

# 2024 RockyGrass Academy Schedule

## July 22 – 25, 2024

### Planet Bluegrass Ranch

## Sunday, July 21<sup>th</sup>

### TO DO LIST:

- Review the information in the “**Be in the know...**” document.
- Check-in at the Blue Heron Tent between 2:30-5:00 pm
- **Band Scramble**—Confirm that you are signed up for the band scramble by the end of check-in at 9:30 am on Monday. The winning band will receive a 1-year subscription to ArtistWorks. *Tuesday night bands will be posted in the Blue Heron Tent during the Monday evening BBQ. Wednesday night bands will be posted during lunch break on Tuesday at the Blue Heron Tent.*

### 9:00 - 2:00 Campground Line-Up & Load-In

See website for load-in procedures for claiming your campground spot.

### 2:30- 5:00 Academy Check-in (Adult & Kids Camp)

Pick up your schedule, songbook, wristbands, vehicle stickers, laminates and other assorted goodies. The check-in continues Monday morning 8 - 9:30 am. *Mandolin building students, pick up your Academy bags from 2:30-3pm Sunday, or Monday morning between 8-9:30 am.* (Blue Heron Tent)

Kids campers will register at the Blue Heron along with adults and then go to the kids camp area near the box office to check-in with Kids Camp instructors.

### 3:00 - 5:30 Mandolin Building Orientation

All mandolin building students meet in the shop for orientation and kit selection. Please be there on time. (The Workshop)

*"A banjo will get you through times of no money, but money won't get you through times of no banjo." – John Hartford*

## Monday, July 22<sup>th</sup>

### TO DO LIST:

- **Band Scramble**—Confirm that you are signed up for the band scramble by the end of check-in at 9:30 am on Monday. *Tuesday night bands will be posted in the Blue Heron Tent during the Monday evening BBQ. Wednesday night bands will be posted during lunch break on Tuesday at the Blue Heron Tent.*

### 8:00 - 9:30 Academy Check-in

Pick up your schedule, songbook, wristbands, reusables, vehicle stickers, laminates and other assorted goodies. (Blue Heron Tent)

### 8:00 - 9:00 Morning Yoga

Feel refreshed and restored with this 60 min Yoga class with Heather Hottovy. Be ready to flow with this relaxing, energetic practice that will leave you feeling long, lean and strong – both mentally and physically. (Meet in field near silo)

### 9:30 Orientation – in the Wildflower Pavilion – Be here now!

We'll run through the schedule, cover logistics, answer questions, and prepare you for the week. We'll also have coffee, tea, water, and snacks out at 7:00 am each morning at the bar area outside the workshop to help you start your day. Burritos, OJ and iced lattes are also available for purchase on-site at Bloomberries Box Cart alongside the bathhouse.

### 9:45 - 10:45 All Academy Session – Instructor Jam #1

Welcome to the opening session! We'll be introducing you to a handful of our awesome instructors (Kristin, Eric, Billy, John, Stuart, Stephen & Chris) who will demonstrate the nuts and bolts of a Bluegrass jam session with plenty of time for questions and answers. (Wildflower Pavilion)

### 11:00 - 12:30 Jam Sessions

These sessions are your chance to dig into the songbook and learn the parts to some classic bluegrass material. We'll look at both instrumentation and vocal arrangements, and work in big and small ensembles. During these sessions, you will have the opportunity to meet fellow students and learn from other members of the Academy faculty. We offer 4 different jam sessions. Please select the group that feels comfortable for you. Meeting places are as follows:

- Safety In Numbers (novice) – Wildflower Pavilion
- Small Group Jamming 101 (novice) – Hummingbird Tent
- Small Group Experienced Jamming (intermediate) – Mountain Lion Tent
- Small Group Advanced Skills (advanced) – Blue Heron Tent

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Students signed up for the Vocal and Songwriting classes will meet with their instructors during this 11-12:30 period. Meeting areas are listed below:*

