



GLAMA

October 2009

Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association

January 22-23 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel

2010 Cooper's Glen Music Festival Set

Some of traditional music's top national performers – as well as popular local and regional bands – are scheduled to appear at the Cooper's Glen Music Festival, which will be held January 22-23 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Kalamazoo.

Among them are bluegrass legends Doug and Rodney Dillard; singer-songwriter Laurie Lewis and duet part-

ner Tom Rozum; singer-songwriter and musician extraordinaire Joel Mabus; harmonical virtuoso Peter Madcat Ruth with Shari Kane & Maxwell Street; and The New Bad Habits, an old-time string band.

The festival will be held at the Radisson for the third year, after moving from the Kalamazoo Nature Center, where it was held for the first five years.

Also scheduled to appear at the festival are Carmea, the Kalamazoo Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra, Honest D & the Steel Reserve, the Hoot Owls, Millish, the Red Sea Pedestrians, Schlitz Creek and the Williams Family. There will also be workshops, a children's stage, instrument displays, luthier demonstrations and other features that make the festival one of southwestern Michigan's premier family events.

Advance tickets will be on sale November 1. Tickets are priced at \$15 in advance, \$25 at the door for Friday, and \$20 in advance and \$30 at the door for

Saturday. A full weekend pass will cost \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. We hope people will take advantage of the substantial savings they will realize by purchasing their tickets in advance. This will not only help us avoid a last-minute crunch in ticket sales, but will

also give us greater flexibility in planning the event.

Current GLAMA members will get an additional \$5 off each ticket category. Children 16 and under will be admitted free. In addition, each ad-

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Festival Schedule

Friday, January 22

6:00-6:45 p.m.	Carmea
7:00-7:45 p.m.	The Red Sea Pedestrians
8:00-8:45 p.m.	Honest D K& the Steel Reserve
9:00-9:45 p.m.	Millish
10:00-11:00 p.m.	Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum
11:00 p.m.	Open jam

Saturday, January 23

Noon-12:45 p.m.	Highway 94
1:00-1:45 p.m.	The Hoot Owls
2:00-2:45 p.m.	The Kalamazoo Mandolin & Guitar Orchestra
3:00-3:45 p.m.	The Williams Family
4:00-4:45 p.m.	The New Bad Habits
5:00-5:45 p.m.	Schlitz Creek
5:45-7:30 p.m.	DINNER BREAK
7:30-8:15 p.m.	Madcat & Kane & Maxwell Street
8:30-9:30 p.m.	Joel Mabus
9:30 p.m.	Guitar Raffle Drawing
9:45-10:45 p.m.	The Dillards
10:15 p.m.	Open Jam

In addition, Saturday workshops will be announced soon.



Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum



Madcat & Kane & Maxwell St.

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vance ticket purchased qualifies the holder for a free door prize/raffle ticket, which will be on sale during the event. Tickets are available at Broughton Music Center, 1381 South Drake Road, Marshall Music Company, 951 Mall Drive in Portage, and via the Web site coopersglen.org.

Rooms are available at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at a special festival rate. For rate information and to book a room, call the Radisson at (269) 343-3333. Hurry, though, because rooms are going fast.

Festival sponsors this year include the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, the John E. Fetzer Institute.

Contributors include Grassroots on WMUK-Radio, and members and friends of the Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association.



The Dillardards with Andy Griffith



The Williams Family



Honest D & the Steel Reserve



Joel Mabus

Marty Stuart: Taking Country Music to the Forgotten People

By Mike VanBuren

Marty Stuart fondly recalls his early days on the Sunday park circuit with bluegrass great Lester Flatt and the Nashville Grass.

Buck Lake Ranch, Sunset Park, Frontier Ranch – they played them all. Stuart said he loved the small-towns they visited and the rural fans that he met during those days. He tries to get back to them whenever possible.

“I play everything from the outhouse to the White House,” he said during a recent interview at a community performing arts center in Charlotte, Michigan. “This year, in particular, we’ve played everything from Madison Square Garden to a tiny school. A show is a show.”

Stuart said that when he started his band, the Fabulous Superlatives, in 2002, his policy was to treat a 5,000-watt radio station with the same regard as they treat the biggest radio station in the world – and the same with local newspapers.

“A local newspaper is just as important to me as the Wall Street Journal,” he said.

With that philosophy in mind, the Superlatives began by playing fire department carnivals, tiny Opry houses,



National Guard armories and many other venues in small-town America.

“I fell in love with it,” he said. “And this vision came to me at a carnival one day in Pennsylvania. There were about

five thousand people there – everything from little princesses that twirled batons to bikers. There were grandmas, grandpas, tattooed kids, farmers – just America. There it was. It was like a Norman Rockwell painting and a [Federico] Fellini movie all at the same time.”

Stuart said he called his drummer, Harry Stinson, to the front of the bus and said, “That’s what we need to do – take country music to the forgotten people.”

Stuart said this vision was in reaction to the place he found himself in his life at that particular time.

