

## 2016 Hall of Fame Inductees Announced



J.D. Crowe  
Five-String  
Performance



Pat Terry, Jr.  
Four-String  
Performance



George Formby  
Historical



Deering Banjo Co.  
Design &  
Manufacture



Alfred Greathouse  
Instruction &  
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The American Banjo Museum in Oklahoma City is pleased to announce the 2016 inductees into the American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame.

The National Four-String Banjo Hall of Fame was established in 1998 to honor jazz age four-string banjo pioneers as well as the contemporary artists, educators, manufacturers and promoters who carried on the traditions of their predecessors. The American Banjo Museum was, in its infancy, an extension of that Hall of Fame. In the years preceding 2014, the Hall of Fame honored 71 individuals and entities in the four-string banjo world whose career accomplishments might have otherwise gone unrecognized. As the museum grew and evolved to embrace all types of banjos and playing styles, it became clear that the Hall of Fame should evolve as well. As such, in 2013, the ABM Board of Directors voted to establish an annual performance category to honor all styles of five-string banjo playing as well as opening the other previously four-string banjo exclusive non-performance categories to all types of banjos. With this move the American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame was established. Suggestions for nomination in the categories of

Four-String Performance, Five-String Performance, Historical, Education & Instruction, Design & Manufacture and Promotion may be made by any member of the ABM association. Based on these suggestions, nominations are made by the Board of Directors and are then forwarded to the voting body - which consists of the museum board, living members of the Hall of Fame and lifetime members of the ABM association. Like past recipients, Hall of Fame honorees for 2016 have each displayed a lifelong commitment to the banjo in one of five categories. The American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame inductees for 2016 are:

### J.D. CROWE - Five-String Performance-

A second generation Bluegrass pioneer, Kentucky's J.D. Crowe absorbed and interpolated the musical and cultural nuances of his predecessors such as Earl Scruggs to become the driving force behind the new voice of Bluegrass in the 1970s. Firmly rooted in Bluegrass traditions going back to his early days of performing with Jimmy Martin in the 1950s, Crowe went on to form the Kentucky Mountain Boys and, later, J.D. Crowe and the New South in the 1970s and - with the musical support of icons such as Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley,

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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

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## GROWING AND GOING GREEN...

It is with great pride that I am able to be part of the growth and recent activity at the American Banjo Museum. Our growing staff has done a remarkable job in creating new and exciting events (such as our inaugural Americana Fest) aimed at introducing the museum's important mission to Oklahoma City and the surrounding region. A new effort to establish an educational curriculum which will be a "spot on" match to the needs of local school systems has also been a priority project which is set to be offered for the 2016-17 school year. And, in the midst of it all, the museum has made major strides in going "green" with new, energy-efficient LED lighting in all galleries as well as enhanced energy efficiency in the building's HVAC systems.

The horizon holds equal promise as we put the finishing touches on our new website while preparing to roll out another new project in the Banjo Players Directory. Sponsored by a generous gift from Paul and Theresa Poirier (in memory of Emile "Pete" DeBlois), the Banjo Players Directory is a project aimed at cataloging banjo players of all playing styles and skill levels. The database may be viewed in person at the museum or on the internet ([www.banjoplayersdirectory.com](http://www.banjoplayersdirectory.com)). Although in its infancy, the Banjo

Players Directory represents another milestone in fulfillment of the museum's mission.

The weekend of September 8th through the 10th promises to again be the highlight of the ABM calendar as our 2016 Hall of Fame celebration takes place. From the opening night reception to the final notes of the Banjo Fest concert on Saturday night, the weekend will come alive with music, entertainment, parties and jamming. All of our Hall of Fame inductees – J.D. Crowe, Pat Terry, Jr., Deering Banjos, George Formby and Alfred Greathouse will be well represented (with Crowe, Terry and the Deering Family planning to be on hand in person to accept their honors). Musical performances throughout the weekend will highlight the musical diversity of the banjo with performances by the Byron Berline Band, Cynthia Sayer, Pat Terry, Jr., Mark Johnson & Emory Lester, Gary "Biscuit" Davis, England's Andy Eastwood and many others.

