

2019 Hall of Fame Inductees Announced



Alison Brown
*Five-String
Performance*



Jimmy Mazzy
*Four-String
Performance*



John Hartford
Historical



Bob Snow / Rosie
O'Grady's
Promotion



Janet Davis
*Instruction &
Education*

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Each year since 1998 has afforded the American Banjo Museum the opportunity to honor the best of the best in our banjo world with induction into the *American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame*. Originally established as *The National Four-String Banjo Hall of Fame*, early honorees were 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 museum itself was, in its infancy, an extension of the *Hall of Fame*. In the years preceding 2014, more than 70 individuals and entities in the four-string banjo world whose career accomplishments might have otherwise gone unrecognized were recognized by the *Hall of Fame*. As time passed and the museum grew 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 at any time 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 consisting 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 2019 have each displayed a lifelong commitment to the banjo in one of five categories. The *American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame* inductees for 2019 are:

ALISON BROWN - Five-String Performance - Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Brown began playing banjo at the age of ten. After winning the *Canadian National Banjo Championship* and appearing at the Grand Ole Opry, she attended Harvard University and, in 1987, was asked to join *Union Station*. Brown spent three years with



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MISSION

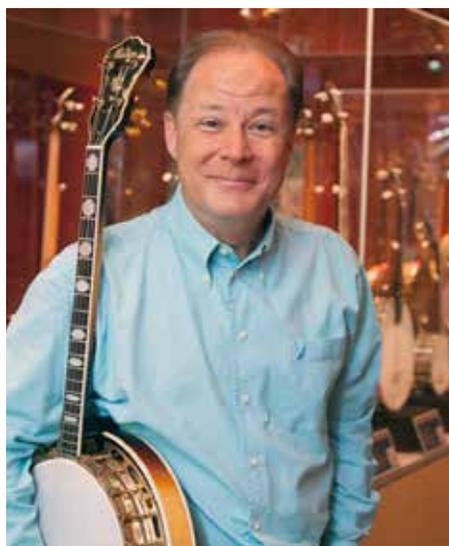
The mission of the American Banjo Museum is to preserve and promote the banjo while expanding appreciation and understanding of its history and music.

STAFF

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

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Danny Rubio, New Orleans, LA



ARE MUSEUMS NECESSARY?

As we prepared to open the American Banjo Museum's new facility in Oklahoma City in 2009, we contacted a number of living banjo icons, inviting them to attend our grand opening. Among them was Pete Seeger who commented, "Does the world need a banjo museum?" Paraphrase that comment to read, "Does the world need museums?" and you will better understand the ongoing challenge that museums in general – and specialty museums in particular – face in justifying their very existence. Critics complain that museums are often irrelevant, costly, boring, out of date facilities which they have been, via social pressure, forced to attend and would rather be doing anything else. They comment that most museums display artifacts which are of little general interest and the contextual history of those objects is lost amidst exhibits which would be better served by online virtual museums. To these critics I respectfully respond, "**Visit the American Banjo Museum.**" While the banjo is, alas, an instrument of specialized interest, its history and

music – as well as the instruments and objects related to them – are portals to a past which is common to us all. Our instruments – as impossible to fully appreciate in a digital form as would be any other work of visual art – excite the senses of both sight and sound and, while inanimate in their cases, come to life when played, providing a life fulfilling energy to museum visitors in the process. Our varied collections tell of history in multiple layers...while a certain banjo may play the music of a particular era, supporting text and images put that instrument and its music into historical context, encouraging reflection upon the sociological trends which have shaped the banjo's long and colorful evolution. In addition to museum exhibits themselves, our Learning Lounge is a singularly unique resource allowing both the tactile experience of holding and playing different types of banjos as well as the opportunity to peruse the museum collections and library. While we take the fulfillment of our mission very seriously, an American Banjo Museum visitor experience is – by the banjo's generally joyful nature – one of light hearted, yet passionate, education and enlightenment. Granted, many museum visitors have no idea what to expect when they walk through our doors, it is an almost universal response that they leave with a newfound understanding and appreciation of both the banjo as a musical instrument as well as the history which has shaped its identity as *America's Instrument*. So, Mr. Seeger, to posthumously answer your question, "Yes!"

