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[Home](#) > IBMA's "Bluegrass Ramble" Showcases during WOB

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Most things in life are improved with a theme song—including our slate of artist showcases planned for World of Bluegrass in Raleigh, NC Sept. 24-28. IBMA's "Bluegrass Ramble" Showcases will take place from 6 p.m.-2 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 24-25 on seven stages, and on six stages from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Thursday & Saturday, Sept. 26-28.

But first—before reading any more or clicking on venue links below for photos, crank up our theme song on YouTube, performed by Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqPuQTKDPwU> ^[2].

Conference attendees will be rambling around Raleigh all week, listening to 30 official showcase bands and a number of co-sponsor presented bands. Official IBMA showcase bands will perform two or three times during the week—on stages at the convention center and town venues, at the Wide Open Bluegrass Street Fair Fri-Sat, Sept. 27-28, and also for local schools and university classes.

In recent years privately hosted showcases during World of Bluegrass week have become so popular that they have conflicted with our official showcase schedule, IBMA Executive Director Nancy Cardwell said. Rather than compete with our own members, we've decided to join forces this year, presenting official showcase bands several times during the week and also making room for co-sponsor hosted bands in line-ups. World of Bluegrass will be a week-long live bluegrass experience, with lots of bands playing every night. If you miss a showcase band on Tuesday night, there's a good chance you'll be able to catch them on Wednesday or later in the week. In addition to conference attendees, we expect a lot of local interest in showcase wristbands for bluegrass fans in the Raleigh area who work until 5 p.m. and want to come out in the evenings to hear some great bluegrass music.

Admission to showcases in the Raleigh Convention Center is with an IBMA Business Conference registration for the day. Admission to evening showcases at the venues listed below will be with 1) an IBMA Business Conference name badge and photo ID Tue-Thur or a Wide Open Bluegrass festival wrist band on Fri-Sat, 2) a Bluegrass Ramble Showcase wristband Tue & Sat (available for \$100/members and \$150/non-members), or 3) \$10 at the door for each venue, per night. After the expenses are covered for the night, door proceeds at each venue will be split Tuesday and Wednesday by thirds between IBMA, official showcase bands, and co-sponsors for their bands. On Thur-Sat nights, proceeds from the door after expenses will be split 50:50 between IBMA and co-sponsors for their bands. Showcase bands will be welcome to sell merch at showcases in all venues. IBMA will cover the expenses for venue rental, sound equipment rental, sound and lighting engineers, and door oversight.

Click on the links by the venues below to see photos of our Bluegrass Ramble venues in

Raleigh.

- **Lincoln Theatre:** 430 S. Dawson Street, capacity 600, www.lincoltheatre.com [3].
- **Longview Center:** 118 S Person Street, capacity 450 (an older church), <http://unitytriangle.org/about-unity/weddings-downtown-raleigh/> [4]
- **Tir Na Nog:** 218 S. Blount Street, capacity 226 (Irish pub with bar & restaurant), <http://www.tnnirishpub.com/> [5]
- **Pour House Music Hall:** 224 S. Blount Street, capacity 360, <http://www.thepourhousemusicall.com/> [6]
- **Kings:** 14 W. Martin Street, capacity 260 (upstairs venue), <http://kingsbarcade.com/> [7]
- **The Architect:** 108 ½ E. Hargett Street, capacity 200-300 (upstairs venue), <http://www.architectbar.com/> [8]
- **Raleigh Convention Center stage:** 4th floor ballroom <http://www.raleighconvention.com/about/facilities/ballroom> [9]

Bluegrass Ramble Showcase co-sponsors confirmed so far include MerleFest, Pinecastle Records, Jordan Entertainment, IBMA Foreign Affairs, SteelBridge Insurance, Mountain Home Records, Class Act Entertainment, Christmas in the Smokies, John Boy & Billy, Inc., the Foundation for Bluegrass Music, Folk Alliance International, Outer Banks Bluegrass Festival and Quicksilver Entertainment?plus several more pending. If your label, association, event or agency is interested in co-sponsoring an evening of showcases, please contact Nancy Cardwell at IBMA. (615) 256-3222, 888-GET-IBMA, nancyc@ibma.org [10].

Venues are all walking distance from the convention center, and Raleigh's R-Line complimentary street cars are also an option for transportation. We will have maps available on-site at registration in the Raleigh Convention Center and navigation info on the WOB smart phone app. IBMA's Bluegrass Ramble Showcases will be produced by Ben Surratt and Cindy Baucom.

Tags:

[showcases](#) [11]

[WOB](#) [12]

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Links:

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[2] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqPuQTKDPwU>

[3] <http://www.lincoltheatre.com/>

[4] <http://unitytriangle.org/about-unity/weddings-downtown-raleigh/>

[5] <http://www.tnnirishpub.com/>

[6] <http://www.thepourhousemusicall.com/>

[7] <http://kingsbarcade.com/>

[8] <http://www.architectbar.com/>

[9] <http://www.raleighconvention.com/about/facilities/ballroom>

[10]

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[11] <https://ibma.org/tags/showcases>

[12] <https://ibma.org/tags/wob>