found acclaim coming not just from critics and awards orgs but her own heroes, like Emmylou Harris, who marveled that Merritt “stood out like a diamond in a coal patch.”

## THE TIME JUMPERS FEATURING BRAD ALBIN, LARRY FRANKLIN, PAUL FRANKLIN, VINCE GILL, “RANGER DOUG” GREEN, ANDY REISS, DAWN SEARS, KENNY SEARS, JOE SPIV- EY, JEFF TAYLOR & BILLY THOMAS

Tap any member of The Time Jumpers on the shoulder and the face that turns to greet you will be that of one who’s made major contributions to the richness and vigor of country music. The Time Jumpers was established in Nashville in 1998 by an assemblage of high-dollar studio musicians who wanted to spend some spare time drinking beer and jamming with their sonically gifted buddies. The notion of building a rabidly devoted following was the last thing on their minds, but that’s what happened.

## TIM O’BRIEN WITH BRYAN SUTTON & MIKE BUB

The uncanny intersection of traditional and contemporary elements in O’Brien’s songwriting, his tireless dedication to a vast and still-expanding array of instruments, and his ongoing commitment to place himself in as many unique and challenging musical scenarios as possible has made him a key figure in today’s thriving roots music scene. Sutton has been honored as a six time winner of the IBMA’s Guitarist of the Year. Bub has racked up 9 Entertainer of the Year awards, 5 Bass Player of the Year awards as well as a Grammy.

## TIM O’BRIEN & DARRELL SCOTT

“When Tim and I get together, we push each other’s Appalachian roots buttons,” Scott points out. “My Kentucky comes out, and so does his West Virginia. It happens naturally, it’s not a strategy. We know Southern gospel, Jimmy Rodgers and the Carter Family, and not just a little - it’s in our DNA. And when me and Tim sing close harmonies, that brother blend, like we do on Hank’s ‘Alone and Forsaken,’ neither of us is behind the other; we both stand up and deliver.”

## TRAMPLED BY TURTLES

“Many bluegrass bands love to show off their speed, but this outfit, from Duluth, Minnesota, invested its supercharged songs with a hooky playfulness and white-knuckle power. Fans of The Avett Brothers’s raucous side ought to take note, if they haven’t already.” - Esquire Magazine

## TUMBLEWEED WANDERERS

Oakland, CA’s Tumbleweed Wanderers combine soul, folk, and rock and roll to create a hugely dynamic musical experience. They weave through their shows with smooth transitions, bringing the listener from dark chaotic banjo-rock, through intimate acoustic harmonies, to energetic explosions of soul.

## THE WARREN HOOD BAND

“The cream always rises to the top, and there are young performers out there who will find their audience [such as] Warren Hood, a terrific songwriter and singer.” -Lyle Lovett Warren Hood began playing the fiddle at the age of eleven. He attended Berkeley School of Music where he was awarded the school’s top honor - The String Achievement Award. He has since gone on to win numerous awards for string virtuosity and has been recognized three times as String Player of the Year in the Austin Chronicle Music Poll.

## THE WOOD BROTHERS

Two brothers decide to form a band, adapting the blues, folk and other roots-music sounds they loved as kids into their own evocative sound and twining their voices in the sort of high-lonesome harmony blend for which sibling singers are often renowned.



### ALISON BROWN

Progressive bluegrass banjoist Alison Brown made her name not only as a virtuosic instrumentalist, but as an accomplished, jazz-influenced composer, a combination that earned plenty of comparisons to Béla Fleck and David Grisman. She has earned bluegrass music’s highest accolade for an instrumentalist: the International Bluegrass Music Association Banjo Player of the Year.

### ALLAH-LAS

Allah-Las formed in Los Angeles in 2008 around a mutual love for records, Los Angeles history, and the beach. In the Los Angeles musical community, they have gained a reputation as a laid-back, grooving band with strong ties to the authentically LA-centric sounds of bands like the Byrds, Love, and early Captain Beefheart.

