

About Bluegrass - Landing Summary

ABOUT BLUEGRASS

The History



The roots of bluegrass reach back to the music brought to America by immigrants in the early 1600s, including dance music and ballads from Ireland, Scotland and England, as well as African American gospel music and blues. In fact, slaves from Africa brought the design idea for the banjo--an instrument now integral to the bluegrass sound.

As the early Jamestown settlers began to spread out into the Carolinas, Tennessee, Kentucky and the Virginias, they composed new songs about day-to-day life experiences in the new land. Since most of these people lived in rural areas, the songs reflected life on the farm or in the hills and this type of music was called "mountain music" or "country music."

[Read](#)^[1] [More](#)^[2] (photo by Les Leverett)

Careers & Education in Bluegrass



BEGINNERS: If you are interested in pursuing a music, you can improve your talents by singing, playing at every opportunity available to you where now: school music classes, choirs, band, orchestras, bluegrass clubs at school, bluegrass association & workshops, church and community choirs, local productions, private lessons, attending bluegrass and camps, "learn to jam" camps, entering talent you're looking for a teacher, a good place to start music store that sells instruments and equipment the type of music you want to perform, as well as bluegrass music associations.

(photo of Grey Fox Bluegrass Academy for Kids)

College Level Bluegrass & Music Business Programs



Source URL: <https://ibma.org/node/77>

Links:

[1] [Appalachian State University](https://ibma.org/node/77)

[2] <https://ibma.org/node/77> [3]

[3] <https://www.appstate.edu/>

[4] kathleen.creke@appstate.edu

[5] <http://www2006.belmont.edu/cemb/>

[6] <http://www.berea.edu/mus/performance-ensembles/bluegrass-music/>

[7] al.white@bera.edu

[8] <http://www.appstate.edu/>

[9] info@maab.org

[10] <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/emerging.artists.sg>

[11] <http://www.bluegrassfoundation.org/Programs/Camp>

Belmont University

[Mike Curb College of](#)

[Entertainment & Music Business](#) [5]

Nashville, TN

Michael McLain, Bluegrass
Ensemble Director

(615) 460-6785

*degrees in audio engineering
tech, entertainment industry
studies, music business,
songwriting

Berea College

[Music Program](#) [6]

Berea, KY

Al White, Director of Bluegrass
Music

1-859-985-3694

al.white@bera.edu [7]

[View the entire list of college
programs.](#) [8]

(photo of ESTU bluegrass students)

Careers & Education in Bluegrass

GETTING TO THE NEXT LEVEL: There are a number of instructional materials available now in print, on DVD and online. Check out the links below, for a list of bluegrass workshops and camps we're aware of, and also a list of colleges and universities that include instruction or degree programs in bluegrass music.

IBMA offers **showcase opportunities** for bands and songwriters at our annual World of Bluegrass Business Conference. (Call 1-888-GET-IBMA or email info@ibma.org [9].) We also plan a slate of **professional development** seminars, educational labs, workshops and mentor sessions for the conference--including a special track for Emerging Bands. You may also be interested in checking out the **Emerging Artist Support Group** organized by IBMA member Henri Deschamps on [Facebook](#). [10]

[View a list of bluegrass camps and workshops.](#) [11]



(Joe Val Bluegrass Academy for Kids)