

The Jim Bollman Collection

Inside . . .

The Jim Bollman Collection

From the Director

Take a look at what's been happening...

BANJO FEST 2019

Jack Canine:
Founder of the
American Banjo
Museum

Assume or Assure

ABM Membership

Upcoming Events



Jim Bollman doing a walk thru and talk about the items on display in "The Jim Bollman Exhibit" during BANJO FEST 2019.

The grand opening of *Reflections of the Past - The Jim Bollman Exhibit* was held during Banjo Fest weekend. This special exhibit features some unique and one of a kind banjos and banjo memorabilia from Jim Bollman's years of collecting. Bollman, from Boston, MA is an internationally known banjo collector who has amassed what Forbes Magazine called, "the most complete collection of 19th-century banjos and ephemera" in the country. From the rarest of minstrel-era instruments and toys to incredibly rare and valuable tintype photos. Bollman's collection of banjo journals alone is larger than what's held by the Library of Congress.

On exhibit is a Fairbanks Whyte-Laydie Deluxe, C.1902, # 20588, one of two known examples. It was Fairbanks' fanciest model (circa 1901-1902) and was decorated by Icilio Consalvi who is thought to be the best banjo inlay and engraving artist of all time. He was active in the banjo trade from the early 1890s till around 1906. Fairbanks listed the banjo in their catalog at \$275, a princely sum in the early years of the 20th century.

Along with banjos the exhibit contains: rare signs from Washburn, Fairbanks & Cole and S.S. Stewart; animated toys as the Foxy Grandpa Wind-up Toy from the early 1900's and a crank operated toy cabin scene with banjo player and dancers from the 1870s/1880s; as well as numerous photos, paintings, and posters.

Collecting, studying, curating, playing and saving the instruments and related materials from this era has been Bollman's supreme calling in life. The Jim Bollman Exhibit will be on display at the Museum through May 2020.





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

MISSION

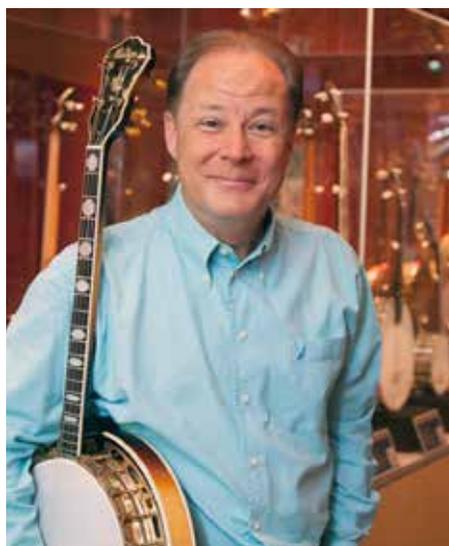
The mission of the American Banjo Museum is to preserve and promote the banjo while expanding appreciation and understanding of its history and music.

STAFF

Johnny Baier, Executive Director
Margie Smith-Robbins, Assistant Administrator
Janet Raines, Sales & Marketing
Sherril Mitchell, Reception
Ellie Burns, Administrative Assistant
Lucas Ross, Education & Promotion

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lester Cowden, Jr., Oklahoma City, OK
Juston Givens, Oklahoma City, OK
Jens Kruger, N. Wilkesboro, NC
Donald Lewis, Whitney, TX
Michael Mason, O'Fallon, MO
John Mumford, Centennial, CO
Jack Murphy, Oklahoma City, OK
Brian Newsom, Milford, MI
Doug Parsons, Waynesville, OH
Paul Poirier, Seekonk, MA
Danny Rubio, New Orleans, LA