- Songwriting – Coyote Tent
- Vocal Artistry – Parlor (Main House)

## **12:30 - 2:00 Lunch Break / Practice Time**

## **2:00 - 3:30 Instrument/Songwriting/Vocal Instruction** *(See map for tent locations)*

Please wander to your assigned class area for instrument, singing and songwriting instruction. Each tent classroom is marked with an animal name hanging from the tent, or refer to your map enclosed on the inside cover. To give you the widest range of perspectives and approaches to the music, instructors will be rotating through the different class levels during the week. Class locations are listed below:

### **GUITAR**

- Novice Guitar Class – Blue Heron Tent
- Intermediate Guitar Class 1 – Bear Tent
- Intermediate Guitar Class 2 – Mountain Lion Tent
- Advanced Guitar Class – Trout Tent (near river by Wildflower)

### **MANDOLIN**

- Novice Mandolin Class – Frog Tent (backstage)
- Intermediate Mandolin Class – Horse Tent (way backstage camping by river)
- Advanced Mandolin Class – Eagle Tent (backstage in front of cabin)

### **FIDDLE**

- Novice Fiddle Class – Dragonfly Tent (backstage camping area)
- Intermediate Fiddle Class – Raven Tent (backstage camping area)
- Advanced Fiddle Class – Owl Tent (backstage camping area)

### **BANJO**

- Novice Banjo Class – Spider Tent (trees to left of stage)
- Intermediate Banjo Class – Lizard Tent (middle of field)
- Advanced Banjo Class – Elk Tent (along river mid field)

### **DOBRO**

- Monday – All levels – Turtle Tent (backstage camping area)
- Tuesday- Thursday – Novice – Bobcat (backstage camping area)
- Tuesday- Thursday – Intermediate/Advanced – Turtle Tent (backstage camping area)

### **BASS**

- Novice Bass Class – Deer Tent (in front of Wildflower)
- Intermediate Bass Class – Wildflower Pavilion
- Advanced Bass Class – Hummingbird Tent (in front of Wildflower)

**SONGWRITING** – Coyote Tent (next to stone building)

**VOCAL ARTISTRY** – Parlor (Main House)

**INSTRUMENT BUILDING** – The Workshop

### **3:45 - 4:45 Monday Electives**

During our last session, we'll explore a variety of topics, many of which won't be covered during other class times. You're free to take part in the electives that interest you.

1. Up the Neck Banjo Backup – *Kristin Scott Benson & Frank Evans* – Lizard Tent (middle of field)
2. Chart Writing 101 – *Eric Thorin* – Deer Tent (in front of Wildflower)
3. Fiddle Workout! Exercises to Improve Technique, Improvisation, Rhythm and musicality – *Natalie Padilla* – Dragonfly Tent (backstage)
4. Adapting Folk Music from Around the World – *Billy Cardine* – Bobcat (backstage)
5. New Standards: Instrumental Tunes from Outside the Box – *Justin Konrad* – Turtle Tent (backstage behind cabin)
6. Violin\Fiddle Playability and Setting Up Your Ax – *Stuart Duncan* – Wildflower Pavilion
7. Moveable Fiddle Licks in a Variety of Keys – *Kimber Ludiker* – Owl Tent (backstage)
8. Upright Bass Technique for Ease of Playability – *Charles James* – Hummingbird Tent
9. Contest Style Flatpicking – *Tyler Grant* – Bear Tent
10. Exploring New Rhythm Guitar Styles & Embellishments – *Darryl Poulsen & Avril Smith* – Mountain Lion Tent
11. Approaching and Interpreting Melodies – *Adrian Gross* – Horse Tent (way backstage by river)
12. Making it Sound Like Bluegrass: Mando Toolbox Crash Course – *Tristan Scroggins* – Frog Tent (backstage)
13. Double Stops for Mandolin – *John Reischman* – Eagle Tent (backstage in front of cabin)
14. Mindfulness in Music – *Chris Eldridge* – Trout Tent (near river by Wildflower)
15. Stage presence! How to make it seem like you're completely at ease under the lights. – *Celia Woodsmith* – Coyote Tent (next to Stone building)
16. Rhythmic Ideas from India to Expand Your Bluegrass Playing – *Jayme Stone* – Elk Tent (along river in front of stage)
17. How Do Singers Communicate with Pickers in a Jam? – *Stephen Mouglin* – Parlor (Main House)
18. How to Be a Good Band Member – *Vickie Vaughn* – Blue Heron Tent