### BETTIE LAVETTE

There’s a space in American music where country meets soul, where elements of blues, folk, pop, jazz, gospel and R&B melt in seamless alchemy, where genre boundaries are ultimately not very meaningful. This is a space that is all too rarely accessed in most contemporary recordings, yet it is a space that Bettye LaVette returns to again and again.

### BILLY BRAGG

Finding inspiration in the righteous anger of punk rock and the socially conscious folk tradition of Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan, Billy Bragg was the leading figure of the anti-folk movement of the ‘80s. For most of the decade, Bragg bashed out songs alone on his electric guitar, singing about politics and love. While his lyrics are bitinglly intelligent and clever, they’re also warm and humane, filled with detail and wit.

### BONNIE RAITT

Bonnie Raitt has started anew with the release of her nineteenth album, “Slipstream.” The album marks her return to studio recording after seven years and the launch of her label, Redwing Records. A huge success, “Slipstream” sold over a quarter-million copies in 2012, making it one of the top selling independent albums, and earned Raitt her 10th Grammy Award (Best Americana Album). From the New York Times to People Magazine, “Slipstream” was also lauded in numerous top critics’ lists for album of the year.

### BOZ SCAGGS

A casual listen to the Boz Scaggs discography makes one thing obvious: Boz Scaggs is both a musical seeker and a man of sizable talent as a singer, songwriter and guitarist. His explorations in blues and R&B, rock and jazz have produced lasting work and a career that has brought with it acclaim, a loyal following, and an enduring respect among musicians.

### THE BROTHERS COMATOSE

Despite their name, the band is anything but Comatose. They toss alligators (inflatable) into the crowd, they hand out chopsticks for audience-percussion-participation, and are known to jump down and play acoustic encores in the middle of the crowd at the end of a set. It’s just one, big, extended music party.

### BUDDY MILLER

Long known as a go-to sideman and brilliant songwriter, Buddy has recently also come into the spotlight for his exceptional production work. His work has been recognized with a Grammy Award, Dove Award and additional Grammy nominations. He has made over 30 records, produces a weekly radio show, and has recently been tapped to be the executive music producer for a network television hit.

### BUDDY MILLER & JIM LAUDERDALE

Buddy Miller and Jim Lauderdale are two of the pioneers of Americana. Their solo recordings, songwriting, studio session work and live performances have made them treasures of the roots and country music scene. In an unexpected moment of inspiration, the two have collaborated to make a true duets record, trading licks and verses for one of the most inspired and fun albums of recent memory.

### CALEXICO

Their work has spoken of dusty deserts and the loners that inhabit them, mixing America’s country music heritage with that of a Latin persuasion. Their musical style is influenced by traditional sounds of mariachi / conjunto / cumbia / Tejano music as well as ‘50s-’60s jazz and ‘90s-’00s post-rock, and they have been described by some as “desert noir.”

### THE CAVE SINGERS

Seattle’s The Cave Singers perform dramatic, forlorn and occasionally triumphant music in a wonderfully autumnal haze. Their sound is a gorgeous, rich folky stew hitting musical touchstones from Led Zeppelin III (think Bron-Yr-Aur Stomp) to Iron and Wine, CCR, Fleet Foxes, Bon Iver and Will Oldham, with a healthy dollop of the more mournful Stevie Nicks songs from Fleetwood Mac’s mid-’70s period.

### CHRIS ISAAK

More than a quarter of a century into his career, Chris Isaak has finally created the album he’s always wanted to make. “Beyond the Sun” is truly a labor of love. As a child spinning his parents 45s in their Stockton, California home, this deeply committed artist has been obsessed with the glory days of Memphis’ Sun Studio and the visionary artists who got their starts there and now, at long last, Isaak has acted on this lifelong obsession, magically recapturing the transformative brilliance of the classic sides cut by the greats at Sun while also getting down to the heart and soul of his own deeply rooted musical identity.