ONE MAN'S VISION

In this newsletter you will read about our founder and benefactor, Mr. Jack Canine. While in reading his story you will be enlightened about his history and background in both business and music, what you won't see is him taking a modicum of credit for making possible the entity which has brought us all together – the American Banjo Museum. Although a man of great intellect and business acumen and success, Mr. Canine remains a very humble and gracious person who will gladly chat with you at length about your family, the weather or the state of the world. But, mention a banjo and watch his eyes light up. Simply put, Jack shares the same passion for the banjo which consumes us all... He loves the music; he loves the history; he loves the instruments themselves; and, above all, he loves the people in the banjo community who share his passion. While many individuals have been fortunate in being involved with the process of bringing Mr. Canine's vision of sharing the heritage and vibrant future of the banjo to life in a museum, none of what we have been able to accomplish could have happened without Jack Canine. Yes, without question his

support has put us in the enviable position of having a stable financial foundation upon which to grow the museum into the future. Yet this amazing support notwithstanding, it is his belief in the importance of our mission – and the people who carry it out - which is equally important. Because of one man's vision, our board and staff is able to fulfill a collective labor of love as we teach both banjo aficionados as well as those "yet to be bitten by the banjo bug" to embrace, understand and appreciate the banjo's colorful past and unlimited future. On behalf of the countless generations yet to come who will benefit from his belief and generosity in bringing the dream of the American Banjo Museum to fruition, it is my honor to offer a heartfelt THANK YOU to Mr. Jack Canine.

Johnny Baier
Executive Director

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Krewe de Banjo
Mardi Gras Party**
February 22, 2020

Americana Fest
June 27, 2020

BANJO FEST
September 10-12, 2020

**SAVE THE DATE
MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**



Take a look at what has been happening...



We had a great time at this years International Bluegrass Music Association gathering in Raleigh N.C. Our good friend Gary "Biscuit" Davis joined us and we met several new and returning friends who were able to play our Earl Scruggs 1960s Vega Banjo! Left: Gary "Biscuit" Davis and Matthew Davis (unrelated to Gary). Right: Sonny Osborne's Vega banjo played by Lincoln Hensley and Earl Scruggs' Vega banjo played by Brian Alley.



Left: The Museum debut of Lucas' latest all-ages music and comedy show: BANJOS IN SPACE! Kids (and their grown-ups) sang along, helped save him from little green puppet aliens and even made their own take-home banjos!



Right: The American Banjo Museum received two awards from the Oklahoma Museum Association in September. *The Jim Henson - Life and Legacy* for Exhibits and the *Pick a Tune with Lucas* program for Outreach and Education.



The Museum's October Brown Bag-it with Banjos was sponsored by Chesapeake Energy Arena in a cross promotion of the Museum and the *Mumford and Sons* performance on October 11 at the Chesapeake Energy Arena. Attendees were invited to bring their lunch, enjoy a free performance by Johnny Baier, and register to win tickets to the *Mumford and Sons* concert. Special banjo cookies and *Mumford and Sons* koozies were provided by Chesapeake Energy Arena. Guests were also encouraged to find the *Mumford and Sons* "Gentlemen of the Road" banjo and post a photo on social media with hashtag for a chance to win tickets to the show.

BANJO FEST 2019



Grand Finale at BANJO FEST Concert with four and five-string players coming together to perform.

BANJO FEST 2019, a three day event September 5, 6, and 7, 2019 was filled with concerts, informal performances, parties, jams and the American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

BANJO FEST events began with a welcome reception on Thursday, September 5th with attendees enjoying a barbecue meal, the exhibit opening of *Reflections of Our Past - The Jim Bollman Collection* and live music by Debbie Schreyer & Tom Owens, Gary "Biscuit" Davis and Rosie O'Grady's Jazz Band with Bill Allred, Lee Floyd, Randy Morris, and Danny Rubio. Don Dempsey, Joe Feager and Devin Tower were honored by receiving American Banjo Museum Awards of Excellence.



Alison Brown signing DVDs after the BANJO FEST Concert. Photo Credit: Americana Media Gig Spot

Friday afternoon Bob Carlin performed at the Museum with *Memories of John Hartford* followed with Jim Bollman talking about his collection as he did a walking tour of *The Bollman Collection*.

The *American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame* ceremonies took place Friday, September 6th at the top of Devon Tower. This formal event was open to the public and included a reception, dinner and the *Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony*. The 2019 inductees were: Alison Brown, Five-String Performance; Jimmy Mazzy, Four-String Performance; John Hartford, Historical; Bob Snow & Rosie O'Grady's, Promotion; Janet Davis, Instruction and Education and Johnny Baier, Four-String Performance.