**5:30 - 7:00 Academy Barbecue**

We'll be serving up Burgers and the works in the lawn in front of the Wildflower. The barbecues are open to Academy students and their registered guests. Your wristband is your meal ticket.

**7:00 - 8:00 Estro-Jam** (*Mountain Lion Tent*)

Join hosts Brandy Ray (Brandywine and the Mighty Fines), Elle Michelle (Elle Michelle's Grateful Holler), and Colleen Murphy (Bottlerocket Hurricane) for a fun, multi-level picking circle for ladies and anyone identifying as female.

**8:15 - 9:30 Square Dance** (*Wildflower Pavilion*)

We are bringing back the Square Dance this year! We'll clear the chairs out of the Wildflower Pavilion Monday night for dancing and hollering. There is no dancing experience necessary. The famous Bob Zuellig will be calling out the moves and you know we'll have a rocking band to keep us moving and grooving!



## **Tuesday, July 23<sup>th</sup>**

### ***TIP OF THE DAY:***

If you have a Festival related question or problem, please let us know before class or during lunch break today so we can help you work out a solution before the Festival. Use the message board located in the Blue Heron Tent as needed to trade/find or sell tickets.

### ***TO DO LIST:***

- One-on-One session sign-ups out in Blue Heron Tent at 8:30 am.
- Musical supplies will be available for sale immediately after class today in front of the bathhouse! Call H.B. Woodsongs in advance if you need something: 303-449-0516
- Band Scramble Prelims in the Wildflower pavilion at 8 pm

### **8:00 - 9:00 Morning Yoga**

Feel refreshed and restored with this 60 min Yoga class with Heather Hottovy. Be ready to flow with this relaxing, energetic practice that will leave you feeling long, lean and strong – both mentally and physically. (field near silo)

### **9:30 Morning Announcements - Wildflower Pavilion**

### **9:35 - 10:30 All Academy Session with Della Mae**

Welcome to this morning session hosted by Della Mae. We'll have time for music, questions, and insight into the group's process and arrangements. (Wildflower Pavilion)

### **9:30 - 10:30 One-on-Ones**

You must sign up at the Blue Heron Tent each morning at 8:30 am and meet in the designated area. Please, only *(1) one-on-one per person during the week*. Each person will receive individual instruction in front of a small group. Each one-on-one session is limited to 4 people per day. Students are expected to stay for the entire session.

- Guitar One-on-ones *Chris Eldridge* --Bear Tent
- Dobro One-on-ones *Billy Cardine* --Coyote Tent (next to Stone building)
- Mandolin One-on-ones *John Reischman* – Lizard Tent (middle of field)
- Banjo One-on-ones *Frank Evans*–Elk Tent (along river in front of stage)
- Fiddle One-on-ones *Natalie Pedilla* – Spider Tent (trees to left of stage)
- Bass One-on-ones *Eric Thorin* – Blue Heron Tent
- Vocal One-on-ones *Stephen Mouglin* – Parlor (Main House)

## **10:45 - 12:30 Jam Sessions**

These sessions are your chance to dig into the songbook and learn the parts to some classic bluegrass material. We'll look at both instrumentation and vocal arrangement, and work in big and small ensembles. During these sessions, you will have the opportunity to learn from many of the Academy faculty. Meeting areas are listed below:

