

# Banjo Players Directory

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*Emile "Pete" DeBlois*

The American Banjo Museum has just launched a new research project called the Banjo Players Directory. Both an interactive museum exhibit as well as an online research tool, the Banjo Players Directory – funded by a gift from Paul and Theresa Poirier in memory of Emile "Pete" DeBlois - is a project aimed at cataloging as many banjo players as possible, both past and present, of all skill levels and playing styles.

"You don't have to be Earl Scruggs or Béla Fleck to be listed in the directory," said Johnny Baier, executive director of the American Banjo Museum. "Any banjo player at any skill level should be part of the directory. We want everyone listed, from the big names to the unsung individuals across this country and around the world who keep the banjo alive through performances everywhere from clubs and churches to their front porch."

"Any person who plays the banjo can be submitted to be listed on the directory. It can be you, a banjo band or another player you may know or want remembered. You don't need to be famous, just a banjo player."

Submitting a name for inclusion in the Banjo Players Directory is easy. Names and the city of residence of banjo players – both living and deceased – may be submitted either at the museum or on the website for a free listing. Enhanced listings including photos, biographical information and video links



*Paul & Theresa Poirier*

are available for modest donations to the project. The directory can be accessed in person through a kiosk at the American Banjo Museum or online at [banjoplayersdirectory.com](http://banjoplayersdirectory.com).

There will be an official dedication for the exhibit on November 18th at the American Banjo Museum. But, the directory is already a hit with new submissions coming in every day from around the world. Don't miss your chance to become part of banjo history and have your musical story told by submitting a name to the Banjo Players Directory today!



9 East Sheridan Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
405-604-2793  
www.AmericanBanjoMuseum.com

## MISSION

The mission of the American Banjo Museum is to preserve and promote the music and heritage of America's instrument: the banjo.

## STAFF

Johnny Baier, Executive Director  
Margie Smith-Robbins, Assistant Administrator  
Dustin Pyeatt, Development & Outreach Manager  
Janet Raines, Sales & Marketing  
Sherril Mitchell, Reception  
Ellie Mowery, Administrative Assistant

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Bob Alexius, Austin, TX  
Jack Canine, North Ft. Myers, FL  
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Juston Givens, Oklahoma City, OK  
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Jack Murphy, Oklahoma City, OK  
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Paul Poirier, Seekonk, MA  
Danny Rubio, Kenner, LA  
Devin Tower, Ormond Beach, FL



## ONE MILESTONE AT A TIME

When I started at the museum in 2004 we were an institution by and for players and enthusiasts who were devoted to the four-string banjo. Although tenor and plectrum banjos from the Jazz Age of the 1920s *do* represent an extremely important period in banjo history, our mission of telling the entire story of the banjo's colorful evolution could never be accomplished by presenting that singular chapter. As such, it became my personal goal to enlighten our board and visitors to beauty and musical excitement which can be found in the variety of music created by all types of banjos. While the journey has been a long one, today's American Banjo Museum is on a firm course in fulfilling the direction stated within its simple mission statement. A milestone in this direction occurred in 2012 when the ABM undertook a large collection enhancement to better represent instruments and playing styles from before and since the Jazz Age. With that expansion,

in 2014 our Hall of Fame grew to embrace all styles of banjo playing, promotion, manufacturing and education, with Bluegrass icon Earl Scruggs being inducted as our first five-string performance honoree. From that auspicious starting point, our collections, programming and general direction illustrate our determination and sincerity in making our facility **THE** American Banjo Museum. Never was this objective more fulfilled than during our recent Hall of Fame weekend celebration. The musical diversity of the banjo was proudly on display as musicians and fans from the banjo worlds of bluegrass, jazz, folk, and pop all came together in Oklahoma City. From honorees J.D. Crowe, Pat Terry Jr., and the Deering family to performers Cynthia Sayer, Gary "Biscuit" Davis, Mark Johnson & Emory Lester, and Andy Eastwood, the Hall of Fame ceremonies and subsequent BANJO FEST concert took our museum and Oklahoma City one step closer to becoming recognized as the geographical center of the banjo universe. For the achievement of this milestone weekend, copious thanks goes to the tireless efforts of the ABM staff; the open-minded attitude of our board of directors - who recognize the importance of our mission and direction; and the hundreds of people who made a leap of faith in attending - and enjoying - such a fun and all-encompassing banjo weekend. While it will be a tough act to follow, save the dates of September 7-9, 2017 and plan to put your footprint on another milestone in the journey of the American Banjo Museum.