Johnny Baier, HOF Inductee & ABM Executive Director performing at BANJO FEST Concert. Photo Credit: Americana Media Gig Spot

Along with the Hall of Fame inductions, the annual Jack Canine Award was presented to Margie Smith-Robbins for her years of dedicated work at the Museum.

Saturday afternoon museum guests enjoyed performances by: The Rosie O'Grady's Jazz Band; IBMA Banjo Player of the Year, Ned Luberecki; Debbie Schreyer and Tom Owens; Four-Time National Banjo Champion, Gary "Biscuit" Davis; and Jimmy Mazzy.

The performance crown jewel of the weekend took place on Saturday evening, September 7th when the fourth annual BANJO FEST concert took the stage at the Performing Arts Theater at the Oklahoma City Community College. Starring Grammy award winning banjo virtuoso, Alison Brown and her Quintet; Grand Ole Opry stars, The Grascals (featuring 2018 Steve Martin Prize winner, Kristin Scott Benson); and jazz banjo virtuosos Buddy Wachter and Johnny Baier – Side By Side. Following the concert, the BANJO FEST weekend was capped off with a post-concert afterglow party at the Museum.



Kristen Scott Benson with The Grascals performing at the BANJO FEST Concert. Photo Credit: Americana Media Gig Spot

The American Banjo Museum would like to thank the following sponsors for their gracious support of this year's BANJO FEST: Paul & Theresa Poirier; Gayle & Devin Tower; Lester & LeeAnn Cowden; The Singleton Family; Phillips Murrah P.C.; News 4; BancFirst; PBS Services; Graftec Communications; and the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau.



Margie Smith-Robbins was the recipient of the Jack Canine Award for 2019.



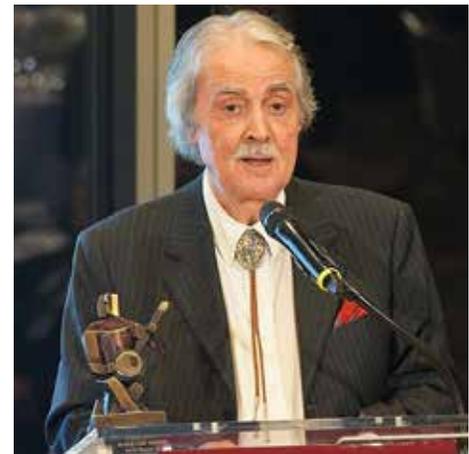
Katie and Eric Hoage attended the HOF awards ceremony to accept the HOF award for Katie's dad John Hartford.



Jimmy Mazzy HOF award winner performing after he accepted his award for Four-String Performance.



Janet Davis accepting her HOF award for Instruction & Education.



Bob Snow - founder of Rosie O'Grady's - accepting HOF award for Promotion. Photo Credit: Americana Media Gig Spot

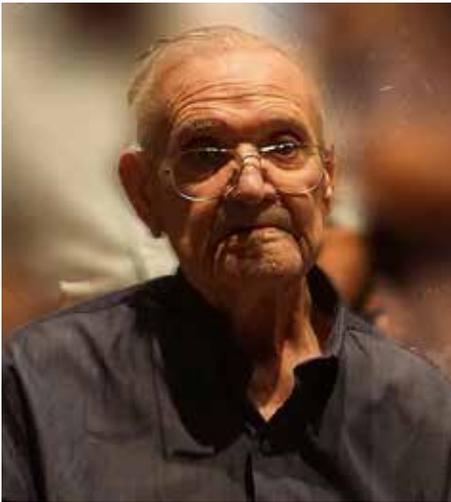


BANJO FEST attendees enjoying the Bollman Exhibit during the Banjo Fest Welcome Reception.



American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame Induction Dinner prior to awards presentation.

Jack Canine: Founder of the American Banjo Museum



Jack Canine Founder of the American Banjo Museum. Photo Credit: Americana Media Gig Spot

We sat down with Jack Canine during 2019's Banjo Fest weekend and asked a few questions about his work, his collection and his passion for the banjo!

Q: When did you first take interest in the banjo?

A: I was 18. It was right after high school. I heard a tuba and a banjo being played together. I thought that was the greatest thing I ever heard. So I went and bought a banjo and played for years.

