

Published on International Bluegrass Music Association (https://ibma.org)

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## Welcome to Bluegrass Nation <sub>m</sub>

Bluegrass Nation, the newest online gathering place for people interested in bluegrass music, is now open to the public at <a href="https://www.bluegrassnation.org">www.bluegrassnation.org</a> [2].

Developed by the International Bluegrass Music Association and designed by VibeThink.com, Bluegrass Nation is a unique, new site that combines elements of Facebook, Pinterest and Reddit?for bluegrass fans. The site went online just before IBMA?s annual World of Bluegrass conference last September.



[3]

?IBMA has needed this for a long time,? said Craig Havighurst, chair of IBMA?s Marketing Committee. "For more than 25 years IBMA has served its members: artists, record labels, promoters and broadcasters. But with Bluegrass Nation, we?re taking our passion to music fans worldwide and developing new lovers of bluegrass music. At last we have a platform that will put links to all the news about our music in one place, alongside original content posted and shared by community members.

?We encourage bluegrass fans and pickers to make Bluegrass Nation a regular stop as they browse for news. And we hope that artists find Bluegrass Nation a great place to engage and promote their art. And with all that activity, I think people who are just discovering bluegrass music will find Bluegrass Nation an exciting and informative place to dig deeper.

?This hasn't been easy. It's something of a shift in outlook for IBMA and a site this complex took time and a lot of discussion. But now that the platform is up, it can become whatever bluegrass fans and artists want to make of it. It integrates with the key social media sites, so artists should find this high-impact/ low-work. For fans who want to post photos, video, original songs or commentary, it will be a field day.?

Artists, organizations (including events, associations and bluegrass-related businesses), and fans may sign up for a free profile page on Bluegrass Nation and start posting immediately. Posting options include original content, links to articles, photographs, links to videos through YouTube.com, and links to music utilizing Spotify or SoundCloud. Artists may also link Facebook and Twitter feeds to their Bluegrass Nation profile pages.

Members may post messages to other member profile pages, and instead of ?liking? posts or content on Bluegrass Nation, participants ?pick? the items they like by clicking on a guitar-shaped icon. A featured article and a new video will be posted on the home page each day?spotlighting the latest bluegrass news from other online news sites and websites, along with new and vintage video mined from YouTube. We will spotlight bluegrass content from great sites like BluegrassToday.com, PrescriptionBluegrass.com, BluegrassCountry.org, Engine145.com, The Bluegrass Situation, Banjo Hangout, Bluegrass Legacy and mainstream sources.

In coming weeks, promotions and giveaways will be presented and regular editorial contributors will be posting new and historical articles, columns and stories. Labels, events, merchandisers and artists who would like to donate merch, services or tickets to be used in bimonthly drawings will receive a trade ad on the site during their promotion.

Please also join us on the Bluegrass Nation Facebook page at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BluegrassNation?ref=hl">https://www.facebook.com/BluegrassNation?ref=hl</a> [4] so you will receive messages about new content and promotions.

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