### CONOR OBERST

Releasing records mainly under the alias Bright Eyes, Conor Oberst has spent the last 20 years building a body of work that drew from the great pantheon of American blues and folk music artists and made a virtue of gabby, emotionally-direct lyrics. What made Oberst stand out from his peers was not just his youth - he was just 15 when he began recording as Bright Eyes - but also his melodic gifts and the consistency of his output.

### DAVE ALVIN WITH GREG LEISZ

Alvin says, “There are two types of folk music - quiet folk music and loud folk music. I play both.” The Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter and self-described “barroom guitarist,” is widely considered to be one of the pivotal founders of the current Americana music scene. The word “ubiquitous” is usually placed in front of pedal steel player and guitarist Greg Leisz’s name. With good reason - the man’s resumé is daunting, boasting spots with Joni Mitchell, Sheryl Crow, Paul Westerberg, Joe Cocker, Wilco, Lucinda Williams, Bruce Cockburn - to name a few.

### THE DEEP DARK WOODS

Made in a cabin in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains near Bragg Creek, Alberta, “Jubilee” journeys through folk and rock history, from California to the UK, from the 1970s to the present day. The album nods to genre pioneers such as The Byrds and Fairport Convention before heading into altogether new territory of soundscapes that bend and fluctuate underfoot.

### DELLA MAE

In a relatively short period of time, Della Mae has become a sensation in the music world. Commanding a powerful collective chemistry with vocal, instrumental, and songwriting talent to spare, the Boston-based combo mines time-honored elements to create music that’s unmistakably fresh and contemporary.

### THE DEVIL MAKES THREE

“There’s a road that goes out of every town. All you’ve got to do is get on it,” Pete Bernhard says. The guitarist/singer and his cohorts in the raw and raucous trio The Devil Makes Three have found their way onto that road numerous times since they first left their picaresque rural hometown of Brattleboro, Vermont. Back then, they had no idea it would lead them to such auspicious destinations as the Newport Folk and Austin City Limits Festivals, Bonnaroo and Lollapalooza, and on tours with Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell.

### DRY BRANCH FIRE SQUAD

“It’s old-time vocals shout out with honesty and conviction – rough edges proudly showing, breathatkingly quick instrumentals that bring to mind free-spirited wild horses, Ron Thomason’s biting satire and wry political commentary, hauntingly moving a cappella gospel songs, pure unadulterated old-time religion set to mountain music. This is the Dry Branch Fire Squad.” - Nancy Cardwell, Bluegrass Now

### ELVIN BISHOP

Elvin Bishop has been traveling the Blues road longer than most, and he’s got the stories to prove it. Stops along the way include his work as a founding member of the groundbreaking Paul Butterfield Blues Band in the early ‘60s, recordings with legends such as Clifton Chenier, John Lee Hooker, and The Allman Brothers. And at every stage along the way, he’s instilled all of his music with passion, creativity, and a healthy helping of wisdom, wit, and good humor.

### EMMYLOU HARRIS & RODNEY CROWELL

“Old Yellow Moon” is the first official collaboration from Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell since Crowell joined Harris’ Hot Band in 1975. The 12-track duets album features songs written by Crowell as well as interpretations of songs by Hank DeVito, Roger Miller, Allen Reynolds, and others. Among the world-renowned musicians on the album are Stuart Duncan, Vince Gill, Bill Payne, and members of the original Hot Band.

### THE EVENS

The Evens are a Washington, D.C. indie-rock duo of musical partners Ian MacKaye (Fugazi, Minor Threat) and Amy Farina (formerly of The Warners). After MacKaye’s band Fugazi entered a hiatus, the Evens began practicing extensively, and eventually played a few shows and recorded a self-titled album on MacKaye’s label, Dischord Records. They are known for their unusual choices in venues for performances and the stylistic change from what many have dubbed the “D.C.” or “Dischord” sound. The Washington Post has described the sound as “what happens when post-hardcore becomes post-post-hardcore.”