- o Safety In Numbers (novice) – Wildflower Pavilion
- o Small Group Jamming 101 (novice) – Hummingbird Tent
- o Small Group Experienced Jamming (intermediate) – Mountain Lion Tent
- o Small Group Advanced Skills (advanced) – Blue Heron Tent

***PLEASE NOTE: Students signed up for the Vocal and Songwriting classes will meet with their instructors during this 10:45-12:30 period. Meeting areas are listed below:***

- o Songwriting – Coyote Tent (next to Stone building)
- o Vocal Artistry – Parlor (Main House)

## **12:30 - 2:00 Lunch Break**

## **2:00 - 3:45 Instrument Instruction/Songwriting/Singing**

See map or page 3 of schedule for tent assignments

## **4:00 - 5:00 Tuesday Electives**

1. Learn How to Play Clawhammer in One Hour – *Frank Evans* – Spider Tent (trees to left of stage)
2. 3/4 Time Rolling Banjo Backup with Bluesy Fills – *Kristin Scott Benson* – Lizard Tent (middle of field)
3. Nashville Number System – *Eric Thorin* – Deer Tent (in front of Wildflower)
4. Finding the Melody. How to Increase Your Batting Average – *Billy Cardine & Tyler Grant* – Bobcat (backstage)
5. Ear Training for the Bluegrass Jam Circle – *Justin Konrad* – Turtle Tent (backstage behind cabin)
6. Advanced class: Incorporate Your Skills into Various Situations Using Things You Know – *Stuart Duncan* – Raven Tent (backstage)
7. Controlled Improvisation for Fiddle and Mandolin – *Kimber Ludiker* – Owl Tent (backstage)
8. How to Develop Kick-Offs and Tags on Guitar – *Avril Smith* – Blue Heron Tent
9. C Grip Tunes for the Guitar – *Darryl Poulsen* – Bear Tent
10. Fiddle Tune Improv Crash Course – *Adrian Gross* – Horse Tent (way backstage by river)
11. Alternate/Easi(er) "Cross Picking" Patterns for Mandolin – *Tristan Scroggins* – Frog Tent (backstage)

12. Old Time Mandolin – *John Reischman* – Eagle Tent (backstage in front of cabin)
13. Uncovering the Mystery of Old Time Fiddling – *Natalie Padilla* – Dragonfly Tent (backstage)
14. Constructing Musical Bluegrass Bass Lines in any Key – *Charles James* – Hummingbird Tent
15. Techniques and Ideas for Writing Better Tunes – *Jayme Stone* – Elk Tent (along river in front of stage)
16. The Magic of Warming Up; Make Performing Easier on Your Body and Mind – *Celia Woodsmith* – Coyote Tent (next to Stone building)
17. The Guitar Style of Tony Rice– *Chris Elderidge* – Trout Tent (near river by Wildflower)
18. But Monroe did it in B! Choosing Keys (and Songs) Appropriate for YOUR Voice – *Stephen Mouglin* – Parlor (Main House)
19. Country Music Bass Styles – *Vickie Vaughn* – Mountain Lion Tent

### **5:00 - 6:00 HB Woodsongs Traveling Music Store**

The easy way to have items like picks, strings, capos, music, delivered to you at Planet Bluegrass. Feel free to call them ahead of time with special requests (303-449-0516). They will set up in front of the bathhouse in the courtyard immediately after class.

### **5:00 - 6:00 Acoustic Instrument Amplification with Grace Design**

So you're ready to hit the stage. You've spent countless hours honing your act and conjuring up beautiful sounds on your instrument, and now you need to plug in. Along with all the other skills you work to master as a performing acoustic artist, plugging in an acoustic instrument is an essential skill which can really help you sound your best. Join the audio professionals at Grace Design in the Wildflower Pavilion for an introduction to pickups, preamps, gain, EQ, and amplification. As well, you will have the opportunity to try out some of the finest acoustic preamps on the market, made right here in Lyons, Colorado.

