



We are crazy excited about our headline act for the fall festival

this year, the **John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band (J2B2)**.

John Jorgenson is one of the most talented and diverse musical artist in the world, as evidenced by his touring schedule which features five top-notch musical ensembles.

Being a master of all styles which involve acoustic stringed instruments, he fields a top notch lineup in each of those five configurations. Instrumentally, his virtuosity is jaw-dropping, whether on gypsy jazz guitar or mandolin, and he has shared stages with the true greats of all musical styles, including the Byrds, Bob Dylan, Emmylou Harris, Hank Williams Jr., and Michael Nesmith.

Certainly not the least of his talents are his fine lead vocal work and arranging abilities. In every musical situation, he achieves the right groove to pull off the perfect sound. When it comes to J2B2, that means emulating all the different styles of bluegrass ranging from first generation bluegrass classics, right up to modern day through once-progressive, now-classic material, such as the Osborne Brothers and Seldom Scene. It takes only a few minutes of a J2B2 concert before one realizes that music had as great an influence on John as it did on the rest of us.

As I mentioned, John brings a top notch lineup, and with J2B2 that includes true greats like banjo player Herb Pedersen. Herb played with legends like the Dillard's, Tony Rice, Peter Rowan, Chris Hillman and Vassar Clements when the classic renditions of the music we love were being created.

J2B2 also includes flatpicking guitar great Jon Randall and bassist Mark Fain. I can't wait!

Joe Steiner

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Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing Published 2nd Sunday, Mailed 3rd Sunday monthly
Next Jam: Noon-6 PM, Oct 18. SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner



If it were not for COVID-19 and the cancellation of music events, we would be getting ready to head to Kendallville for the spring festival right now. However, as I write this, we are completing nearly two months of remaining at home, and we have been avoiding social gatherings. This is due to stay-at-home orders in Indiana and neighboring states.

In last month's newsletter, you read about our "non-festival" T-Shirt commemorating NOT holding a Memorial Day festival this year. Due to overwhelming response for that T-shirt, we will soon be placing a second (and final) order. So, if you would like to have one of these cool T-shirts, proclaiming to the world that you were "stayin' home and playin' safe" over Memorial Day weekend, you can still order one if you act quickly. Please call the number on the membership form included in this newsletter or send an email to Chris Steiner at Events@NIBGA.com.

In last month's newsletter you also read about the new patron program. This program includes the same benefits as a regular family club membership, and it also includes a special limited-edition shirt which is only available in conjunction with the patron program. You can see the design of this special shirt elsewhere in this newsletter. The biggest benefit of being a patron is knowing that you are a key contributor to NIBGA's mission of supporting the bluegrass music community. Since NIBGA is a 501c3 organization, \$65 of your patron contribution is tax deductible (the amount by which it exceeds the value of the family membership and shirt).

Music is one of the hardest hit industries in the difficult times we are currently facing. When the economy shut down, the close, personal interaction and social gatherings which are the substance of performing arts events such musical performances were first in line to be banned. These types of events will also be among the last permitted to open as we emerge from the current lockdowns.

Because of the nature of the music industry, with performers dependent primarily on gig-based income, it has been harder for them to share in the financial relief programs which have been available. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a summary of a letter issued by the IBMA in conjunction with other music organizations to encourage everyone to support their favorite artist by taking advantage of web-based offerings and ordering sound

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and video recordings while the economy is shut down. Once we are able to do so, please show your support by returning to the audience at performances and events.

Although we were forced to cancel the spring festival, the NIBGA board is optimistic that we will be able to hold the fall festival as planned, as economies start to reopen throughout the country. We will be watching events closely after the next month or so, and we will be meeting in about a month to discuss whether to continue planning. Of course, laws regarding public gatherings will be a major factor in our decision, as will the safety of participants and the local Noble County community.

If we do hold the festival as planned, we will no doubt have many considerations to make, such as applicable safety equipment (e.g. masks, hand sanitizer), making distancing provisions, and sanitizing facilities as necessary. We will be assessing those requirements in the next few weeks, and we will communicate accordingly.

The next few weeks will be very eventful, and I'm hopeful we will begin to see the restrictions of the current lockdowns lifted. It sure will be great when we can get together and pick again.

I'll see you Labor Day weekend! Until then, stay calm and keep pickin' that bluegrass!



Over Jordan



Howard Jones died March 1, 2020 after a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife, Janet Sue Jones of Middletown, OH and four children. Jonesy, as he was known among the Bluegrass community, attended almost every Kendallville festival since the early 1990s as a vendor. In

recent years he would be with his tapes, CDs and other Bluegrass items near the south end of the vendor area.

He and wife Sue would walk by our RV and often stop to chat. He was a big supporter of the festival and would let us know if there were incidents that ought to be addressed. He pretended to be hard-nosed but he was a great character, one who you had to enjoy talking with.

He and Sue would always prepay the next festival's vendor fee. "I want to make sure I don't lose my spot" he would say. He missed the festivals last year due to poor health. ~ Jim W.



Anthony Segielski, 69, of Farmington, MI died on Easter Sunday from Covid-19 related complications.