Johnny Baier
Executive Director

Hall of Fame

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Union Station and was named the *International Bluegrass Music Association* "Banjo Player of the Year" in 1991. The 1990 album *I've Got That Old Feeling*, which Brown played banjo on, won a Grammy and saw her gravitating toward a blend of bluegrass with jazz and folk idioms in a manner similar to those of Béla Fleck and David Grisman. In addition to performing, Brown is a co-founder of Compass records and has cultivated an impressive repertoire as a record producer.

JIMMY MAZZY - Four-String Performance - Mazzy is one of America's best known traditional jazz banjoists and vocalists and has been a popular attraction in the traditional jazz circuit since the 1970s. Mazzy has performed extensively in the United States and worldwide, regularly appearing at jazz festivals including the Sacramento, San Diego, Essex, and several Connecticut festivals. Mazzy is a member of The Paramount Jazz Band as well as the Wolverine Jazz band and also freelances with other groups including the Yankee Rhythm Kings, the Magnolia Jazz Five, and the Back Bay Ramblers.

JOHN HARTFORD - Historical - An internationally known multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter and entertainer, John Hartford became the face of the banjo to a new generation during the 1960s. After penning the megahit *Gentle On My Mind*, Hartford was a regular guest on the *Glenn Campbell Goodtime Hour* as well as the *Smothers Brothers*

Comedy Hour, all of which gave him the financial independence to pursue his passions of music and riverboating. Always musically adventurous, Hartford was a co-founder of the *Newgrass* movement the late 1960's while remaining passionate and faithful to his roots in tradition music. With many songs left unsung, Hartford passed away in 2001 at the age of 63.

BOB SNOW / ROSIE O'GRADY'S - Promotion - In 1972 a former Navy pilot and Dixieland jazz trumpet player named Bob Snow opened a jazz club called *Rosie O'Grady's* in a derelict area of downtown Pensacola, Florida and established a prototype for urban entertainment complexes around the country. Snow's own version of the concept known as *Church Street Station* in Orlando, Florida opened in 1974 with Rosie O'Grady's Goodtime Jazz Band setting the tempo for years to come. With the banjo being prominently featured in tens of thousands of shows at Rosie O'Grady's as well as in the company's advertising, promotion and imagery, literally millions of people enjoyed the music and good-time entertainment associated with the banjo because of Bob Snow's visionary efforts.

JANET DAVIS - Instruction & Education - Although most associated with the retail music business which bore her name, it is in her role as a musical educator which Janet Davis has made her most lasting contributions to the banjo world. As part of the tiny music instrument and accessory business which she began with her husband, Jim, in 1978, Davis began selling self-produced instructional publications as well.

Since then, after establishing herself as a respected clinician and author, appearing at hundreds of musical events around the country as well as regularly contributing to the *Banjo Newsletter*, Davis has evolved into one of the world's most prolific authors of banjo instructional publications, with over 100 titles published by *Mel Bay Publication* alone.

Alison Brown, Jimmy Mazzy, John Hartford, Bob Snow and Janet Davis will be inducted into the *American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame* during gala ceremonies to be held on Friday, September 6th, 2019 in Oklahoma City as part of the American Banjo Museum's BANJO FEST weekend. In addition to the Hall of Fame gala, BANJO FEST will include informal performances, jamming, parties and a very special BANJO FEST concert. With details of this fun-filled weekend still in the works, save the dates of September 5-7, 2019 for BANJO FEST 2019 in Oklahoma City.

2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Krewe de Banjo
Mardi Gras Party**
March 2, 2019

**Alan Munde / Tim May
Concert**
April 19, 2019

Americana Fest
June 22, 2019

BANJO FEST
September 5-7, 2019

**SAVE THE DATE
MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

Annual Candy Cane Christmas Concert

December 9th marked the third annual Candy Cane Christmas Concert at the American Banjo Museum. It's only fit that the Christmas event be deemed "Candy Cane" as the historical building where the American Banjo Museum is was once home to the Bunte Candy Company.

The Christmas Concert is a community event that benefits the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner which provides toys and meals to over 5,000 in Oklahoma City. During the day free admission was given to those that brought an unwrapped toy to donate to the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner.

