

MASS MoCA

FreshGrass | North Adams Announces Initial Lineup for Annual Bluegrass and Roots Festival at MASS MoCA, September 20-22, 2024

Featuring Shakey Graves, Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway, The Devil Makes Three, Lucinda Williams, Drive-By Truckers, Béla Fleck, Edmar Castañeda, Antonio Sanchez Trio, and many more

North Adams, MA, April 10, 2024 — FreshGrass, MASS MoCA's annual three-day festival of bluegrass and roots music, announces the initial 2024 lineup, featuring **Shakey Graves, Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway, The Devil Makes Three, Lucinda Williams, Drive-By Truckers Béla Fleck, Edmar Castañeda, Antonio Sanchez Trio, Hurray for the Riff Raff, Adia Victoria, Alison Brown, PACHYMAN, New Dangerfield, Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands, The Harlem Gospel Travelers, John Reischman & the Jaybirds, The Langan Band, Po' Ramblin' Boys, Darol Anger + Bruce Molsky, Andy Wrba + Friends, and soon-to-be-announced FreshGrass commissions.** Additional artists to be announced in the coming weeks.

Set against the foothills of the autumn Berkshire mountains, **FreshGrass** is a family-friendly festival with the best in bluegrass and roots music filling the fields, courtyards, and galleries of MASS MoCA's 16-acre campus. Along with world premieres, emerging artist competitions, farm-fresh local Berkshire food and brews, and pop-up jam sessions, FreshGrass is three days of festival magic produced in partnership by MASS MoCA, the FreshGrass Foundation, and *No Depression*.

Festival programming also includes music premieres including **FreshScores**, a silent film with original live music score and **FreshGrass commissions** for artists to create and perform new music; Additional programming includes ; instrument and industry workshops and pop-up performances.

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, one of the most renowned independent music labels in the country founded by banjoist Alison Brown and bassist Garry West, 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 2024 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.

“This year’s lineup reinforces FreshGrass’ commitment to championing a diverse range of roots music,” says producer and FreshGrass Foundation Director Chris Wadsworth on this year’s offerings. “It includes pioneers of our industry as well as those continuing to push the genre forward for a new generation. In addition, FreshGrass is proud to commission an array of unique performances that allows artists to create and present new work to our audience.”

FreshGrass 2024 is sponsored by No Depression, Folk Alley, Mass Cultural Council, 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, AccessPlus Communications, and Topo Chico.

Tickets

3-Day tickets are now on sale for adults (\$169), students (\$129), and children 7-16 (\$64). Admission is free for children 5 and under. All festival tickets include admission to MASS MoCA’s galleries. **MASS MoCA members receive a 10% discount on ticket prices* and never pay ticketing fees** (*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 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. FreshGround is on sale [now](#).

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

In May 2024, MASS MoCA will celebrate its 25th anniversary under its new Director, Kristy Edmunds, not only as a contemporary art museum and performing arts venue, but also as a creative campus with a regional, national and global impact. 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. From its beginnings as the major textile mill Arnold Print Works in the mid-19th century, to its days as the Sprague Electric Company in the mid-20th century, to its current iteration as a globally renowned contemporary art museum and fabrication center, the 16-acre MASS MoCA campus has a rich history of serving as the economic engine of the city of North Adams and the surrounding region. For more information about MASS MoCA, visit www.massmoca.org or follow us on Instagram at [@massmoca](#).