

String Band Summit Program– rev. 2026-4-3

Friday, April 10 - Conference sessions in ETSU Reece Museum unless otherwise indicated

9-10:30am - Historical String Band Music (90 min) - Chair: Joti Rockwell

- An Early American Bowed String Band?: New England viols “in Consort” (Loren Ludwig)
- “Rich-R-Tone Records: Documenting the 'Oldest Bluegrass Label' in the World" (Ted Olson, ETSU)
- Banjos and Pedal Steels: Analyzing Jerry Garcia’s Bluegrass Roots (Joti Rockwell, Pomona)

10:30-10:45 - Coffee / snack break

10:45am-12:15pm - Individuals and String Band Music (90 min) Chair: Esther Morgan: Ellis

- Field Recording as Participatory Musicking: The Case of Bill Smedley - Esther Morgan-Ellis (UNG)
- Listening to the Haleys Sing - Richard Will (UVA)
- Not Just a Good Ole Boys Club: Studying the Personal, Performance, and Professional Roles of Women in Bluegrass (Lydia Hamby, ETSU)

12:30-1:30pm – Round-the-table Session: String Bands in Higher Education (lunch, Marketplace cafeteria, Culp Center) Led by Evie Andrus

1:45- 2:15 – Cylinder recording demonstration (Martin Fisher, MTSU)

2:20-3:35pm - Teaching and Learning String Band Music (90 min) - Chair, Nate Olson

- Cultural Tourism in the Orchestra Classroom: Why Token Bluegrass Isn’t Enough (Nate Olson, ETSU)
- Overcoming the Barriers to Offering ‘By Ear’ String Ensembles: A Narrative Inquiry of String Teachers’ Experiences (Annie Savage, JMU)
- What Now?" - Managing a College Stringband After the Death of an Advisor - Isaac McCarthy (Ohio State)

3:35 – 3:50pm - Coffee / snack break

3:50-4:35pm - “Small Conferences”, Festivals, Gatherings, Summits, and Hangs: The Meeting Spaces of String Band Music” - Holly Riley (MTSU) Mark Dillon (GTCC)

4:45-5:45pm - Keynote Session (Sav Sankaran, Unspoken Tradition)

5:45-7:00pm – DINNER - Culp Center Cafeteria

7:00-8:30pm - ATMA Ensemble - ETSU Martin Center, Recital Hall

7:30-9:30pm - Intimate Evening with Maria Muldaur, ETSU Reece Museum

Saturday, April 11, 2026 - Conference Sessions in Bud Frank Theater, Gilbreath Hall, ETSU

8:30 - 9:15am - Workshop: Strings and Rhythm with ATMA Ensemble (VR Venkataraman and group)

9:15 – 9:30 Coffee / snack break

9:30 – 10:15am College Group Session (ETSU, MTSU,

10:30am - 12:00pm- “Shifting Currents: Tributaries of Post-Secondary Research on Old-Time and Bluegrass Music” - Chair, Rob McCormac

-In Crooked Cardinal Directions: Mapping Music and Caves of the Cumberland Plateau (Jenny Hesoun, IU)

-Authenticating Americana in Japanese Bluegrass and Old-Time Imaginaries (Donald Bradley, IU)

-Against Sportization, or Toward A Tension-Arousal Paradigm for Old-Time Music (Rob McCormac, IU)

11:00-11:45am – Missy Raines Workshop at Picking In the Schoolyard (University School)

12:00– 1:00pm – Round-the-table Session 1: “Serving musical communities” (lunch, Marketplace cafeteria, Culp Center) Led by Chris Witulski (Bowling Green State University)
Session 2: Entrepreneurship in music business. Innovation vs ideas (Gary Upton)

1:10 - 1:40pm - Rusty Rooster String Band (UNG) “Fusing Bluegrass/Old-Time with Other Genres of Music”

1:40 - 3:00pm – Roundtable - Religion and Bluegrass

Pete Ward (University of Durham), Lee Bidgood (ETSU), Fred Bartenstein (independent scholar), Jennifer Adler (ETSU), Laura Bryant (St. John’s Episcopal, Johnson City, TN)

Downtown Festival

Yee Haw - 3:30 – 5:30 Open Jam

The Generalist 3:45 – 4:30 - Hardin Valley Thunder (PS) 4:45 – 5:30 - UT Appalachian Strings 5:45 – 6:30 – Youth jam / Slow jam	324East 3:30 – 4:15 – MTSU String Band 4:30 – 5:15 - Rusty Rooster String Band (UNG)	Johnson’s Literary Depot 3:30-4:15 - Isabel Sobrino & Matthew Fehskens – Song / Sones of Latin America 4:20-4:50 - ETSU Global String Band 5:00-5:45 - Elizbeth McCorvey 5:45 – 6:30 - Pete Ward & Friends
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Mulligans - 6:30 – 7:30pm – Joseph Decosimo Trio / 7:30-8:30 – Missy Raines and Friends

8:30 – 9:30 - square dance

The Hideaway - 9:30 - ETSU Spacegrass Band.