### **6:00 - 7:00 Young-Adult Jam** (*Lizard Tent*)

Looking to meet and jam with other folks your age. Don't be shy, here's your chance! Meet at the Lizard Tent and start jamming!

### **6:00 - 8:00 Dinner (On your own)**

Head to camp, town or to Bloomberries Box Cart by the bathhouse.

### **8:00 - 9:00 Band Scramble Preliminaries**

In the Wildflower Pavilion around a single microphone.

*“You have to be yourself otherwise people won't know who you are.”*  
– Doc Watson



## **Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

**TIP OF THE DAY: Pace yourself and enjoy!**

### **TO DO LIST:**

- Band Scramble prelims in Wildflower Pavilion, 8 pm.
- One-on-one session sign ups in Blue Heron Tent at 8:30 am.
- Box office opens from 12 - 3 pm for Academy students only. No lines!

### **8:00 Morning Yoga**

Feel refreshed and restored with this 60 minute Yoga class with Heather Hottovy. (silo)

### **9:30 - 10:30 All Academy Session - Instructor Jam #2**

During this morning performance session (*Jayne, Justin, Natalie, Tyler, Tristan, Vickie*) will be showing off their jam skills. There will be time for discussion and Q & A. (Wildflower Pavilion)

### **9:30 - 10:30 One-on-Ones**

To take part in these sessions, please sign up in the Blue Heron Tent each morning at 8:30 am and meet in the designated area. Please, only *one one-on-one per person during the week*. Each person will receive individual instruction in front of a small group. You are expected to stay for the entire session.

- Guitar One-on-ones *Avril Smith* – Bear Tent
- Mandolin One-on-ones *Adrian Gross* – Lizard Tent (middle of field)
- Banjo One-on-ones *Kristin Scott Benson* – Elk Tent (along river in front of stage)
- Fiddle One-on-ones *Kimber Ludiker* – Spider Tent (trees to left of stage)
- Bass One-on-ones *Charles James* – Blue Heron Tent
- Songwriting One-on-ones *Celia Woodsmith* – Coyote Tent (next to Stone building)

### **10:45 - 12:30 Instrument Instruction/Songwriting/Singing**

See map or page 3 of schedule for tent assignments

### **12:30 - 2:00 Lunch Break**

### **2:00 - 3:45 Instrument Instruction/Songwriting/Singing**

See map or page 3 of schedule for tent assignments

### **4:00 - 5:00 Wednesday Electives**

1. Find the Melody of a New Tune – *Frank Evans* – Lizard Tent (middle of field)
2. Single-String Banjo Fills on Slow Songs – *Kristin Scott Benson* – Elk Tent (along river in front of stage)
3. Intro to Theory: You Know More Than You Know – *Eric Thorin* – Hummingbird Tent
4. How to Memorize the Neck of Your Instrument: Why It's Helpful and Fun – *Billy Cardine* – Turtle Tent (backstage behind cabin)
5. Beginning and Intermediate Class: Exercises to Help Get Things Going & Tune Dissection – *Stuart Duncan* – Owl Tent (backstage)
6. Twin & Triple Fiddling. Finding the Harmony Parts – *Kimber Ludiker & Natalie Padilla* – Dragonfly Tent (backstage)
7. Arranging Simple Melodies for Flatpicking Guitar – *Tyler Grant* – Blue Heron Tent
8. Intro to Melodic Soloing and Improvisation – *Avril Smith* – Bear Tent
9. Understanding the Modes in Bluegrass Improvisation – *Darryl Poulsen & Justin Konrad* – Trout Tent (near river by Wildflower)
10. Intro to Jazz Chord Voicings on the Mandolin – *Adrian Gross* – Frog Tent (backstage)
11. A Visual Representation of "Drive": How to Push Without Speeding Up – *Tristan Scroggins* – Eagle Tent (backstage in front of cabin)
12. Rhythm Mandolin – *John Reischman* – Horse Tent (way backstage by river)
13. Celtic Fiddle – *Jesse Burns* – Raven Tent (backstage)
14. Songwriting Exercises; How to Stoke the Creative Fire – *Celia Woodsmith* – Coyote Tent (next to Stone building)
15. Strategies for More Effective Practicing – *Jayme Stone* – Spider Tent (trees to left of stage)
16. Bluegrass Vocal Harmony – *Stephen Mouglin, Vickie Vaughn & Chris Elderidge* – Wildflower Pavilion

### **6:00 - 8:00 Dinner (On your own)**

Head to camp, town or to Bloomberries Box Cart by the bathhouse.