Hall of Fame weekend visitors will have a chance to view our blockbuster exhibit, The Banjo World of Steve Martin. Since opening in February, the exhibit has been responsible for a dramatic increase in attendance. By allowing us to tell his story, Steve Martin has helped to introduce the museum to thousands of visitors and new friends online. And the Wild and Crazy guy's reaction to this response??? "Absolutely Fantastic!"

This year's Hall of Fame weekend celebration will mark the American Banjo Museum's seventh year in our Bricktown location. While steeped in cliché, the statement "If you haven't seen the American Banjo Museum lately, you haven't seen it at all" couldn't be more true. Make your plans to join us in September for the Hall of Fame celebration and see for yourself!

## 2016 Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

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Tony Rice, Jerry Douglas and Doyle Lawson - went on to write his own chapter in Bluegrass history.

**PAT TERRY, JR. - Four-String Performance** - Carrying on the tradition of his father, Pat Terry, Jr. began his professional banjo career in the mid 1960s partnering with his dad as "Pat Terry and Son". The duo performed at Radio City Music Hall, Disneyland, Disney World, Sea World, Busch Gardens and Universal Studios. Pat Jr. was the editor and publisher of International Banjo magazine and hosted several large festivals (including the FIGA convention) in Orlando. He currently insures his family's proud banjo heritage through his nightly performance as part of the Hoop Dee Doo Revue at the Walt Disney World Resort.

**GEORGE FORMBY - Historical** - From his humble beginning carrying on the traditions of his father as music hall performer in Blackpool, England, George Formby elevated himself to the highest level of recognition and respect in the British entertainment industry. A celebrity equal in world-wide popularity to Bing Crosby during the years of WWII, Formby - sporting his banjo ukulele, toothy grin and delightfully witty songs, lifted the spirits of war torn England as no other entertainer had. His legacy lives on through the thousands of modern banjo, banjo ukulele and ukulele players who emulate the Formby style which introduced countless thousands to the banjo during his lifetime.

**DEERING BANJO COMPANY - Design & Manufacture** - Greg Deering learned woodworking

from his father and, at the age of 12, purchased his first banjo and learned to play the music of the Kingston Trio. Deering went on to make his first banjo as an industrial arts major at San Diego State College and, in 1970, joined other enterprising young college students at the American Dream Co-Op doing instrument repairs and building banjos. The American dream became the theme of Greg's life when he and Janet started the Deering Banjo Company in 1975. Today, over 40 years later, the Deering Banjo Company has seen many a milestone including the launch of the Goodtime Series in 1997. In its 40 years of existence, Deering has delivered hand-built American instruments to over 100,000 musicians... one banjo at a time.

**ALFRED GREATHOUSE - Instruction & Education** - Although current technology affords the availability of many education and instruction options for today's aspiring four-string banjoist, in the days prior to home video and the internet, the writing, printing and distribution of banjo instructional publications was a major undertaking. At a time when demand for such a publication was minimal, Alfred Greathouse researched, wrote and published a milestone plectrum banjo method entitled The Banjo Players Bible. By simply explaining and presenting proven concepts and techniques of the past, Greathouse compiled what banjo legend Perry Bechtel described as "the best plectrum banjo instruction book ever published."

J.D. Crowe, Pat Terry, Jr., George Formby, the Deering Banjo

Company, and Alfred Greathouse will be inducted into the American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame during gala ceremonies to be held on Friday, September 9th, 2016 in Oklahoma City. The following day, informal performances as well as a very special BANJO FEST evening concert will feature performances by Andy Eastwood, Cynthia Sayer, Mark Johnson & Emory Lester, Gary Davis, Pat Terry, Jr., Randy Morris and many others will take place at the ABM as well as the Hudiburg Chevrolet Performing Arts Center at Rose State College.

During their visit, Hall of Fame weekend guests will enjoy recent additions to ABM exhibits including a new blockbuster exhibit, The Banjo World of Steve Martin which features instruments from Martin's personal collection as well as entertaining video clips and an enlightening interview with the Wild and Crazy Guy himself.

All American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame weekend events are open to the public. For tickets and more info visit: [www.americanbanjomuseum.com](http://www.americanbanjomuseum.com) or call 405-604-2793.

