



BLUEGRASS Clippings



Yellowstone Bluegrass Association

YBA Officers:

President—Wade Steinmetz
Vice President—Trent Indreland
Sec.-Treas.—Terry Indreland

YBA Board Members:

Ed Pierson
Brad Sherseth
David Nelson
Eric Prescott

Newsletter Editors:

Pat Gum
Laura Steinmetz

ACTIVITIES

Friday Night Jams

7:00-9:00 P.M.

Lincoln Center

Basement

Band Room

415 N. 30th

Billings

(Use SE Entrance)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$15/Person or \$25/Family

CONTACT US:

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

November 2011

EDITORIAL NONSENSE by Laura

Part. III The Modern Mandolin

America is booming. She has survived a civil war, the first war to end all wars, and Prohibition. The stock market crashed and recovered, our grandparents survived the Depression and yet another war and Americans kept playing their music. Influenced by the gospel and blues coming out of the south, the descendants of slaves create and spread another of our greatest musical achievements....jazz. Just as the masses of immigrants meld and blend, like a melted ribbon of chocolate swirled into a white cake, the music of America borrows and blends, innovates and imitates, and mixed with the ancient songs kept in the mountains for generations, the birth of bluegrass is imminent.

To return to our story of the mandolin, the highly popularized instrument gets a major renovation due to Orville H.

Gibson and Lloyd Altayre Loar. Gibson's instruments, dating from about 1880 on, were innovative in that he patented an arch-top design, which was later improved by acoustic engineer Loar. Gibson based his designs on the methods used for creating violins, veering away from the taterbug style and using machines to precision-make his flatter designs. He adored ornamentation, as was witnessed by the fancy scroll he added to the top edge and also in intricate inlay work. His 1910 Gibson F-4 had a new scroll 3-point design in the flower pot headstock inlay, and the style was significant in that the instrument had great resonance so the sound would carry.

By 1922, with Loar's assistance, there were several new features that continued to improve the quality of the mandolin. Added were adjustable truss-rods in the necks, adjustable two-piece ebony bridges, and a tapered peg head called the "snake-head." The crowning achievement, in many minds, was Loar's F-5 from the Master Model style-5 series. Loar signed and dated about one hundred seventy F-5s himself. Keep an eye out for one of them...it may pay for your child's tuition or that retirement condo.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Changes are coming. There is a chance we won't be holding further showcases at the Lincoln Auditorium because School District 2 wants to charge a large fee for use and insurance. The search for a new venue has started, and several churches have said they would love to host us. The board is seeking ideas. Contact me or any board member if you know of a possible facility. With permission, we were granted one last showcase which was once again a great success. Each concert offers the tunes of long-time, well-known bands and the delight of young, new talent.

Elections are around the corner. Here's your chance to get rid of me, as well as any other officer. But remember...you have to replace us!!! Ballots will be sent out next week and must be returned by December 8th.

We are making some good music at our Friday night Lincoln jams. There are young people and new faces most every week. As always, we need the guidance and expertise of our more seasoned musicians to teach and share with the newcomers. Age doesn't matter, and hearing aids are optional. Have a great holiday season. Pick it solid.



Marshall says his two Passions are:

- ❖ Italian Classical Tradition
- ❖ Bluegrass



DID YOU KNOW...

The Yellowstone Bluegrass Association is sponsoring a concert by **Evan J. Marshall** at **8 PM** on **Saturday December 3rd, 2011** at the **Babcock Theater** located at 2812 2nd Avenue North in Billings, Montana.

Evan J. Marshall is the World's Premier Solo Mandolin Virtuoso. By himself, he sounds like several of the world's finest mandolinists performing together. His stylistic signature is Classical, with strong influences from the Italian and American Folk traditions. Country guitar legend Chet Atkins called Evan "One of the few great musicians of our time."

Inspired by Atkins and violinist Jascha Heifetz, Evan has created a uniquely recognizable approach to solo mandolin performance that combines bass lines, chords, rhapsodic runs and tremolo melodies. He started Classical violin studies at age seven, and added the mandolin at age 14.

In addition to solo performances throughout the country, Evan has been a Featured Guest Artist in Pops concerts with a number of Symphony Orchestras, including Houston, Phoenix, Long Beach, Grand Rapids, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Jacksonville, and Pensacola.