### **8:00 - 9:00 Band Scramble Preliminaries**

In the Wildflower Pavilion around a single microphone

# 2024 Academy Student Favorite Songs



## Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

### **TIP OF THE DAY:**

Pick up your Festival wristbands early. (Festival Box Office open from 3pm - 9 pm)

### **TO DO LIST:**

- Academy Camping and Vehicle Transition: **ALL ACADEMY VEHICLES WITHOUT A ROCKYGRASS “ONSITE VEHICLE PASS” MUST REMOVE THEIR VEHICLE FROM THE CAMPGROUND TO RIVER BEND BY 2:00 PM TODAY**
- One-on-One sign-ups in Blue Heron Tent at 8:30 am
- Kids Academy performance at 4:00 pm in Wildflower Pavilion.
- Fill out the evaluation form and drop it off in the box inside the Wildflower Pavilion.
- Band Scramble Finals in the Wildflower Pavilion at 8 pm

### **8:00 Morning Yoga**

Feel refreshed and restored with this 60 min Yoga class with Heather Hottovy. (near silo)

### **9:30 - 10:30 All Academy Session with Slocan Ramblers**

Slocan Ramblers will be kicking off our last morning session! We'll have time for music, questions, and a bit of insight into their songs, process and arrangements. (Wildflower Pavilion)

### **9:30 - 10:30 One-on-Ones**

To take part in these sessions, please sign up in the Blue Heron Tent each morning at 8:30 am and meet in the designated area. Please, only *one lesson per person during the week*. Each person will receive individual instruction in front of a small group. You are expected to stay for the entire session.

- Guitar One-on-ones *Tyler Grant*—Bear Tent
- Mandolin One-on-ones *Tristan Scroggins* – Lizard Tent (middle of field)
- Fiddle One-on-ones *Stuart Duncan* – Spider Tent (trees to left of stage)
- Bass One-on-ones *Vickie Vaughn* – Blue Heron Tent
- Banjo One-on-ones *Jayme Stone* – Elk Tent (along river in front of stage)
- Dobro One-on-ones *Justin Konrad* – Coyote Tent (next to Stone building)

### **10:45 - 12:30 Instrument Instruction/Songwriting/Singing**

See map or page 3 of schedule for tent assignments

### **12:30 - 2:00 Lunch Break**

**2:00 - 3:45 Instrument Instruction/Songwriting/Singing**

See map or page 3 of schedule for tent assignments

**4:00 RockyGrass Kids Camp Performance** (*Wildflower Pavilion*)

**4:30 Meet the Newly Built Mandolins** (*Outside The Workshop*)

**4:45 Academy Graduation Ceremony**

Gospel singing on the banks of (or in!) the river. (*beach behind Trout Tent*)

**6:00 - 7:30 Academy Barbecue and Instructor Vendibles** (*Behind Main Stage*)

Instructors will have materials for sale during the BBQ. The barbecues are open to Academy students and their registered guests. You will be given a meal ticket when you register and must present this when you get your meal. Head Chef: Markus Chesla.

- Make time to peruse the instructors' music CDs, books and other materials during the BBQ.

**8:00 - 9:00 Band Scramble Finals**

In the Wildflower Pavilion around a single microphone. Big fun, excitement, prizes!

*"Bluegrass has brought more people together and made more friends than any music in the world. You meet people at festivals and renew acquaintances year after year."*  
– Bill Monroe