**American Banjo Museum  
Members are encouraged  
to submit suggestions for  
the 2017 Hall of Fame.**

**Deadline is Sept. 1, 2016.**

**Suggestions for nominations  
should be mailed to:  
American Banjo Museum  
Attn: Johnny Baier  
9 E. Sheridan Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104**

# Special Event

## ABM Rings in Summer with Americana Fest



The smell of hotdogs, the sound of children laughing and the energy of live music filled the air during the inaugural Americana Fest event at the American Banjo Museum.

More than 200 people packed the American Banjo Museum during the June 18th event to hear bands on multiple stages. Local favorites Willow Way and Bread and Butter Band along with Memphis' own Side Street Steppers had everyone clapping, singing and dancing throughout the day.

"It was an honor to be part of the American Banjo Museum's inaugural Americana Fest," said Jennifer Maynard of the band Willow Way. "The museum is truly something special. It was a pleasure and we look forward to supporting future ABM events."



Outside the museum, families enjoyed hotdogs from Hot Dog OKC and snow cones from Kona Ice. There was a craft table where kids could decorate their own banjos and tambourines, made from paper plates and paint stirrers.

Our friends from the OKC Dodgers Baseball team brought one of their mascots, Brooklyn the Cow Dog, who mingled with guests and posed for photos. And, Rose State College's Innovation Station brought their giant Lego set along with great information on their new branch located in downtown Oklahoma City.

The kids also had their own performers. Lucas Ross from KAUT-TV and our own Bill Bond took turns playing and singing songs with the kids on the outdoor stage.

Everyone in attendance had a chance to win great prizes during a free drawing. Winning festival goers walked away with a night's stay at the Holiday Inn Express in Bricktown, gift certificates to the Bricktown Brewery, Bricktown Water Taxi passes, tickets to the Museum of Osteology, a yearlong family membership to the Oklahoma City Zoo, a gift certificate to the Painted Door in Bricktown, Exhibit C and, the grand prize, a brand new Deering Goodtime Banjo!

Americana Fest was made possible through the kind sponsorship of Fowler Auto Group, Downtown OKC, Inc., BancFirst, Bank of Oklahoma and KAUT-TV 43.

Visit our Facebook page, American Banjo.Museum, for additional photos.



## Banjos around town...



They say it's impossible to play a sad song on the banjo. We say, a banjo that's played in front of others is a happy banjo! That's why the American Banjo Museum (ABM) is out in the community bringing the music to the masses!

Dustin Pyeatt, ABM outreach & development manager and Bill Bond, museum volunteer musician, educated and entertained the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association's Oklahoma City Chapter about the museum and the banjo during their March meeting. Pyeatt told them about the museum and Bond gave them a history lesson on the banjo and played some old favorites for the group.

Our friend and Museum Volunteer Musician Lucas Ross had the honor of representing the American Banjo Museum as the first outdoor performer of the season during The Paseo Arts District's First Friday Art Walk in March. Ross played, posed for photos and talked with local art lovers about the museum.

The American Banjo Museum also helped support the local arts community during the Oklahoma City Arts Council's Festival of the Arts in Bicentennial Park. ABM staff served as chair people for the balloon sales tents for one day of the festival. Friends from the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau pitched in to help blow up balloons and bring smiles to kid's faces!

The museum also continued its partnership with the Oklahoma City Arts Council by participating in their outreach program, "Art Moves." Bill Bond played during the noon lunch hour at the Oklahoma City Downtown Metropolitan Library. And, Lucas Ross entertained

the lunch crowd at downtown's Leadership Square.

Dustin Pyeatt was invited to speak to the North Oklahoma City Rotary Club about the museum. And, Pyeatt was also invited to serve as moderator for a panel discussion on public relations for the New Young Nonprofit Professionals of OKC group. The panel consisted of both print and broadcast professionals as well as public relations professionals.

## ABM Membership

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

### Individual Membership

Doris Clark  
Frank Clark  
Barry J. Gainor  
Glady Zwick

### Couple Membership

James L. Bottorff & Alicia Valencia

To become a member, gift a membership, or upgrade your current membership call 405-604-2793.

