

Sports, Entertainment, Arts & Media News

Grammy-winning fiddler Jim VanCleve to be inducted into National Fiddler Hall of Fame in Boone, North Carolina

The Appalachian Road Show Co-Founder Returns to the Mountains That Shaped His Music for Special Induction Ceremony and Concert at the Historic Appalachian Theatre

Tickets Available Now at AppTheatre.org

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — September 4, 2026 — GRAMMY-winning fiddler, musician, producer, composer and recording engineer **Jim VanCleve**, a founding member of both **Mountain Heart** and **The Appalachian Road Show**, will be inducted into the **National Fiddler Hall of Fame** on Sunday, October 4, during a special Appalachian Road Show concert at the historic Appalachian Theatre of the High Country in Boone, North Carolina.

The evening begins at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m., and brings VanCleve back to the mountains of Western North Carolina where his musical journey began.

Born in Sarasota, Florida, and raised in Canton, North Carolina, in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, VanCleve grew up playing music with his father and immersed in the bluegrass, old-

“I’ve spent most of my life with a fiddle in my hands, so this honor lands pretty deep,” VanCleve said. “I grew up in Western North Carolina surrounded by this music, and so much of who I am was shaped by the musicians, families and traditions of these mountains. To be inducted into the National Fiddler Hall of Fame in Boone, onstage with The Appalachian Road Show, is hard to put into words. It’s a huge honor, and I’m deeply humbled and grateful.”

time and Appalachian traditions surrounding him. He began competing in fiddle contests and performing at bluegrass festivals as a youngster, was touring nationally with Lou Reid & Carolina by age 16, and at 18 left college when he was invited to join Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver.

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Jim VanCleve fiddles way into National Fiddler Hall of Fame. (Photo/Courtesy: Appalachian Road Show)

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The Hall of Fame announcement comes amid an especially memorable stretch for VanCleve, both musically and personally. On Tuesday, September 8, he and The Appalachian Road Show head to Switzerland for the 37th Country Night Gstaad, September 11–12, where the group will perform both nights alongside Dwight Yoakam, Drake Milligan and Amber Rae.

And before taking the stage on Saturday, September 12, VanCleve has another once-in-a-lifetime event planned: he is getting married in the Swiss Alps.

“We fly to Switzerland on Tuesday to play Country Night Gstaad with Dwight Yoakam,” VanCleve said. “And on Saturday, before the show, I’m getting married in the Alps!”

From a wedding in the Alps and an international festival stage in September to a Hall of Fame induction back home in the North Carolina mountains in October, the coming weeks provide a fitting snapshot of the remarkable musical journey VanCleve has traveled.

VanCleve has become one of contemporary bluegrass music’s most distinctive instrumental voices. In 1998, he joined Barry Abernathy, the late Steve Gulley and Adam Steffey in forming Mountain Heart, spending 17 years with the acclaimed group and helping push the boundaries of contemporary bluegrass through his playing, compositions and arrangements.

His 2006 solo album, No Apologies, further established VanCleve as a singular musical force. His original composition “Nature of the Beast” earned a GRAMMY nomination, while the album’s first single, “Let the Big Dog Eat,” spent three months at No. 1. VanCleve was also nominated for IBMA Fiddle Player of the Year.

Across nearly three decades, his fiddle has appeared alongside an

strumental Group of the Year. That same year, VanCleve and Abernathy shared a third IBMA Award, for Gospel Recording of the Year, as co-producers of “In the Resurrection Morning.”

The group is enjoying another banner year in 2026. The Appalachian Road Show’s latest album, Della Jane’s Heart, is nominated for IBMA Album of the Year, while the band is also a 2026 nominee for IBMA Instrumental Group of the Year. Winners will be announced October 22 at the 37th Annual IBMA Bluegrass Music Awards in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

For VanCleve, the National Fiddler Hall of Fame induction represents both a milestone and a homecoming — recognition of a musical life that began in the North Carolina mountains and has since carried the sound, spirit and traditions of those mountains onto stages and recordings around the world.

The National Fiddler Hall of Fame exists to honor individuals for their contributions to fiddling while preserving, educating and promoting the art form and its historical and social significance.

Tickets are available now through the Appalachian Theatre at AppTheatre.org/events-and-tickets/appalachian-roadshow26.

For more information, visit TheAppalachianRoadShow.com.

Industry vets Bob Reeves and Liz Kiley join Melody Place indy record label



Bob Reeves joins as Head of Promotion & Commercial Partnerships and Liz Kiley as Head of Marketing for Melody Place label. (Photo/Courtesy: Melody Place)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -September 8, 2026 - Nashville-based independent record label **Melody Place** welcomed the additions of two music industry veterans today. **Bob Reeves** joins as Head of Promotion & Commercial Partnerships and **Liz Kiley** as Head of Marketing.

Reeves brings over 25 years of music promotions management experience, including having led radio promotions teams at Warner Music Nashville, Reviver Entertainment Group, and Riser House Entertainment. Throughout his career, he’s cultivated and maintained relationships between

country music radio professionals and artists, earning multiple Gold and Platinum records, chart successes, and increasing the impact of some of Country music’s finest hits.

Kiley is a seasoned entertainment executive with many years of experience in music, television, and radio. Her previous stops include Universal Music Group, MTV Networks/Viacom, and The Box Network, having served in marketing, programming, and streaming roles. A Leadership Music Alumna and former board

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Questions? Email Darrell at djoyce1906@gmail.com