Thanks to our travel partner Adventure Road for supporting the American Banjo Museum with this billboard at I-35 N near mm 112



## “The Banjo World of Steve Martin” Exhibit Receives Oklahoma Museum Association Award



The American Banjo Museum’s exhibit, “The Banjo World of Steve Martin” will be among several Oklahoma museum exhibits honored by the Oklahoma Museum Association (OMA) during their annual conference on Sept. 21-23.

“The Banjo World of Steve Martin” received the OMA award for outstanding exhibit. The exhibit features three banjos belonging to Steve Martin, including the first banjo he ever owned. In addition to memorabilia and rare photos, “The Banjo World of Steve Martin” includes an exclusive interview where Martin discusses his love for America’s instrument, the banjo. Many of these items have never been seen before by the public.

“We’re honored to receive this recognition from the Oklahoma Museum Association,” said Johnny Baier, executive director, Oklahoma Banjo Museum. “Its been exciting for all of us to bring this once in a lifetime exhibit to Oklahoma City.”

The OMA awards program honors the excellence and quality of projects accomplished by

institutional members throughout the state. Also, the program recognizes individuals and groups whose contributions have impacted Oklahoma museums and the museum profession.

The Oklahoma Museums Association is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization founded in 1972. Programming offered by the Okla-

homa Museums Association is important as the primary source of information and professional development for Oklahoma’s 500 museums, historical societies, historic sites, zoos and botanical gardens, historic houses, living history museums, tribal cultural centers and other museum-related institutions.

## Give the Gift of Music

The holiday season is almost upon us and that means buying gifts, which means fighting crowds for harried trips to the mall and waiting in long lines at the register. But, what if the perfect gift was just a mouse click away? Well, let the American Banjo Museum make all your days merry and bright with the gift of music.

When you give to the American Banjo Museum you help support our education endeavors, our ability to acquire new instruments and memorabilia and our efforts to preserve the history of America’s instrument, the banjo.

It’s so easy, and there are many options to fit everyone on your list:

- Submit someone’s name to the Banjo Players Directory and mark their place in banjo history! Placing someone’s name on the Directory is free and additional information like photos, a biography and even a video can be done through a contribution to the museum. Just go to [banjoplayersdirectory.com](http://banjoplayersdirectory.com) for all the details.
- Membership in the American Banjo Museum is always a great gift idea. Whether it’s individual, couple, family or even a lifetime membership, each have great perks like unlimited admission benefits, access to the museum archives, early notification of special concerts and events and discounts at the museum store.
- And, speaking of the museum store, you can access our museum store online at [americanbanjomuseum.com](http://americanbanjomuseum.com). There you will find everything from CDs and DVDs to apparel for the banjo lover in your life!
- And finally, you can make a donation to the museum in honor or in memory of someone special in your life. This is a great way of recognizing someone and making them a part of the museum and its mission.

This holiday season, don’t let the stress of shopping crumble you like a gingerbread cookie, just bring your list to the American Banjo Museum and we’ll help you take care of it. And...don’t tell anyone, but we help Santa too!

## 2016 Hall of Fame Celebration

Though things are back to normal here, none of us will forget the great time we had during the 2016 American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame Celebration. For three solid days the museum was filled with people, laughter, fun and of course, some of the best live music you will ever hear.

Old acquaintances reconnected, new friendships were made and everyone left as part of the American Banjo Museum family. Whether it was down the street or across the Atlantic, we're so thankful to everyone who attended and supported this year's event. We're already making plans for next year's Hall of Fame Celebration September 7-9, 2017. Save the date, and watch for updates on the next crop of amazing musicians being inducted into the American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame.

To see additional pictures of this year's event, visit us online at [americanbanjomuseum.com](http://americanbanjomuseum.com).



