

# MASS MoCA

## FreshGrass North Adams Announces Lineup for 10th Anniversary Bluegrass Festival at MASS MoCA, September 24-26

Featuring Dispatch (acoustic), Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Béla Fleck *My Bluegrass Heart* featuring Michael Cleveland, Sierra Hull, Justin Moses, Mark Schatz, and Bryan Sutton, and many more

**North Adams, MA, April 29, 2021** — FreshGrass, MASS MoCA's annual three-day festival of bluegrass and progressive roots music, announces the lineup for its 10th anniversary, featuring: Dispatch (acoustic), Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Béla Fleck *My Bluegrass Heart* (featuring Michael Cleveland, Sierra Hull, Justin Moses, Mark Schatz, and Bryan Sutton), Watchhouse (formerly Mandolin Orange), Sam Bush, Steep Canyon Rangers (FreshGrass Artist-in-Residence), Sarah Jarosz, Aiofe O'Donovan, Watkins Family Hour, Noam Pikelny, Bonny Light Horseman, Alison Brown, Amythyst Kiah, Darol Anger, Hawktail, Dedicated Men of Zion, A Tribute to Sister Rosetta Tharpe featuring Felicia Collins, Willi Carlisle, CJ Field, and more.

"We're thrilled to welcome FreshGrass back to MASS MoCA for its 10th anniversary," says MASS MoCA Interim Director Tracy Moore. "After the challenges of this past year, FreshGrass reminds us of the pure joy and connection that live music holds."

FreshGrass features bluegrass traditionalists and innovators on four stages and platforms throughout the museum's 16-acre campus. Festival programming also includes FreshScores, a silent film with original live music; FreshGrass commissions and world premieres; instrument and industry workshops; pop-up performances and retail; and local Berkshire food and spirits vendors.

Berklee College of Music's American Roots Music Program returns with workshops led by bluegrass veterans on the subjects of songwriting, producing, and music marketing. FreshGrass-owned *No Depression* — the quarterly journal for roots music and online roots music authority — sets up an eponymous stage in the festival's inner courtyard and Compass Records brings its pop-up record store back to the center of the festival. Steep Canyon Rangers returns as the second annual FreshGrass Artist-in-Residence, with a presence all three days, and as this year's FreshGrass Commission recipients with Noam Pikelny to premiere *The Bluegrass Concertos*.

FreshGrass continues to nurture emerging talent in the bluegrass field with its FreshGrass Awards, which grant up to \$25,000 in cash prizes and recording time at Compass Records studio in Nashville to unsigned talent. The annual award categories include band, banjo, fiddle, and mandolin. Fifteen finalists — three in each category — travel to the festival to perform for a panel of *No Depression* editors and artists. Finalists will perform throughout the weekend on pop-up stages and award winners in each of the four categories will earn a mainstage slot at the 2022 FreshGrass Festival. The FreshGrass Award prizes are funded by the FreshGrass Foundation, whose mission is to promote, produce, and create innovative grassroots music and support emerging artists.

"FreshGrass is a singular festival experience," says producer Chris Wadsworth, "supported by a large and vibrant roots community that continues to grow each year. This year's lineup, featuring the

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phenomenal talents of Dispatch, Trombone Shorty and Béla Fleck, displays the breadth of roots music that FreshGrass is known for. And with FreshGrass Awards, commissions, and FreshScores, we're continuing to support the development of innovative new artists in the field."

FreshGrass 2021 is sponsored by No Depression, Folk Alley, The Porches Inn at MASS MoCA, Compass Records, the American Roots Music Program at Berklee College of Music, Circle Strings, EASTMAN, Deering Banjo Company, Girardi Distributors, Berkshire Gas, and AccessPlus Communications.

### **Tickets**

3-Day tickets are now on sale for adults (\$125), students (\$99), and children 7-16 (\$46). Admission is free for children 6 and under. All festival tickets include admission to MASS MoCA's galleries. MASS MoCA members receive a 10% discount on ticket prices.

FreshPass tickets are now on sale for \$500 and include: preferred seating or standing sections at the main stages, access to the FreshPass Lounge (free beer and snacks, phone charging, and a festival concierge), meet-and-greet opportunities with FreshGrass artists, and an exclusive curator-led tour of the MASS MoCA galleries.

Ticket prices are subject to change after May 5. FreshGrass is held rain or shine.

### **Camping**

FreshGround and Camp Aggie camping will go on sale soon. Dates and details can be found on the FreshGrass website, [www.freshgrass.com](http://www.freshgrass.com).

### **About FreshGrass Foundation**

FreshGrass believes that the simple acts of making and sharing authentic creations are among the most effective ways to spread joy and love, to improve lives and communities, and to make a profoundly positive impact on the world. To achieve our mission, we produce [FreshGrass Festivals](#) in North Adams, MA and Bentonville, AR; we offer a variety of grants, commissions, and awards to musicians and writers for new works; we produce and publish [No Depression](#), the quarterly journal of roots music; we produce, publish and stream [Folk Alley](#), the 24-hour online listening for roots music; we are a founding partner of [Artists At Work](#), a program that provides living wages for living artists; we administer the [Steve Martin Banjo Prize](#), a prestigious award founded by Steve Martin (actor/comedian) that recognizes an individual or group for outstanding accomplishment in banjo; and we operate and manage [Studio 9](#) in North Adams, MA, a state-of-the-art recording studio and venue. Through a cutting-edge, multidisciplinary and collaborative approach, Freshgrass continually strives to help promote new artists and create new art through each of its entities. FreshGrass is committed to making our organization completely sustainable and carbon neutral. Learn more about our green pledge by reading our [FreshGrass Manifesto](#).

### **About MASS MoCA**

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest centers for making and enjoying today's most evocative art. With vast galleries and a stunning collection of indoor and outdoor performing arts venues, MASS MoCA is able to embrace all forms of art: music, sculpture, dance, film, painting, photography, theater, and new, boundary-crossing works of art that defy easy classification. Much of the work we show in our light-filled spaces, on our technically sophisticated stages, and within our lovely network of late 19th-century courtyards is made here during extended fabrication and rehearsal residencies that bring hundreds of the world's most brilliant and innovative artists to North Adams all year round. For more information about MASS MoCA, visit [www.massmoca.org](http://www.massmoca.org).

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