### EVOLFO DOOFEHT

Evolfo Doofeht (The Food of Love spelled backwards) plays a unique style of music that bares influence from American funk, eastern European gypsy jazz, and garage soul. It is this combination of influences and the fact that they hail from all corners of the United States that they’ve coined the genre “Gypsy-funk.” Formed in 2009 as the house band for a contemporary production of Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night,” Evolfo Doofeht has spent the last few years performing at colleges, festivals, and nightclubs all over the United States.

### FATHER JOHN MISTY

Father John Misty’s music consists of such disparate elements as Waylon Jennings, Harry Nilsson, Arthur Russell, “All Things Must Pass,” and “Physical Graffiti,” often within the same song. Josh Tillman’s voice has never been better and often sounds like Roy Orbison, “The Caruso of Rock,” at his most joyous, while the music maintains a dark, mysterious and yet conversely playful, almost Dionysian quality.

### THE FELICE BROTHERS

Hailing from the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York, The Felice Brothers blend folk, Americana, and revivalist roots rock into a uniquely earthy sound. Brothers Ian and James Felice grew up in the Hudson River Valley, several miles away from the musical hamlet of Woodstock. The Felice Brothers are of interest to anyone admiring the work of Townes Van Zandt, The Avett Brothers, or ‘60s folk-rockers like Bob Dylan and The Band.

### FIRST AID KIT

First Aid Kit’s first US-recorded album, “The Lion’s Roar,” juxtaposes sadness and beauty in the best traditions of folk and country music. They even cite the Louvin Brothers’ cheerfully brutal version of the old murder ballad ‘Knoxville Girl’ as the perfect example of the sweet and sour they adore. And this new carefully constructed collection deftly succeeds in setting references to their hometown of Stockholm and long, dark Scandinavian winters against a backdrop of country-rock swing.

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

In January 1972 a newly formed grassroots band named The Flatlanders (comprised of the nucleus of Joe Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore and Butch Hancock) travelled to Tommy Allsup’s Odessa, TX studio at the urging of a local radio DJ. The 14 songs recorded on reel-to-reel tape arguably marked the birth of alternative country music. In celebration of their 40th anniversary together, the esteemed founding fathers of Americana released a collection of these recordings as “The Odessa Tapes.”

### THE FOREST RANGERS WITH KATEY SAGAL

“If there was a house band playing at the Sons of Anarchy’s clubhouse every Friday night, the Forest Rangers would be the band,” says Bob Thiele. The Rangers - heard almost every week on the popular FX drama “Sons of Anarchy,” - wouldn’t be out of place hanging at the Teller-Morrow clubhouse in Charming, CA. And Thiele - who composes the show’s music and acts as leader of the Forest Rangers - could be considered the group’s equivalent of SAMCRO leader Clay Morrow himself.

### FREAKWATER

Freakwater invariably make records easily distinguishable from one another while maintaining their signature sound and their own uniquely skewed take on honky-tonk, bluegrass, or country-politan. Lyrically, they continue to write about heart-ache and sadness, yet also touch on subjects not often broached in traditional country music.

### G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE

The tradition of the hip-hop blues has always been to rip open the heart and bare the soul. Tell the listener what they want to hear and you’ll have a fair weather friend; tell them the way it is and you’ll have true love. Thankfully, the Love is Alive, for G. delivers his loping litl with bone humming honesty and he’s never sounded so clear.

### GOGOL BORDELLO

“I’ve come full circle and I’m comfortable being a total outsider,” says Gogol Bordello’s Eugene Hutz, explaining the philosophy behind the band’s new album, “Pura Vida Conspiracy.” Like everything they’ve ever done, this outing is an uncatagorizable blend of international influences, anchored by the gypsy rhythms Hutz grew up with in Ukraine. “Most people are looking for a box to put stuff in,” he says. “I try to avoid it. The message of this record is the quest for self-knowledge beyond borders and nationalities.”

### THE GO TO HELL MAN CLAN

Come help pay tribute to Warren Hellman along with the Go To Hell Man Clan featuring Hellman’s family & friends. The Go To Hell Man Clan takes its name from a sign saying “Go To Hell Man” spotted by Hellman at a protest against his ill-fated proposal to admit men to Mills College in Oakland, Calif., when he was a trustee of the women’s college.

