

MASS MoCA

FreshGrass | North Adams Announces Initial Lineup for Annual Bluegrass Festival at MASS MoCA, September 23-25

Featuring Gary Clark Jr., Old Crow Medicine Show, Trampled by Turtles, Yola, The Jerry Douglas Band, Aoife O'Donovan, Sierra Ferrell, and many more

North Adams, MA, March 31, 2022 — FreshGrass, MASS MoCA's annual three-day festival of bluegrass and progressive roots music, announces the initial 2022 lineup, featuring Gary Clark Jr., Old Crow Medicine Show, Trampled by Turtles, Yola, The Jerry Douglas Band, Aoife O'Donovan, Sierra Ferrell, Alison Brown, The Lil Smokies, Sierra Hull, Willie Watson, Luca Ciarla, Never Come Down, Misty Blues, California Bluegrass Reunion featuring Darol Anger, John Reischman, Bill Evans, Jim Nunally, Sharon Gilchrist & Chad Manning, and many more. Additional artists will be announced in the coming weeks.

"FreshGrass is a beloved tradition at MASS MoCA, with more than a decade of music and memories," says MASS MoCA Director Kristy Edmunds. "The joy and care that go into creating this festival—from the world-premiere performances to the developmental workshops and awards—keep artists and audiences coming back year after year."

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.

Workshops led by bluegrass veterans on the subjects of songwriting, producing, and music marketing will be offered. 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.

FreshGrass nurtures emerging talent in the bluegrass field with its FreshGrass Awards, which grant up to \$20,000 in cash prizes and recording time at Compass Records studio in Nashville to unsigned talent. The annual award categories include band, banjo, guitar, and fiddle. Twelve 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 2023 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.

"We are thrilled with this year's lineup," says producer and FreshGrass Foundation Director Chris Wadsworth. "It includes major artists who've never been here before, some old favorites, and plenty of Freshgrass surprises. This year's commissions are sure to break boundaries for us as well."

FreshGrass 2022 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, Guido's Fresh Marketplace, and AccessPlus Communications.

Tickets

3-Day tickets are now on sale for adults (\$129), students (\$99), and children 7-16 (\$49). 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, excluding VIP FreshPass tickets.

VIP 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 selection of festival merchandise), meet-and-greet opportunities with FreshGrass artists, and an exclusive curator-led tour of the MASS MoCA galleries.

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

Camping

FreshGround is a tent-camping field within easy walking distance (.7 miles; 12 minutes) of the festival, convenient to downtown merchants, bars, and restaurants. A shuttle bus runs continuously to the festival from the campsite. On-sale dates and details can be found on the FreshGrass website, 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.

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