The afternoon began with the Okie Dokies performing holiday melodies prior to Johnny Baier, ABM Executive Director playing Christmas favorites as attendees sang along. The afternoon ended with Santa Claus wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and getting each child's Christmas list.



What visitors are saying...

Facebook Comments

Noah Howard - I was very impressed with the American Banjo Museum! The staff are very friendly and eager to share their knowledge. Whether you are a banjo novice or an enthusiast, you will have an enjoyable experience!

Sue Jansons-Glover - This place is awesome! The banjos are super cool and the staff is the best! I highly recommend going here!

Jennifer Williamson Lehner - I really love this museum! It was a lot

of fun to learn about the history of the banjo in American music and to see how it has developed over the years. I enjoyed hearing live music on the day I visited and chatting with the performers. I play the ukulele, so I also loved the banjolele exhibit. I also participated in one of their "Learn to Pick a Tune with Lucas" sessions where I learned the basics of playing a banjo. I had a terrific time, and will definitely return to see new exhibits and live performances at the museum in the future!

Jan Mareska - The place is really fascinating! I loved the Jim Henson exhibit but the interactive banjo lab was my favorite. What a cool place!



Tom & Suellen Moore, of Perrysburg Ohio, just completed visiting ALL 50 STATES and ended here at the American Banjo Museum!! Thanks for making the trip! We think you saved the best for last!!

ABM Community Outreach and Promotion Coordinator



Lucas Ross

Joining the American Banjo Museum staff is a familiar face, at least around Oklahoma City. Lucas Ross has over the past decade become a staple in Oklahoma media, from local car commercials to his comedic appearances co-hosting *Rise and Shine* (an NBC affiliate's morning show.) Throughout this time Lucas started doing stories on the American Banjo Museum for both KFOR and the Oklahoma Tourism's *Discover Oklahoma* television show.

After his wife, Aubrie, got him front row seats to see Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers in 2009, Lucas acquired a banjo and started picking. Over time he became acquainted with the American Banjo Museum and became its "local-ambassador." This led to the Museum's *Pick-a-Tune with Lucas* classes which have been offered at no charge for more than three years. From commercial promotions to social media appearances to playing at the Museum's *Americana Fest* and emceeding the annual BANJO FEST concert, Lucas infused himself into the Museum. Now

it's official, as of November 1st, Lucas joined the ABM staff as the Community Outreach and Promotion Coordinator. Not only will Lucas continue his *Pick A Tune* sessions, he will be developing an education program for schools and the library systems as well. Lucas has worked with the library system the past two years, touring with his one-man comedy/puppet show *Banjo Farm* to all Oklahoma Metro Libraries -- twenty libraries in two weeks! He hopes to expand this style of show for the museum adding to his style and passion for the banjo with an educational history of the instrument.

Ross is a native Oklahoman from Minco, 'the land of milk and honey' where his parents were once Oklahoma's largest honey farmers and he earned the moniker "Son-of-a-Beekeeper." He graduated from Oklahoma Christian University studying Corporate Media with an emphasis on TV/Radio/Film and continued studies in a Los Angeles Film Studies Center where he worked at Carsey-Werner's *That 70s Show*.

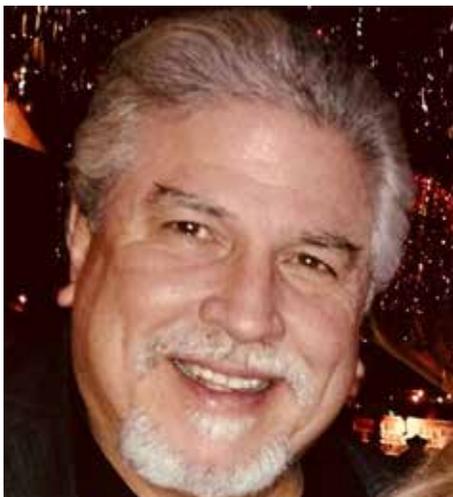
After college Lucas appeared in local Oklahoma television commercials that eventually led to his regular place on KFOR's news - for which he has won four local and one national EMMY awards. Lucas recently became a Deering Banjo artist and can be seen playing a Goodtime banjo in a commercial for *Smack* as well as for a sketch that aired recently on *National Geographic*. "I'm thrilled and so grateful for all the opportunities the American Banjo Museum has given me," Lucas said. "The board has always been encouraging and supportive of my involvement and I'm beyond excited and thankful to be a part in telling the story of the banjo for generations to come."