Two of his solo mandolin recordings have been released by Rounder Records: Evan Marshall Is the Lone Arranger, which the Washington Post

labeled "truly dazzling," the Raleigh-Durham Independent called "superhuman," and the Fresno Bee called "mind-boggling"; and Mandolin Magic, which the St. Paul Pioneer Press applauded for "a stunning mastery of interpretation." Evan also has recorded three solo CDs for his own label, Mandolin Conservatory.

In 1995 Evan made his first appearance on A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor. Between 1993 and 2005 Evan was a Featured Soloist at Disneyland, performing his signature William Tell Overture: Finale for about two million visitors to the famous Golden Horseshoe Theater during the course of 10,000 shows. He has performed and taught at numerous regional and international conferences for mandolinists, who hold Evan in particularly high regard; Don Stiernberg has referred to Evan as "The Michael Jordan of the mandolin."

More information is available at <http://www.solomandolin.com>.

The doors will open at 7:30 pm and tickets are \$15.00 at the door. Tickets for members are \$12.00.

Marshall will also provide a **WORKSHOP** the night before his concert (Dec. 2) at the Friday Night Jam at the Lincoln Center Music Room at 7:00. This is free and open to the public. I would definitely plan to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events

- Dec. 2 Marshall Workshop at 7:00 at Lincoln Center Music Room. Free and Open to the public
- Dec. 3 Evan Marshall concert 8:00 at Babcock Theater
- Bluegrass Jam in Thermopolis WY. at Shell Southside December 16 at 6pm

Performances

- **Prairie Winds Cafe** Enjoy local Bluegrass Bands on Saturday mornings from 9am-12 noon in Molt
- **Tunes for Tuesday Open Mic Night**- Yellowstone Valley Brewing Co. Garage

Bulletin Board

- music equipment for sale or to buy
- announcement's (weddings, grandbaby etc.)

Remember to vote



Contact us with newsletter ideas, photos, articles, classified, or comments.

Laura:

cattlelady1@gmail.com

656-9783

Or

Pat: gumb@bresnan.net

256-9182

Bulletin Board



Please *save* your used instrument strings for me (all kinds of strings are welcome). They can be dropped at Hansen music; tell them they are for Laura, and Call 656-9783 if you want details. No, I am not re-stringing instruments!!

Q: What's the difference between a mandolin player and a certificate of deposit?

A: The CD will eventually mature and make money.

Q: What is a gentleman?

A: Someone who knows how to play mandolin but doesn't.

Q: What does a mandolin player use for birth control?

A: His personality.

Clippings' Feature Member

Yep, I'm a North Dakotan transplant but I grew up in a small Montana town called Richland. My introduction to music was in grade school. My teacher, Mrs. Ommundson, taught me the scales and notes on the piano and showed me how to chord...so I learned to read music for the right hand, should have figured out the left hand also but was easier to chord than figure out all those notes. When I was about 12 years Mom taught me to play "Red Wing", "Silver Bells" and "Under the Double Eagle" on her 48 bass accordion. I entered a talent contest in Opheim and won 1st Place. The top three people went to Glasgow and played on the radio. I would list to the radio or sit downtown by the bar so I could hear the juke box and try to memorize the songs I liked, sneak into the church where there was a piano and try and play them. Wondered, should one play "God Didn't Make Honky Tonk Angels" in the church?

After graduation I attended Billings Business College - met and married LaVerne Zieske 48 years ago. We have 2 daughters. Laura lives in Helena and Vicki resides in Billings. The years came and went with raising a family and working. We had many jam sessions at the Zieske family gatherings. In the 80's my sister-in-law and

I opened a cake decorating supply shop called "The Gingham House". I worked as a bookkeeper for Peterson Quality Office and worked evenings and weekends in the shop. 10 year later I sold my share of the business and joined the Mt St Old-Time Fiddlers and then the Yellowstone Bluegrass Assn. My accordion didn't fit very well so I found an upright bass. Thanks to Peggy Stephenson, LaLonnie Larson and several other bass players I learned how to play it. I have participated in several Mt St Fiddle Contests in the Intermediate and Senior Divisions. Sometimes I did well and sometimes not so good. I play with "Hwy 302" and "Cold Frosty Morning" and fill in with most anyone who asks. (Need to maintain my reputation.. "She'll play with anybody")

I still work as a bookkeeper for Peterson Quality Office and after 31.5 years I am going to retire, maybe then I can practice.

Music has provided lots of opportunities to play at different venues, cultivate some great friendships and create lots of wonderful memories. Keep pickin!

Bonnie Zieske

Address Label

Yellowstone Bluegrass Assoc.