## AmericanBanjoMuseum.com...Reloaded!

The American Banjo Museum invites everyone to explore its new website. This newly designed website offers a new, quick and easy navigation along with bold new graphics and photos.

The site, designed by PixelMongers LLC, Edmond, Oklahoma, with project oversight from Janet Raines, marketing and group sales manager, American Banjo Museum offers quick links to the museum's social media sites, along with upcoming events and a relaunched blog.

Visitors can also make donations or become a member of the museum.

"We've always worked hard to maintain a strong web presence and give everyone visiting our site a clean and concise web page," said Raines. "We believe this new site builds upon everything we did right with our last site while adding some exciting new elements."

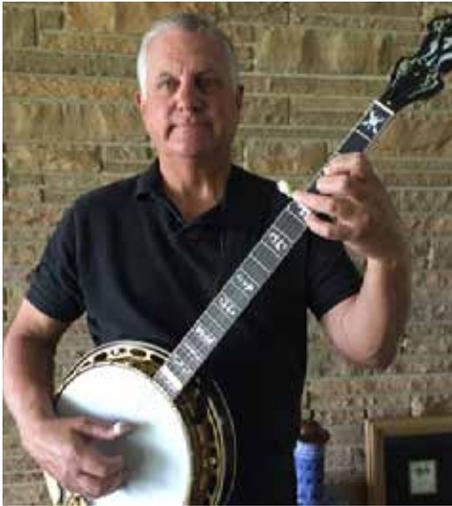
The new site allows visitors to donate or become a member directly through the site. There's

an online store where visitors can shop a virtual gift shop and they can access the entire American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame.

Added Raines, "It's a great place to visit often to find out what's going on at the museum and what's coming up next!"

If you want to know what's happening at the American Banjo Museum, bookmark our new site [americanbanjomuseum.com](http://americanbanjomuseum.com) and visit often for continuous updates!

## Better Know a Board Member



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

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

A: I love all banjo styles and types. I play the five-string banjo both three finger style and clawhammer (old time style). I do not view myself as a straight up Bluegrass style banjo player. I really enjoy playing around with fiddle tunes and more contemporary tunes. Also, I enjoy the aspect of getting to play with others. In addition to playing banjo, I collect Gibson Banjos. Some of the highlights of my collection are a 1927 Gibson Florentine, a 1941 Gibson TB-18, a 1937 Gibson PB-7, a 1930 Granada, a 1928 Gibson Granada "Special" (this is a one of a kind Granada made for a Gibson employee) there are others in my collection as well as Gibson Memorabilia from the 30's and 40's. My goal is to have all the primary prewar Gibson styles in close to mint condition...I am almost there.

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

A: Over all I have played and collected seriously for the last ten

years. I learned to play in college and played for 4 or 5 years back then. After that I laid it down for matters such as work and family, needed to make a living and had figured out I was not going to make it as a banjo player although it would have been fun to try. I really admire folks that are dedicated to playing music as a profession, it is not an easy commitment.

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

A: After meeting Johnny Baier on several occasions at banjo events, I think he figured out that I was not a normal Bluegrass style banjo lover (although there is nothing wrong with that), I am interested in all banjos. I feel I can bring a different angle to the Board as I am fairly heavily involved in the five-string scene. I travel to many top festivals each year all over the country and have been fortunate to get to know many of the top players.

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

A: The Museum is capable of going in a lot of different directions. We have plenty of opportunities in the five-string world that have never been explored. There is a lot of growth potential through teaching, community concerts, and further expanding the collection. Possibly having a major Banjo Summit in the future to bring all styles of playing together to learn more about the banjo. I understand we have extensive memorabilia that could be displayed. And someday I would love to see traveling exhibits or exchange of exhibits with other Museums that may have some commonality with us and our goals. I am certainly excited about the upcoming awards and the concert, think about seeing 3 or 4 different

style players in one location. Should be phenomenal.

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

A: I play some guitar and would like to get better at that. I think if I was looking for something different it would most likely be jazz guitar.

*Q: What's the one thing you want people to know about the American Banjo Museum?*

A: It is a world class facility with all types of banjos represented. If you love the banjo this museum will take your breath away because it is THAT GOOD. I cannot wait to hear comments from folks like Gary "Biscuit" Davis, Mark Johnson, the Deerings and others when they are in town for the awards ceremony.