Lucas has been married to his wife, Aubrie, for 12 years. They have two sons: Henson (9) and Simon (7). Aubrie is the director of the non-profit Heartbeat for Hope which rescues and empowers destitute and abandoned children from Ghana, Africa. Lucas and Aubrie have visited Ghana multiple times, even offering music workshops (with Lucas teaching banjo!) Their sons also play banjo and ukulele.



Participants in the November 2018 Pick-a-Tune with Lucas class.

Better know a board member



Danny Rubio

Q: Our first question is normally whether you play four-string or five-string, but you play the tuba as well as other instruments. What instruments do you play?

A: I play tuba and piano.

Q: I understand jazz is your passion. When did you become interested in jazz music and performing with jazz bands.

A: I can remember my parents first taking me to Preservation Hall when I was about eight years old. I would sit on the floor right at the feet of the musicians. I can remember feeling like the sound of the music was a physical thing – an actual wave pouring over me. In that moment it was all consuming. At that time I don't believe I had the conscious thought that I wanted to be a musician but I have no doubt that these performances, by live musicians who were masters of their art, were a powerful influence on me. As a young teenager I became best friends with Barry Foulon who played clarinet in his school band. But Barry's father was a banjo player and Barry began to play his dad's banjo. My first "paying gig" was with Barry at

the Red Garter on Bourbon Street when I was sixteen years old. It was a one week engagement for the week between Christmas and New Year's and how we convinced them to hire us I still don't know. But after that I knew that playing music was all I wanted to do.

Q: Would you tell us a little about your time working in New York City on Broadway?

A: At eighteen years old I moved to New York City to attend a Music conservatory. Within a year I was playing tuba at *Your Father's Mustache* in Greenwich Village and had met the veteran Broadway Music Director Buster Davis who was working on a new Broadway Musical called DR JAZZ. He hired me to do music research for that show and I was also the rehearsal pianist. I worked for Buster as his assistant on vocal, music and dance arrangements for several other Broadway shows and ended up accompanying a number of performers including Carol Channing, Debbie Reynolds, Ben Vereen, Gregory Hines and many others.

Q: Can you tell us about your studies in Rome?

A: While playing tuba at *Your Father's Mustache* in New York I met Eddy Davis. I was 22 and Eddy invited me to play tuba with him at the *Red Garter* in Florence, Italy. The months I spent with Eddy in Europe were the most important in my career. Eddy didn't hire me to be his student, but the most important things I have ever learned about music - I learned from Eddy. While in Italy I met the late Italian Film Composer, Piero Umiliani. I studied with him in his studio for a time in Rome. I was eventually drawn back

to my home, New Orleans, to play tuba with the Dukes of Dixieland in the 1980's. I currently play tuba three nights a week and piano three nights a week on Bourbon Street.

Q: What made you want to serve on the American Banjo Museum's Board of Directors?

A: I've always felt that banjos and tubas go together like peanut butter and jelly. I love the banjo and my happiest musical experiences seem to always include banjo players. I think that, like the tuba, the musical versatility of the banjo is highly underestimated by many. My first visit to the American Banjo Museum totally blew me away. The collection itself but also its presentation. It is absolutely beautiful! I feel it is so important to chronicle and preserve the history of the banjo and promote its path into the musical future and that is something that the American Banjo Museum does very well. It is an honor and a privilege to serve on the museum's board! I am blessed to be a part of the Banjo World! Hey, Banjo and Tuba players, why can't all musicians be NORMAL like us. ☺

Krewe de Banjo
at the
**American Banjo Museum's
Mardi Gras Party**
Saturday, March 2
6-9 pm
MUSIC • FOOD
CASH BAR
**Call 405-604-2793 to
purchase tickets**

Become a Sustaining Donor



Paul & Theresa Poirier

Theresa and I have made the American Banjo Museum a priority in our lives. We have pledged to volunteer, provide long term financial support, and have made the Museum part of our estate planning. Giving back and preserving the banjo's legacy is important to us.