“I had such a great run,” he said. “I left home when I was twelve years old to go on the road and I didn’t go home for twenty-something years. I basically just lived on a bus. And at the end of the nineties – after a really, really good commercial decade – I was tired and burned out. Radio was starting to not play my records anymore – those kinds

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New Location for Workshops and Jams

We have secured a new location for our monthly workshops and jams.

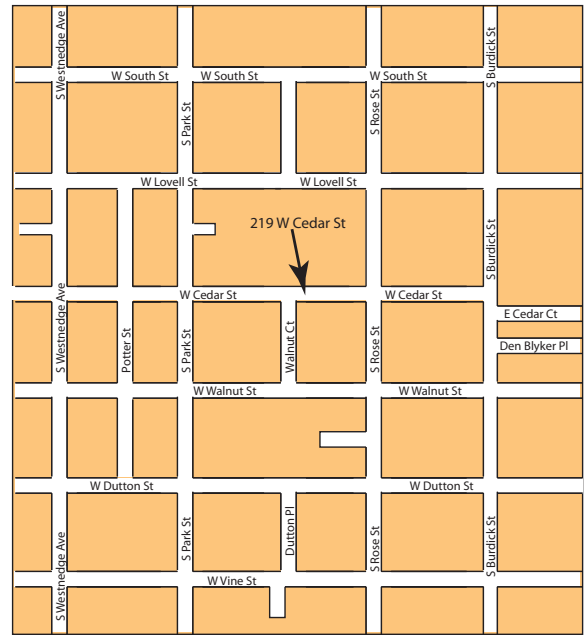
The GLAMA Board has been searching for a more centrally located venue in downtown Kalamazoo. We found such a place in the Knights Columbus building, located at 219 W. Cedar St. between Burdick and Park streets. Built by the Knights of Columbus in 1954, this building has long been a venue for local celebrations, dinners, dances and music, both formal and informal.

There is plenty of free parking on Saturdays and the lower level has a perfect setup with a large room and stage, an ideal place for workshops or concerts. There are also several

side rooms for additional jams. Like GLAMA, the Knights of Columbus is a non-profit organization and they have extended their hospitality by offering liquid refreshments for purchase during the jams.

Workshops and jams will happen on the first Saturday of each month from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., October through April, taking January off due to the Cooper's Glen Music Festival.

Jamming starts at 2:00 p.m. and workshops will begin at 3:00 p.m.



2009-2010 GLAMA Workshop Schedule



November 7, 2009

BLUEGRASS RHYTHM GUITAR WORKSHOP

Instructor: Kevin Gaugier

Join us for a workshop by one of the premier musicians in Michigan. A multi-instrumentalist, Kevin currently plays banjo with Detour Bluegrass Band. You can hear his lead guitar playing every weekend by listening to the Grassroots theme tune, Kevin's rhythm guitar workshop will focus primarily on the use of alternative chord positions to play "cleaner" rhythm. He will discuss the advantages of either re-

moving or replacing one particular part of the chord to provide the lead instrument with more flexibility in improvisation. Chord diagrams will be provided along with chord charts demonstrating the use of these alternative positions in the context of a couple of common tunes.



December 5, 2009

DRUMMING FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

Instructor: Carolyn Koebel

Join local percussionist/music therapist Carolyn Koebel for a tour de force of percussion instruments from across the globe. No experience necessary, but expect to learn

something about the common elements and techniques for djembe/doumbek/congas and frame drums in an interactive, come-and-play drum jam for all ages and abilities.

We'll start with basic techniques and end with a big groove train.

January 22 & 23, 2010

Happy New Year!

See you all at the Cooper's Glen Music Festival





February 6, 2010

PLAYING LEAD BREAKS WITH DOBRO & BANJO

Instructor: Al Bates

Do you need a “break” but don’t know where or how to start? Join Kalamazoo’s own Al Bates in a workshop that will show you the fine art of developing a solo or lead break to tunes often heard in jams. You can hear Al’s terrific resonator guitar style each week on the Grassroots theme. He is an accomplished player and instructor of several other instruments including banjo and mandolin. Al will start with simple tunes and use his banjo and dobro to demonstrate some ideas. These principles will translate to other instruments so guitars, fiddles and mandolins are welcome too!



March 6, 2010

MANDOLIN

Instructor: Josh Rilko

Mandolin pickers, you can’t afford to miss this one!!

A member of Michigan’s new generation of young bluegrass players, Josh’s workshop will focus on fiddle tunes, improvisation, Bill Monroe style, and rhythm. He will show how fiddle tunes relate to different major scale positions, and demonstrate different improvisation “tricks” once the tune is learned. Josh will also explain the distinction between fiddle tunes and bluegrass by demonstrating how to solo out of the Bill Monroe bluegrass “chop chord” position. Using closed position chords, he will reveal how a solo can be built around it for a bluegrass song. Other aspects of this workshop will include using double stops in fiddle tunes and bluegrass solos, Bill Monroe “downstroke style” and its importance in playing bluegrass, various ways to play rhythm, and different chord shapes for use in different situations.



