

2020 Tenor Guitar Gathering Performers

We are very excited to announce the following confirmed performers for the 2020 Tenor Guitar Gathering: (Planning the same lineup for 2021)

John Lawlor **Grant Flick** **Tim May** **Tyler Jackson**
Gerry Carthy **Alison Helzer** **Myshkin Warbler** **Jean Mann**
Paul Gabrielson, bassist

We will feature each of these artists in upcoming newsletters.

Riverwalk Inn Hotel

Our primary hotel will be The Astoria Riverwalk Inn -- they are very excited to be part of this event. The hotel is holding rooms until May 1 at a special price. Call them to book your room now! [Astoria Riverwalk Inn](#)



Tim May



First up: Tim lives in Nashville and the tornadoes have not affected him or his family ... but reports devastation all around them! Tim has performed many times at Tenor Guitar Gathering and is always a crowd favorite. We are so excited to have him return.

Flatpicker Tim May has been working in the Nashville area for over 20 years as a sideman, session player, band member and performer. Higher profile projects have included touring with Patty Loveless and John Cowan, and working as a regular on the Grand Ole Opry with Mike Snider. Tim was the solo guitarist on Charlie Daniels' recording of I'll Fly Away, which was nominated for the Best Country Instrumental Performance Grammy in 2005, the same year he was session leader on the critically acclaimed Moody Bluegrass album (he later played on

Moody Bluegrass II as well). The Nashville Scene selected Tim in the Best Instrumentalist category in their 2012 Reader's Choice Poll. PK Thompson Guitars, Collings Mandolins, Shubb Capos, Elixir Strings, Hoffee Cases, Benedetto Guitars , L.R. Baggs Pickups and Pre-amps and Breedlove Guitars all have presented professional endorsements to Tim, a serious nod to his talents. And in 2017, Tim performed on the stage of the legendary Carnegie Hall in New York.

Tim is co-author of the eight volume course 'Flatpicking Essentials', The Guitar Player's Practical Guide to Scales and Arpeggios, The Mandolin Player's Practical Guide to Scales and Arpeggios, The Flatpicker's Guide to Old Time Music, and the Flatpicker's Guide to Irish Music. He has taught regularly at Camp Bluegrass, Kaufman Kamp, Colorado Roots Music Camp, Nashcamp, and the Swannanoa Gathering. He and his wife Gretchen are owners of the Musical Heritage Center of Middle Tennessee.

Tim May -Continued:

For fifteen years Tim was a member of Crucial Smith, a powerful bluegrass act that put out two CDs (produced by New Grass Revival's original flatpicker Pat Flynn) before disbanding in 2003. Flynn has a Tim May tune (King of Babylon) on his album, plus Father Time, a tune Flynn co-wrote with Tim. Today Tim keeps his chops up playing "AmeriCeltic" – a delightful mix of Irish, Scottish, Old Time and Bluegrass tunes – with his band Plaidgrass. The group released their first CD in January 2008. He's also on the roster of Radiola and performs in a hot-picking ensemble on tour with Brad Davis and Dan Miller called Davis Miller May.

As good a singer as he is a flatpicker, Tim's vocals can be heard on his first solo album, Find My Way Back and on A Bluegrass Tribute to Neil Young, a CD Tim's produced for CMH Records, released in January 2008. Also in 2008, he combined forces with Fred Carpenter to form Carpenter & May. In 2010, their debut CD was released on Violin Shop Records, and Carpenter & May charted as the #1 artist with the #1 album at folk radio. In 2011, Davis Miller May released their debut CD, Doves, Crows & Buzzards on FGM Records. In 2014, Tim formed a duo with Steve Smith.

Though he owns and plays an unusually broad variety of instruments, Tim's a true connoisseur of the acoustic plectrum sound. He's been long enchanted by early Gibson pieces and owns the full red sunburst line used in Gibson Mandolin Orchestras that were popular in the early 1900s, including the somewhat elusive Mandobass. Tim also owns several guitars from that period, his 1919 "O" model Guitar perhaps the most exotic. You can hear him play the "O" -- and Sweet Hour of Prayer on his beautiful 1917 Harp Guitar -- in the video series VINTAGE GIBSON: A Closer Look at Instruments

Used in Mandolin Orchestras in the Early 20th Century.

Tim also excels in acoustic instrument restoration. He spent six years at The Violin Shop repairing and setting up top-of-the-line violins and other fine instruments, and was a partner for a while in a small repair shop. Today, Tim only has time for a bit of custom work, but you can email him if you have a vintage instrument you'd like him to take look at.

At the Tenor Guitar Gathering, Tim will be teaching a class in Chicago tuning, (DGBE) and it will cover creating solos, tremolos, neighbor notes, double stops, cross-picking, minor blues and more! Hands on -- lots of playing.

John Lawlor

John Lawlor has been a mainstay of many of our events and everyone is in awe of his ability to play jazz on the tenor guitar. Philadelphia based, John played banjo by ear with the Philadelphia Mummers when he was only 12. He played in duos and bands, and switched to the tenor guitar which he has played it for 50 years.

John will be teaching a workshop at the Eleventh Tenor Guitar Gathering.

He's a musician's musician whose innovative arrangements of jazz and swing, and beautiful chord melodies got him inducted into the TG Hall of Fame in 2016. He has been a cherished performer at almost all of the Tenor Guitar Gathering events and we are excited to have him return.

Here is a sample of his unique jazz : John Lawlor