### THE HANDSOME FAMILY

“Amid familiar fiddles and banjos, the Handsome Family’s absorbing vision of decay and entropy is quietly unsettling, and makes most other modern roots music seem like child’s play.” - Mother Jones

Brett and Rennie Sparks have been collaborating on music for over 20 years. With lyrics by Rennie and music by Brett, The Handsome Family infuse their singular art with everything from punk rock to folk, and have garnered extensive critical acclaim over the years.

### HOLLER DOWN THE HOLLOW: A HARDLY STRICTLY SALUTE TO THE MASTERS

An all star backing band, together with special guests Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, Vince Gill, Peter Rowan, Tim O’Brien, Darrell Scott, Jim Lauderdale, Jerry Douglas and more, continues in the tradition of 2012’s *Tribute to the Founding Fathers: Warren Hellman, Earl Scruggs and Doc Watson*, by paying tribute to many of the artists that inspired the creation of the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival and influenced a legion of today’s artists. It’s a celebration of where we’ve come from and where we’re going. It’s what “Hardly Strictly” is all about!

### JAKE BELLOWES

His debut full-length, “New Ocean,” offers a mix tape of different kinds of songs hanging out on one record - left turns into drunk-in-the-sun bossa nova, blue-eyed-soul ruptured by fuzz guitar, love songs that are not necessarily ballads despite their introspective gauziness.

### THE JERRY DOUGLAS BAND

“I’ve reached a point in my life where I’m not afraid to try anything,” states Jerry Douglas. “That’s what this record’s about.” That fearlessness is manifested in spades on “Traveler,” the artist’s 14th solo release and his first in three years. The 11-song album finds the world-renowned Dobro master - described as “the Muhammad Ali of the Dobro” by James Taylor and “my favorite musician” by John Fogerty - defying expectations and ignoring genre restrictions to deliver his most stylistically expansive, personally-charged effort to date.

### JESSE DEE

Boston’s Jesse Dee is a singing, songwriting, guitar-playing soul man - a modern day trailblazer inspired by the old school. Dee’s passion is exploring and updating soul music for contemporary audiences. With his warm and honest sound, his instantly memorable melodies and positive, slice-of-life lyrics, he accomplishes just that.

### JESSE DeNATALE

Singer Songwriter Jesse DeNatale is a fourth generation San Franciscan now living in Sonoma County. He has released two critically acclaimed albums, “Shangri-La West” and “Soul Parade.” Because of his way with words, as well as their marriage to simple, tuneful and mysteriously soulful melodies, his music has received praise from artists such as Ramblin’ Jack Elliott, Tom Waits, Michael Ondaatje and former US Poet Laureate Billy Collins. “DeNatale” rhymes with “Seen a trolley?” “He’s good. Really good.” - Nick Hornby

### JON LANGFORD & SKULL ORCHARD ACOUSTIC / FREAKONS

Jon Langford and Skull Orchard (currently relaxing betwixt albums - new one in the spring folks!) sublet a parcel of their HSB real estate to the FREAKONS in this unique split-set experience. An acoustical Langford will be joined by violinist Jean Cook, guitarist Jim Elkington and the lovely Californian newly-wed Tawny Newsome on vocals. After about 20 minutes a deathly bell will toll. The goats will run from their pens and the FREAKONS will invade the stage! What are FREAKONS?...

The Mekons and Freakwater have been long time friends and fellow travellers on the fringes of popular culture and in the tangled woods of lost Country. They decided to merge into the FREAKONS to explore their Kentucky/Welsh roots and raise awareness about the resurgent coal industry and the damage it will cause. FREAKONS include Sally Timms, Janet Beveridge Bean, Catherine Irwin, Steve Goulding, Dave Gay, Langford, Cook, Elkington and more... REMEMBER! The Freakons are much better than Meekwater.