April 3, 2010

BACK-UP GUITAR

Instructor: Joel Mabus

It takes two hands to play a chord on the guitar. This workshop will concentrate on the right hand (or left hand if your guitar points the other way). The right hand controls the rhythm and pace of a song. We’ll look at the deceptively simple “boom-chuck” of a fast bluegrass song, as well as the “chunk-chunk-chunk” of swing music. Also the on-beat strums of Irish music and the off-beat strums of a variety of other styles. What to do with a waltz, a jig, a reel, a hornpipe and other dance music. Bring your guitar - “advanced beginner” through intermediate level.

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of things. I was starting to chase and get frustrated and just kind of get put out with the whole situation. So, like any good showman, I called intermission in my life.”

Stuart said he wanted to go out and create the “back part of my life” – musically – without having any pressure. So he told his booking agent to put him as far into the back woods of America as possible – “the C, D, E, and F markets, so I don’t have to worry about box offices and don’t have to worry about anything other than making music.” He said he didn’t care at the time if only three people came to his shows.

“So that’s what we did,” he said.

A few years later, Stuart put together a show that he called the *Electric Barnyard Tour* and took “a French-style circus to the back roads of America.”

Included in the troupe was country music legend Merle Haggard – widely referred to as the poet of the common man – an up-and-coming string band known as the Old Crow Medicine Show, and Stuart’s wife, Connie Smith.

“The people loved it,” he said. “There was me and Merle Haggard on stage, Connie and Merle on stage, me and Connie on stage, fiddle tunes, comedy, hits and legends. It was all there. It was a wonderful show. It was Buck Lake Ranch on the road.”

“It was a joy,” said Connie Smith. We love to visit with each other and to be with the musicians and we all love each other. Some of the greatest things that happened on the *Electric Barnyard Tour* were when we were rehearsing. We’d wind up singing things we’d never done before, or since. And the people that were there were all crowding around, because it didn’t happen on the show, but it happened at rehearsal. It’s a wonderful thing when you get a bunch of hillbillies together.”

In retrospect, Stuart said that the *Electric Barnyard Tour* “was a failure and a raging success, all at the same time.

To all GLAMA members and supporters of acoustic music:

Plans for the 8th Annual Cooper’s Glen Music Festival, scheduled for January 22 and 23, 2010, are under way and we are looking forward to another successful weekend at the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel.

Although the amounts were reduced this year, we are pleased to announce continued grant support from our long-time sponsors, the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and the John E. Fetzer Institute. We also received a small contribution from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Last year’s winter storm resulted in a smaller profit margin from admissions, a decrease in our seed dollars and a reduced budget for the 2010 event.

In past years, GLAMA members have made significant contributions in terms of volunteer time and energy,

as well as monetary gifts. We would like to give you another opportunity this year to support this great event and help assure more such activities in the future.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to help ensure that the quality entertainment and educational workshops found at the Cooper’s Glen Music Festival continue. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Those who donate \$50 or more will be recognized in the festival program.

If you wish to contribute, you may send your tax-deductible donation to:

Cooper’s Glen Music Festival
c/o Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association
P.O. Box 50781
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49005

“It was [Charles] Dickens who said, ‘It was the best of times and the worst of times,’” he said. “In lots of ways [the tour] was wonderful and in lots of ways it was heartbreaking. But it’s an idea that’s not finished.”

Stuart acknowledges that this is a different day and time with a lot of nagging economic challenges. It’s evident, he said, that rural and small-town venues – the Buck Lake Ranches of the world – have some tough obstacles to face. But still he believes strongly in small-town America and the “creative strand” of its people.

“I come from small-town America – Philadelphia, Mississippi,” he said. “I understand the struggles of any small town to try to be unique – to try to have an identity against the big barrage of corporate world out there. There’s a place for that, but we shouldn’t lose our souls as Americans and as American business people just on account of that. And the way we stand against that is with each other. I support small performing arts cen-

ters. I support independent thinkers.”

Stuart said that a lot of people may think he’s crazy, but he makes sure he doesn’t lose money on the proposition.

“We couldn’t do it if we lost money. Fuel is too expensive. Salaries are too expensive. There are taxes, workers compensation – just the nuts and bolts of things are too expensive these days to lose money. However, we make sure there are enough things that balance out when a show comes along that I believe in, but doesn’t really pay a lot. I make sure there’s enough shows around it to make it worth my while. That’s the only way I can do it, but it can be planned out and done.”

From a late 2007 interview with Marty Stuart and excerpted from a soon-to-be released book about Buck Lake Ranch, a historic country music park near Angola, Indiana. For more information about the book and a related documentary video, see www.newshoundproductions.com

GLAMA Membership Renewal

GLAMA membership runs from January through December. Your membership dollars help support the Cooper's Glen Festival and our monthly workshops, and allows a \$5 discount off festival tickets.

GLAMA annual membership dues are:

Student or Senior Citizen	\$10.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00

Name: _____

Street address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please include your current contact information with your renewal. Several of our e-mail, street addresses, and phone numbers are not current.

THANK YOU!

Membership enclosed: \$ _____

Membership renewals may be mailed to:

The Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association
P.O. Box 50781
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49005



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