I would like to thank those who have stepped up and joined with us in support of the Museum. Many individuals and organizations have joined Theresa and me in giving gifts of \$1,000 or more. In addition, hundreds of others have stepped up with smaller gifts in support of this important mission to preserve, promote and present the banjo!

Because of people, just like you, who are seeing the value in supporting the American Banjo Museum, your donation helps us move forward to fulfill our mission with festivals, outreach programs, new exhibits, archiving banjo history, music and so much more! Preserve, Promote and Present the history and music of all styles of banjo, that's what we are all about! Our Museum is a great place, doing great work for the banjo community. Each of us, who benefit

from the Museum and its work have a responsibility to insure it is funded into the future. I hope you will join me in making a plan of support for our Museum.

One of the easiest and most effective ways to support the Museum is to become a "Sustaining Donor", (one who contributes regularly and is a long-term supporter). Many people have chosen to become "Sustaining Donors" and choose to make regular monthly gifts, as part of their plan of support. Some are making a direct gift from their paycheck, as a payroll deduction, others are allowing the Museum to charge their credit card on a monthly basis. This method of giving allows you to make smaller regular gifts that add up to become bigger gifts in the end! As an example, let's do the math on a \$30 monthly donation adds up to a \$360 annual donation!

That's less than one dollar a day!

Included with each newsletter is an envelope asking you to support the ABM with a donation. I hope you choose to use it and support our efforts and our mission. Additionally, by simply checking a box, your donation will become a "Sustaining" gift that will be charged directly to your credit card each month. This is truly the simplest way to increase the impact of your donation in a convenient and manageable way. If you decide later to change the amount of your monthly gift, simply call or email the Museum and let us know your wishes.

Like I said at the beginning, Theresa and I have made the American Banjo Museum a priority in our lives..... Giving back and supporting the ABM is important to us. I hope all of you will join us and the growing numbers of your fellow banjo lovers

in supporting the American Banjo Museum with either a one-time gift, or as a "Sustaining Donor".

Thank you!
Paul Poirier,
ABM Board of Directors

ABM Membership

The American Banjo Museum wishes to recognize and thank new members and those that have renewed their membership the fourth quarter of 2018.

Individual Membership

Dolores Borrow
Jim Burton
Frank Clark
Matt Fleury
Mark Greathouse
Noel Induni
Dick Neuman
Randy Shumard
David Weibel
Richard Velazquez
John Vonk

Couple Membership

J Shayne & Beth Carter
Raymond & Ann Cisneros
Neil Duresky & Candyce Del Bello
Ray & Alice Jaworski
Russ & Diane Morton
Jay Shanker
Michael & Jane Sigmon
Glenn & Sandra Snyder

Family Membership

Timothy & Thien Trang Dang

Lifetime Membership

Glen Phillip Cartwright
Sam Stone

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...BANJO FEST...September 5-7, 2019

Upcoming Events...

JANUARY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 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, JANUARY 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, JANUARY 19, 1 PM Bluegrass Open Jam

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1 PM Celtic Open Jam

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

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1 PM Ukulele Open Jam

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1 PM Historical Presentation & Performance

Learn the history behind a selected banjo maker in the museum collection. Then hear American Banjo Museum's Executive Director, Johnny Baier play a historically significant instrument from that maker.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 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, FEBRUARY 16, 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, FEBRUARY 23, 1 PM Celtic Open Jam

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

MARCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 6 PM Krewe de Banjo Mardi Gras Party

Join us for a live jazz performance and New Orleans style food. Pre-purchase tickets today \$25 members / \$30 Non-Members. CASH BAR.

SATURDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 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, MARCH 23, 1 PM Celtic Open Jam

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1 PM Performance

Hear ABM's Executive Director, Johnny Baier perform. Performance included with paid admission.

APRIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 7 PM Alan Munde / Tim May Concert

Concert is free with museum admission. The museum will be open extended hours closing at 9PM. ABM Members will receive free admission.