*Q: What has been your favorite thing about serving on the ABM Board of Directors?*

A: My favorite thing about serving on the board is getting to know other folks from different styles of playing, and we all love the banjo, not just for the music but what it represents. It is truly an instrument with deep roots in American culture. The Museum is like walking into a Banjo Dream, everyone that has ever visited comes up to me and starts telling me what a great experience it was for them. Being on the Board also means I get to share my love for banjos in a more meaningful way with others around the country and the world. I have sent or given t-shirts to other musicians from all over the world and young up and coming players, they all want to represent their love of the banjo and love the idea of the American Banjo Museum. Everyone into the music of the banjo from all genres wants to come see the museum. It's fun to share all the enthusiasm for the banjo that the museum represents.

## July

**FRIDAY, JULY 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

## August

**SATURDAY, AUG. 13, 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, AUG 20, 3 PM**

### Performance

An afternoon of traditional bluegrass with a touch of rock as Grass Crack the Band take the stage at the American Banjo Museum. Performance included with paid museum admission. Free admission for museum members.

**SATURDAY, AUG. 27, 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!** call 405-604-2793.

## September

**THURS.-SAT., SEPT. 8-10**

### HALL OF FAME CELEBRATION

See page 8 for details.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 17, 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!** call 405-604-2793.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 24, 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.

## ABM Gets Wild & Crazy!

The American Banjo Museum got a little wild & crazy when a certain comedian and banjo player took the stage. That’s right...it was our friend Lucas Ross who performed his one-man show, “A Banjo Tribute to Steve Martin” on the afternoon of May 14th!

Ross played some of Steve Martin’s greatest hits to a packed house with standing room only. Ross also brought a sampling from his personal collection of Steve Martin memorabilia.

“It was great to talk about Steve Martin’s career and how banjo music has come full circle from his early stand-up to today,” said Ross. “Having produced multiple Grammy-winning bluegrass albums and now a Broadway play with the banjo heavily incorporated.”

Ross performed Steve Martin



standards like “Ramblin’ Guy,” “Banana Banjo” and, of course, “King Tut.”

“I’m so thankful to American Banjo Museum Executive Director Johnny Baier and everyone who works and volunteers at the museum for

the opportunity to help with the promotion of the Steve Martin exhibit,” said Ross. “I’ve been a fan of Steve Martin since childhood, so this was like my life’s dissertation I’d been preparing for. Johnny even announced it as, ‘A Banjo Salute to Steve Martin – a show a lifetime in the making!’”

The show not only entertained, but it brought people together as well.

“The audience was great and included two separate families with connections to Steve Martin,” said Ross. “One woman who had been in high school with him and another family whose mother worked with him in Disneyland. Neither family knew each other before the show, and just happened to visit the museum the day of the show.”

The show was such a hit, that Ross has been asked to do it again this fall. Watch our website and social media for details!



9 East Sheridan Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

# HALL OF FAME CELEBRATION

September 8-10, 2016 - Oklahoma City

**THURSDAY, September 8th, 6PM** - Welcome reception at the American Banjo Museum - Music by Byron Berline and others. Evening will include a special tribute to banjoist John Hickman. Tickets available at \$25 each.

**FRIDAY, September 9th, 6PM** - American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies at the spectacular top of Devon Tower, downtown OKC. Tickets available at \$50 each.

**SATURDAY, September 10th, NOON-5PM** - Informal performances at the American Banjo Museum including a special appearance by new Hall of Fame member, Pat Terry, Jr., accompanied by Randy Morris  
Performances included with museum admission / Members of the American Banjo Museum receive free admission

## SATURDAY, September 10th, 7PM



Hudiburg Chevrolet  
Performing Arts Theater,  
Rose State College, Midwest  
City, OK. Tickets available at  
\$35 Lower Orchestra / \$25  
Upper Orchestra & Balcony

**SATURDAY, September 10th, 10PM** - Post Concert Afterglow Party at the American Banjo Museum.  
Tickets available at \$20 each.

***For ticket information contact:***

events@AmericanBanjoMuseum.com or call 405-604-2793