*Pat Terry, Jr., Janet Deering, Jamie Deering, Greg Deering, J.D. Crowe, Georgina Hequembourg, Mark Greathouse, Gordon Greathouse, Lowell Greathouse and Ray and Alice Jaworski*



*Teresa VanWinkle, Marlyn Canine, Sandy Perrota, and Theresa Poirier*



*Phyllis Parsons, Mark Johnson, J.D. Crowe, Gary "Biscuit" Davis, and Gayle Tower*



*Tim Singleton, Lila Singleton, Amy and Gary Capshaw*



*Ray and Alice Jaworski and Jack Canine*



*Sandy Perrotta with son Jeff and Bill and Jean Ihnow*



*Andy Eastwood*



*Randy Morris and Paul Scavaroa*



*John Hickman and Johnny Baier*



*Byron Berline Band*

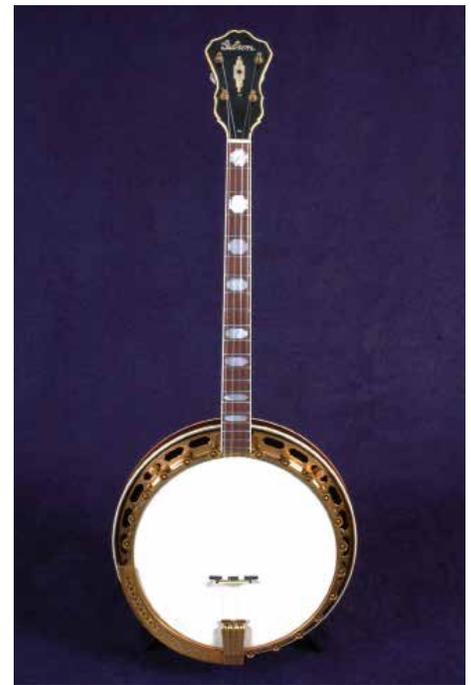


*Gary "Biscuit" Davis, Cynthia Sayer, and Mark Johnson*

## ABM makes major acquisition

The American Banjo Museum has acquired a new instrument to add to our already impressive collection, a 1940 Gibson Mastertone TB-18. As instruments of this caliber typically reside in private collections around the world, rarely - if ever to be seen by the general public, the board of the museum determined the acquisition of this particular instrument to be a very important move in the fulfillment of the museum's mission. As such, with donations from several board members and an advance from the museum's reserve funds, that

very special Gibson TB-18 banjo is now part of the collection of the American Banjo Museum.



## Better Know a Board Member



This is a series where we will introduce you to members of the American Banjo Museum's Board of Directors. In this column, we get to know Jack Murphy!

*Q: Easy question first, four-string or five-string?*

A: Four-string

*Q: How long have you played the banjo?*

A: 21 years

*Q: When did you decide to serve on the American Banjo Museum's Board of Directors?*

A: I was asked to serve on the board in 2008 and I've been doing it ever since.

*Q: You've donated a lot of your time and talent to the museum through*

*the years as a frequent volunteer. What keeps you coming in every week to help out?*

A: I enjoy meeting and talking to people from all over the world. I've been volunteering here since 1996.

*Q: Where do you see the museum going in the future?*

A: Expansion when additional space is procured. And having more speakers and professional players performing.

*Q: If you didn't play the banjo, what other instrument do you wish you knew how to play?*

A: The saxophone, trumpet or trombone.

*Q: You play with a group called the "Okie Dokies" that also boasts fellow ABM Board Member Lester Cowden, Jr. and Assistant Administrator, Margie Smith-Robbins among its members. How long have you played with this group?*

A: I've been playing with the Okie Dokies since 1994.

*Q: What's your "go to" song you like to play?*

A: Alabama Jubilee

*Q: Is there a banjo player that you look to for inspiration? Someone who influences your style?*

A: Our very own Johnny Baier!

*Q: What's your favorite exhibit in the museum?*

A: The old 1840's classics.

## ABM Membership

The American Banjo Museum wishes to recognize and thank new members and those that have renewed their membership the third quarter of 2016.

### Lifetime Membership

Flint Banjo Band

### Couple Membership

Johnny & Beth Carter

Ray & Alice Jaworski

Bill & Nancy Majors

Denny & Kathy Overstreet

George & Carol Peabody

Michael & Amy Rose

### Individual Membership

Robert Bicknaver

Ron Hinkle

Madeline Lombardi

Richard Velazquez

To become a member, gift a membership, or upgrade your current membership visit our website [americanbanjomuseum.com](http://americanbanjomuseum.com) or call 405-604-2793.