Q: How did you begin performing?

A: In Indiana having a 'hog roast' is a big thing. They roast a whole pig, everyone would come out and it was a big party. There would be sing-alongs at these get-togethers. Well they had one and I took my banjo and played. They had a sing-along and it was very successful. I can't tell you how many requests I had. After that I kept playing, not to seriously, but over time I started playing with the Shrine Banjo Band there in Indianapolis. I did that for over 20 more years.

Q: Did you go into professional banjo performance?

A: Oh, no. But it was always a side interest. My business was manufacturing valves, fixtures, and fittings for liquids. We made our valves out of a non-corroding plastic and over thirty years we had products being used across the country, one pipefitting after another. The business was very good to me, and banjo was my sideline interest. Interesting thing about business, as we started making couplings in my business, we needed a name so we started a study of names. We had pages of names and I came across names of instruments. When we got to banjo I thought, "We could have 'banjo washer,' or 'banjo coupling...'" So, we named it 'Banjo Corporation.' We found the name 'banjo' is an easy name to remember and has quick recognition. It has been very good to us, just the simple name: banjo. You go across the country you'll see the name 'Banjo,' up and down the states.

Q: Did people ever think you were in the instrument business?

A: Oh, we had a lot of salesman stop by when they saw the 'banjo' name on the building and ask, 'Uh, you make banjos in here?'

Q: Over the years when you played, did you have a favorite song?

A: My favorite song to play was 'Just Because.' I loved playing that.

Q: When did you become a collector of the instrument?

A: My first banjo was a 'no-name.' I played it a lot but eventually broke the neck. My first collectible banjo was an Epiphone Dansant. It was a nice-looking banjo, sparked my interest. I didn't know much

about it, but I remember not liking how heavy it was! It's here at the museum.

Q: Do you still play today?

A: No, three years ago, I took the banjo out of the case, and hung it on the wall. Two years ago, I took my ukulele out and hung it on the wall, too. But last year for a family birthday for a one-year-old, I took the ukulele off the wall to play "Happy Birthday" for the party. It took me a bit, but I remembered how to play it!

Q: How did your collection end up here in Oklahoma City?

A: Well after my wife passed away in 1996, I was sitting in my house around all my banjos. I said to myself, 'The banjos in my house are worth more than my house!' I heard about Guthrie, Oklahoma and thought it would be a great place to start a museum. I think I brought down about 75 or 80 banjos. Years later when we looked at expanding, we considered Orlando, Memphis, and others, but Oklahoma, we found, had everything the others had- and more! Lester Cowden had found this old candy factory building that had been turned into a Chinese restaurant. It was perfect. I had done a lot of research on museums and the preservation process. I had seen where some museum's failed and lost pieces of history that can never be replaced so I was very careful about where these instruments would end up. Johnny and the staff here do it right. My collection is on permanent display and I know it will be taken care of.

Q: What do you think of the current state of the museum?

Jack Canine Continued

A: Oh, we've had so much success in the recent years. Where it's going, it's phenomenal! That room last night during the Hall of Fame awards was totally filled up, it was electric. The museum has exceeded my expectations, visions and wishes. It has succeeded everything I could have hoped for.

Q: *Out of all the instruments you collected- is one your favorite?*

A: I think I have put maybe over 100 banjos into the museum collection but there is one banjo that stands out: the Hummingbird Banjo. I had that one made particularly for my wife. It's my favorite.

Assume or Assure

Do you **assume** that the American Banjo Museum will always continue to operate and grow to fulfill its mission of preserving, promoting and presenting the banjo?

I think we all assume that the Museum will continue on some level. We all assume that our contribution will help in that effort. But, are we **sure** it can sustain the ABM? Or, do we just assume. Can we afford to assume the ABM can act at a high level and fulfill its mission? Can we risk the assumption the ABM can continue to grow and, do we dare assume the ABM can expand to include more banjos and ephemera to our archives and collection? We all **Assume**, but shouldn't we **Assure**?

If we flip from **assuming** the ABM's future is secure to **assuring** the ABM's future is secure, the dynamics change considerably. Assuming the ABM's future requires little. Assuring the ABM's future requires deeper thought and stronger commitments. Are you ready to assure that the ABM will fulfill its mission into the future and beyond?

