



HEBRON, CT ~ AUGUST 11-14, 2016

**Bluegrass Festival**

## NEWS RELEASE

### 20<sup>th</sup> Podunk Bluegrass Festival Kicks Off August 11<sup>th</sup> in Hebron, CT

- WHAT:** Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival. 2010 [IBMA](#) Event of the Year.
- WHEN:** Thursday August 11 – Sunday August 14, 2016
- WHERE:** Hebron Lions Fairground,  
347 Gilead Street  
CT Route 85  
Hebron, Connecticut 06248  
[Directions](#)
- WEBSITE:** [www.PodunkBluegrass.com](http://www.PodunkBluegrass.com)
- SOCIAL:** [facebook.com/podunkbluegrassfestival](https://facebook.com/podunkbluegrassfestival)  
[twitter.com/PodunkBluegrass](https://twitter.com/PodunkBluegrass)
- PARKING:** Ample parking available on site for \$3.00 per day
- PRICE:** Ticket options vary from daily tickets to the ultimate experience of a VIP package. [See website for details.](#)
- ACCOMMODATIONS:** On site camping. Limited hookups available. [More info.](#)  
[Hilton Garden Inn Glastonbury, CT](#) is the official hotel for the festival.
- MEDIA INQUIRIES:** Roger Moss, Executive Director  
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## Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival Announces Main Stage Performers for 2016.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Podunk Bluegrass Festival will feature two time Grammy winner [The Del McCoury Band](#), Grammy Award winner [Alison Brown](#) and 2013 IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year [Claire Lynch](#).

The festival launches Thursday at 6 pm with the [Telefunken Band Competition](#). Four regional bands will go up against each other to take first place and land a spot in the 2017 Podunk line-up. At 7:30 pm, singer songwriter [Abby Hollander](#), winner of the 2014 Podunk [songwriting competition](#) takes the stage.

Closing out Thursday night is [Jeff Scroggins & Colorado](#), a high-energy five-piece bluegrass band from Colorado. Their distinctive sound showcases an eclectic range of influences that marry second and third generation bluegrass, delivering a unique experience that captivates audiences and keeps them guessing. It's a powerful, high mountain "bluegrass explosion" that features world-class banjo and mandolin playing, incredible vocals, a solid and energetic rhythm.

Friday's performers include [The South Carolina Broadcasters](#), [Sideline](#), [Sierra Hull](#) and [Ronnie Reno](#). Each band will perform two sets during the day and evening. Closing out Friday night is Grammy Award winner [Alison Brown](#), one of today's finest progressive 5-string banjo players, the 2015 IBMA Distinguished Achievement Award/2014 United States Artist Fellowship recipient and Compass Records co-founder. Alison, along with her band The Alison Brown Quartet, will round out a day of performances you won't want to miss. ***"Like James Taylor's voice or B.B. King's guitar, Alison Brown's banjo is an instrument possessed of a unique sonic signature and an inescapable beauty."*** - Billboard Magazine.

On Saturday, gates open at 10AM with non-stop Bluegrass all day from [Colebrook Road](#), [Junior Sisk and Ramblers Choice](#), [Southern Raised](#) and [Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers](#). At 9:40, [The Del McCoury Band](#) featuring two-time Grammy winner, National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, and Grand Ol' Opry member, Del McCoury, his sons Ronnie and Rob along with Alan Bartram and Jason Carter take the main stage.

The Del McCoury Band is one of the most decorated groups in bluegrass history with more than 30 [IBMA](#) awards for the band and its individual members, including Entertainer of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year, Fiddle Player of the Year, Mandolin Player of the Year, Bass Player of the Year and various awards for recording projects. Del is something special, a living link to the days when bluegrass was made only in hillbilly honkytonks, schoolhouse shows and on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry, yet also a commandingly vital presence today, from prime time and late night TV talk shows to music festivals where audiences number in the hundreds of thousands.

Sunday performances include a Gospel Sing & Jam with [Mike & Mary Robinson](#), musical sets by [Southern Raised](#), the [Kids Academy Performance](#) and a final set by 2013 IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year [Claire Lynch](#). Dolly Parton credits Claire with ***"one of the sweetest, purest and best lead voices in the music business today."*** Claire's

harmonies have graced the recordings of many stellar musicians. Equally gifted as a songwriter, her songs have been recorded by The Seldom Scene, Patty Loveless, Kathy Mattea, Cherryholmes, The Whites and others.

## **New to the Festival in 2015, the Acoustic Music Stage Returns Even Better in 2016.**

While our award winning Bluegrass festival is running on the main stage, the Acoustic Stage will feature Connecticut based musicians on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The Acoustic Stage is a multi-genre stage that highlights the variety of original music produced here in Connecticut. All performers use acoustic instruments – and yes drums are an acoustic instrument.

On Thursday August 11, 2016, the Acoustic Stage will become the [On Deck Sound Studio](#) Showcase. It will feature new rising stars on the Connecticut music scene. A great way to start a weekend of great music.

Friday August 12 and Saturday August 13, 2016 there will be 8 hours of music each day that will feature Connecticut based musicians.

The stage will be located on a nice grassy area close to the main entrance where there will be plenty of room for camping close to the stage.

The 2016 lineup can be seen by clicking [here](#).

## **Festival Facts:**

For many years the Podunk Bluegrass Festival was held at Martin Park in East Hartford, CT where it won the International Bluegrass Music Association “Event of the Year” in 2010, the highest award given to a bluegrass event.

In 2014 the festival found a new home at the [Hebron Fairground](#) where it finally has room to grow to it's full potential.

The Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization.

In 2010 Podunk received an Arts and Humanities Award from the National Parks and Recreation Association.

Since its inception, Podunk has hosted some of the biggest names in bluegrass music such as Ricky Skaggs, Emmylou Harris, John Hartford. Ralph Stanley, Rhonda Vincent, Sam Bush, Steep Canyon Rangers and The Seldom Scene and many more.

There are many activities throughout the four days to entertain the kids including crafts, games, movies and [Kid's Bluegrass Academy](#) provided by the Rhode Island Bluegrass Alliance - ([RIBA](#))

Ample Field Picking. Bring your instrument and join in at the camping grounds and under the family tent for some good old fashion picking! Plenty of opportunities to play into the wee hours!

Concierge camping. Upon entry, our camping team will discuss your preferences with you

and guide you right to your perfect camping spot. No “rodeo” or fighting for space at this festival. Limited hookups are available. [Details](#)