## Steelwind to perform at ABM

Steelwind is set to blow into the American Banjo Museum for a November 5th performance at 3 pm. Founding members Blake Parks and Michael Henneberry will be joined by Adam Davis on dobro, Jim Paul Blair on banjo, Joe Kahlden on mandolin and Kenny Parks on upright bass.

Pulling influences from Alison Krauss, Old Crow Medicine Show and Byron Berline, Steelwind is red dirt bluegrass at its finest.

The band began writing songs during the winter of 2009 and the result was their first album. Concert is free with paid admission.

## Grass Crack Mows Through Bluegrass



Grass Crack the Band brought their high-energy bluegrass music and picking skills down from Tulsa for an amazing show at the American Banjo Museum on August 20th.

Their mix of bluegrass, rock and an almost punk vibe made for an addictive blend that had everyone tapping their feet and wanting more.

"It was a great performance," said audience member Donna Jennings. "I'm so glad we came to see them. We really enjoyed it!"

Grass Crack the Band is just one of the many local and regional bands that have taken the stage at the American Banjo Museum this year. To see who's next, check out our website, [americanbanjomuseum.com](http://americanbanjomuseum.com) or like us on Facebook!

## Banjos around town...

Dust never settles on these banjos! The American Banjo Museum (ABM) is constantly out in the Oklahoma City community sharing our love for America's instrument!

Dustin Pyeatt, ABM outreach & development manager was invited to speak to the Midtown Oklahoma City Rotary Club about the museum. Pyeatt also participated in a joint workshop between the Oklahoma Museum Association and the Oklahoma City Arts Council.

Speaking of the Oklahoma City Arts Council, museum volunteer musician Bill Bond played at the Oklahoma Tower during the OKC Arts Council's "Art Moves."

The American Banjo Museum was also proud to help our friends at KFOR-TV by serving a backdrop for their segment "A Place to Call Home." This weekly segment features an interview with a child who is available for adoption through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. On any given day there are more than 2,000 awaiting adoption in Oklahoma.

And finally, the American Banjo Museum hosted the KOKH Fox 25 Morning Show for a live broadcast from the museum. Fox 25 host Malcom Tubbs received a banjo lesson from our Executive Director, Johnny Baier and even tried on a jacket once belonging to the King of the Banjos himself, Eddie Peabody. And, it wouldn't be complete without a live performance from Johnny Baier!



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# Upcoming Events

## October

**SATURDAY, OCT 8, 2 PM**

### **Performance/Tribute to Steve Martin**

Lucas Ross takes the stage at the American Banjo Museum and gives tribute to Steve Martin as he plays songs highlighting Steve's early career and touching on his comedy roots.

**SATURDAY, OCT 15, 2 PM**

### **Education**

For those that have never played the banjo and wanted to try, come "Learn to Pick A Tune with Lucas". Limited seating, **by reservation only!** Contact events @AmericanBanjoMuseum.com or call 405-604-2793.



American.Banjo.Museum

## November

**SATURDAY, NOV 5, 3 PM**

### **Performance / Steelwind**

An afternoon of Oklahoma grown Bluegrass as Steelwind with Jim Blair on banjo takes the stage at the American Banjo Museum. Performance included with paid museum admission. Free admission for museum members.

**SATURDAY, NOV 12, 3 PM**

### **Historical Presentation & Performance**

Learn the history behind a selected banjo maker in the museum's collection. Then hear American Banjo Museum's Executive Director, Johnny Baier play a historically significant instrument from that maker. Performance included with paid museum admission. Free admission for museum members.

**SATURDAY, NOV 19, 2 PM**

### **Education**

For those that have never played the banjo and wanted to try, come "Learn to Pick A Tune with Lucas". Limited seating, **by reservation only!** Contact events @AmericanBanjoMuseum.com or call 405-604-2793.

## December

**SUNDAY, DEC 11, 2 PM**

### **Christmas Performance**

Enjoy an afternoon of Christmas music and visit with Santa. Admission is FREE when you bring a new unwrapped toy to support the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC 28, 2 PM**

### **Education**

For those that have never played the banjo and wanted to try, come "Learn to Pick A Tune with Lucas". Limited seating, **by reservation only!** Contact events @AmericanBanjoMuseum.com or call 405-604-2793.