



Boston
Bluegrass
Union

International Bluegrass Music Association Honors
Boston Bluegrass Union

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**Boston Bluegrass Union Honored with
International Bluegrass Music Association's
Distinguished Achievement Award**

RALEIGH, NC - The Boston Bluegrass Union, producers of the annual Joe Val Bluegrass Festival in Framingham, MA, was honored with the prestigious Distinguished Achievement Award from the International Bluegrass Music Association. The award is bestowed to those making "significant contributions to bluegrass music" and is the most prized IBMA award short of induction into the Bluegrass Hall of Fame. Entering its 40th season of bluegrass education and performance, the Boston Bluegrass Union is only the second bluegrass association to receive the IBMA award.

Rounder Records founders Ken Irwin and Marian Leighton-Levy delivered the award presentation. Ray Magliozzi of NPR's Car Talk, whose theme song features bluegrass music, recorded a video message aired at the award ceremony. Receiving the award, BBU President Stan Zdonik thanked the late Joe Val, Rounder Records, Hillbilly at Harvard (WHRB) and radio stations that play bluegrass music in the Boston area. "There are many associations around the world and they all work tirelessly to promote bluegrass music at the grass roots level. They are an important part of the bluegrass eco-system. We would like to dedicate this award to all of them too." The Boston area contribution to bluegrass music was further acknowledged as Jim Rooney received an IBMA Distinguished Achievement Award and Rounder Records founders, including Bill Nowlin, were inducted into the Bluegrass Hall of Fame during the IBMA award show. Joe Val, namesake of the BBU's flagship festival, was a Distinguished Achievement Award recipient in 1995.

The Boston Bluegrass Union's 32nd Joe Val Bluegrass Festival will take place on Presidents' Day weekend, February 17-19, 2017 at the Sheraton Framingham with Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, IBMA Male Vocalist of the Year Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass, IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year Becky Buller Band, Flashback, Sideline, Lonely Heartstring Band, Jeff Scroggins and Colorado, Bluegrass Gospel Project, Gather Rounders, and more. The annual event features performances from national and regional artists on two stages, over fifty workshops, Master Classes, and the Joe Val Bluegrass Academy for Kids. The event is the premier winter roots music festival in the Northeast.

The Boston Bluegrass Union also hosts an annual bluegrass concert series and bluegrass education programs for children and adults. Formed in 1976 and celebrating its 40th season this year, the Boston Bluegrass Union is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting this musical genre.

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The Boston Bluegrass Union is a 501(c)3, performing arts organization
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