### JOY KILLS SORROW

Joy Kills Sorrow has always had a knack for writing and performing intimate songs. Now the Boston-based string band is emphasizing their epic side, too, on their new EP, “Wide Awake.” The seven-song collection serves as a milepost in the blossoming career of a group the Los Angeles Daily News praised as “virtuoso art folkies who understand the value of being just folks.”

### JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE

For an artist whose list of influences runs the gamut from Randy Newman to Woody Guthrie, Chet Baker to the Replacements, and Phil Ochs to Bruce Springsteen, categories are useless. “Great songs are great songs,” Earle says. “If you listen to a lot of soul music, especially the Stax Records stuff, the chord progressions are just like country music. And just like country music, soul music began in the church, so it has its roots in the same place.”

### KAT EDMONSON

“Fresh as a spring bouquet” (The New York Times), Kat Edmonson seemingly came out of nowhere in 2009 to take the Austin, TX music scene by storm. The Texas native grew up in Houston with a mother who introduced her to the Great American Songbook. “I think she’s great. She’s got such an authentic, almost old-time jazz quality about her.” - Lyle Lovett

### KATE MCGARRIGLE TRIBUTE WITH MARTHA & SLOAN WAINWRIGHT & SPECIAL GUESTS

Martha & Sloan Wainwright have invited some of their friends & family to celebrate the music of Kate McGarrigle. Join them for some standards and surprises with special guests and festival regulars as they honor the songs & spirit of the late singer-songwriter.

### KEVIN WELCH, KIERAN KANE & FATS KAPLIN

These musicians long ago quit compromising, instead creating music that is austere, sincere, and honest. Welch, Kane & Kaplin isn’t meant for background listening; it’s made to be absorbed while reading the lyrics and concentrating on the passion, subtle talent, and earnest approach of an American collective that just keeps getting better.

### Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands

“It’s possible to be a strong female presence in the Bluegrass music world, but you have to be really strong. Laurie is one of the greatest Bluegrass artists, woman or man, because of her consistency over decades, the depth and width of her subject matter, her commitment to the Bluegrass form, and her technical command. Oh yes, and her strength. Laurie’s strength manifests in many ways: her commanding presence on stage combined with an emotional vulnerability, the truths in her lyrics, her physical voice which transcends gender, her strong commitment to causes and issues in which she deeply believes, which all resonate with a respect for the land, the natural world, and human mercy and justice.” - Darol Anger

### LOS LOBOS DISCONNECTED

“This is what happens when five guys create a magical sound, then stick together for 30 years to see how far it can take them,” wrote Rolling Stone about Los Lobos. More than three decades have passed since they released their debut album, “Just Another Band from East L.A.” Since then they’ve repeatedly disproven that title - Los Lobos isn’t “just another” anything, but rather a band that has consistently evolved artistically while never losing sight of their humble roots.

### LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III

“Mr. Wainwright has proved to be far and away the most candid diarist among the singer-songwriters who... brought confessional poetry into popular song... Mr. Wainwright wrings more human truth out of his contradiction than any other songwriter of his generation.” - New York Times

### LOW

Duluth, Minnesota’s Low presents striking vocal harmonies that represent perhaps the group’s most distinctive element. Critic Denise Sullivan writes that their shared vocals are “as chilling as anything Gram and Emmylou ever conspired on - though that’s not to say it’s country-tinged, just straight from the heart.”

### LP

LP is a gripping performer, a curly-headed force of nature who looks like a cross between a young Bob Dylan and Marc Bolan, albeit often wielding a ukulele. A rockin’ ukulele, in front of a dynamic, versatile band, that is. And her voice is instantly ear-catching, a natural instrument of power and grace.

### MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA

The son and grandson of southern ministers, Andy Hull formed Manchester Orchestra in 2004 at the age of 17 with his lifelong friends and used their music as a way to explore the issues that mattered most to him, issues of life, emotional vulnerability and the human condition. The narrative is a trip through a man’s brain, through his mistakes, regrets and realizations. And the lyrics, which take us firsthand through this life-changing experience, are poetic and raw, honest and passionate.