The American Banjo Museum is here today because Jack Canine made the commitment to assure we could be off to a good start. He committed his time, his collection and his money to get the ABM up and going. Do we dare assume the Museum will continue on without people willing to stand up and assure the Museum's future?

Assuring the ABM's future requires us, as lovers and players of the banjo, to commit more of our time, talent and treasure. This means stepping up to help out with Museum projects, BANJO FEST, Hall of Fame, Americana Fest, concerts and events at the Museum. By that I mean attending museum events, buying tickets, offering your talents to entertain audiences, and, most importantly, providing the financial support that allows all of these things to happen. Assuring means making a larger commitment, giving as much as you can. We need you to help assure a bright productive future for the ABM.

Theresa and I have made this commitment to the ABM. We want to assure the future of the ABM and its mission. We have committed to do our part in as big a way as we can. Yes it hurts a little, but like they say, no pain, no gain! We have recently completed a multi year significant cash gift commitment. We have also committed our time, as a board member and volunteer. And finally, we have included the ABM in our estate planning.

I sincerely hope, as you read this that you will join Theresa and I in helping to assure the future success of our American Banjo Museum. It can only happen if we all take steps to **assure** the future of the ABM.

Paul Poirier, ABM Board of Directors



In Memory of
Dr. Robert Alexius
1934-2019
our friend, supporter, and
American Banjo Museum
Board Member

ABM Membership

The American Banjo Museum wishes to recognize and thank new members and those that have renewed their membership the third quarter of 2019.

Individual Membership

Joshua Adkisson
Laurence Grundy
Nancy Mielke
Jay Ramer
Brian P. Spini
Randall Wiley
Glady Zwink

Couple Membership

Ellie & Roger Burns

Family Membership

Earl Folk

Lifetime Membership

Thomas Garren

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



9 East Sheridan Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73104



SAVE THE DATE . . . September 10-12, 2020

Upcoming Events...

October

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2 PM
Pick-A-Tune with Lucas Ross

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!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1 PM
Celtic Open Jam

Join other players for an Open Celtic Jam Session. Free admission when you bring an instrument and participate.

November

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1 PM
Four-String Open Jam

Join other Four-String players for an Open Jam Session. Free admission when you bring an instrument and participate.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 12 PM
Brown Bag-it with Banjos

Bring your sack lunch and enjoy a live performance during your lunch hour.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2 PM
Pick-A-Tune with Lucas Ross

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!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1 PM
Performance

Wayne Cantwell will perform traditional music of the open prairie on banjo, fiddle, and mountain dulcimer. Performance is free with museum admission.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1 PM
Celtic Open Jam

Join other players for an Open Celtic Jam Session. Free admission when you bring an instrument and participate.

December

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 12 PM
Brown Bag-it with Banjos

Bring your sack lunch and enjoy a live performance during your lunch hour.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1 PM
Candy Cane Christmas Concert

An afternoon of holiday music, candy canes, Santa, and lots of fun! Join in and sing along as Johnny Baier, Executive Director of the American Banjo Museum performs holiday favorites! Plus, a visit from the North Pole as Santa Claus visits. Admission is FREE when you bring a new unwrapped toy to support the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2 PM
Pick-A-Tune with Lucas Ross

For those that have never played the banjo and wanted to try, come "Learn to Pick

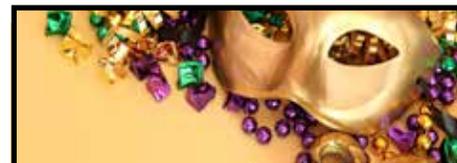
a Tune with Lucas". Limited seating, by reservation only!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1 PM
Bluegrass Open Jam

Join other Bluegrass players for an Open Jam Session. Free admission when you bring an instrument and participate.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1 PM
Celtic Open Jam

Join other players for an Open Celtic Jam Session. Free admission when you bring an instrument and participate.



Krewe de Banjo
at the
**American Banjo Museum's
Mardi Gras Party
Saturday, February 22
6-9 pm**

**MUSIC • FOOD
CASH BAR**

**Call 405-604-2793 to
purchase tickets**