"New York Tony", as he was known to his Kendallville family, moved from his hometown of Brooklyn, NY to Farmington,

MI in 1980, where he was a very recognized photographer (tonysfoodphotos.com). One of his iconic photos hangs over Comerica Park.

Tony attended Kendallville regularly, playing guitar and mandolin. He played at a local nursing home with Bryan and Stephanie Dray, and Gary Bilby, representing NIBGA, during the fall festival last year.

We extend our sympathies to Tony's family. He will be missed by his Kendallville family.



FROM THE MAIL BAG I realize it was time to let it go (Memorial festival). But I just want to say, thank you for 9 years of an awesome festival and bands and jams around the place. You guys gave me some of the best times of my life. I will never stop coming to Kendallville. And I know you'll still be there. Honestly, I can't express the amount of thanks I have for K'ville. It's the best. I know you'll still be there. ~ Ian O - Pittsburg, PA



Ian wandered by our RV site his first year. We had a big fire and a little jam going. We welcomed him in and made him feel a part of our group. He later emailed that he wanted the words to our traditional closing song on Sunday night late, "Hang Me" (also better known as "I've Been All Around This World"). The following year he was ready to join the fun and knew the words. It is interesting that he quickly became friends with many of the folks at the festival who also made him feel welcome. That is the magic of the Kendallville festival. ~ Jim W.

Due to many restrictions, there are no festivals, shows or jams to list in the newsletter. Hopefully that will change soon and we will be back to having a full page of fun events and things to do. In the meantime, please consider sup-

porting your favorite bluegrass festival by becoming a **2020 Patron**. For a \$100 donation, you will receive a family membership for the 2020 year (which entitles you to discounted tickets for the festival and newsletters through April 2021), a special edition 2020 Patron T-Shirt, and your name listed on all donor publications and announcements. You can sign up to be a Patron on the regular renewal form published in this newsletter. Here is a picture of the 2020 Patron T-Shirt and the 4 colors in which it is available. If you'd like a second shirt for a family member, you can buy one for \$20.



Patrons are keeping NIBGA afloat this year and guaranteeing the survival of bluegrass in the tri-state area for the foreseeable future. Thank you for your support!!

Here are the fine bluegrass supporters to date. Please thank them when you see them wearing a Patron t-shirt at an upcoming festival. 2020 Patrons include:

Wayne Boltz
Richard Borkowski
Steve Carroll
Roy and Sandy Conine
Verl Dasher
Bryan and Stephanie Dray
Julie Goldsmith & Jim Geise
Keith and Terri Grannis

Eric and Pam Hinkle
Pam Keiper
Francis Klenzak
Ian Oliveros
Bruce and Sandy Pettinger
Poul and Linda Sandersen
Jim and Joan Settlemyle

Mark and Cheryl Smith
Joe and Chris Steiner
Chris Vogie
Dave and Marianne Vogie
Terry and Peggy Wallace
Paul and Barbara Welch
Stewart E White
Jim and Linda Winger



NIBGA 2020-2021 Membership Form a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit BluegrassUSA.net

● Due by June 15*, 2020 ● NIBGA, 4535 Lincoln Hwy, Elida, OH 45807 ● ph:567-371-9627 ● email: secretary@nibga.com
* Memberships expire April 30.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ e-Mail: _____

Yes: e-Mail mine: _____ No, snail mail it _____ Canada: snail mail (1 or 2) \$15, e-Mailed(1) \$10/(2) \$15

New: _____ Renewal: _____ \$10 Single: _____ \$5 ea addl same address 16 & older _____

OR BECOME A PATRON INSTEAD

I want to be a 2020 Patron and support the club: \$100 _____ T-Shirt Size? S M L XL XXL Color* _____

Extra 2020 Patron T-shirt for spouse: \$ 20 _____ T-Shirt Size? S M L XL XXL Color* _____

*T-Shirt Color Choices: Antique Red, Sapphire Blue, Royal Blue, or Grey

Note that the Patron fee includes family membership dues and a t-shirt.

Name as it should appear on recognition board: _____

(Please print clearly)



Just as NIBGA has cancelled our spring festival, so have many other individuals and organizations called off their 2020 music events due to concerns about Covid-19. This, of course, means a significant loss of income for artists which can only be partially offset by web-based activities such as lessons, virtual tip jars, and concerts.

On Friday, May 8, the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) joined with more than 40 other music organizations in submitting a letter petitioning the US Congress to make changes to financial assistance packages designed to ease the hardship caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. In particular, the letter stresses the difficulties workers in the gig economy (i.e., almost all musicians) have in providing information on submission forms. And, it points out specific complications caused by income reported on a mix of both W-2 and 1099 forms, requirements for submitting self-employment information prior to the extended tax deadline of July 15, and self-employed individuals who do not have other employees.

Also, the letter pointed out that, when it's time to once again open the doors to venues and studios, the music industry will continue to need help. The government must provide adequate testing, contact tracing, and treatments/vaccine. There must be clear national guidelines to facilitate touring and live performances in order for those in the music industry to plan for the future.

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Next NIBGA Jam - Oct 18, 2020