

**String Band Summit Program– rev. 2026-4-7**

**Thursday, April 9**

**4:00 – 5:15pm - Lecture: Bluegrass and Religion (Pete Ward, DU) - ETSU Reece Museum**

**7:30pm – Concert : Maria Muldaur and Friends – The Down Home, 300 West Main Street**

**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**

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**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: “Serving musical communities”** (lunch, Marketplace cafeteria, Culp Center) Led by Chris Witulski (Bowling Green State University)

**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**

<b>Yee Haw</b>	<b>324East</b>	<b>Johnson’s Literary Depot</b>
Open Jam, 3:30-6:30	3:00 – 3:45 – MTSU String Band 3:55– 4:40 - Hardin Valley Thunder (PSTCC) 4:50 – 5:35 - Rusty Rooster String Band (UNG) 5:45 – 6:30 - UT Appalachian Strings	3:30-4:15 - Isabel Sobrino & Matthew Fehskens – Song / Sonets of Latin America 4:20-4:50 - ETSU Global String Band 5:00-5:45 - Elizabeth McCorvey 5:45 – 6:30 - Pete Ward & Friends

**Mulligans - 6:30 – Joseph Decosimo / 7:30 – Missy Raines / 8:30 - square dance**

**The Hideaway - 9:30 - ETSU Spacegrass Band.**