



**29<sup>th</sup> Joe Val Bluegrass Festival**  
**February 14 - 16, 2014**  
**Sheraton Framingham, Framingham, MA**  
**Presented by the Boston Bluegrass Union**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New England's Premier Wintertime Roots Music Festival**

**BOSTON** – A unique, all-encompassing experience for music lovers of all ages – set to a rollicking, first-rate soundtrack – the **29<sup>th</sup> Joe Val Bluegrass Festival**, presented by the Boston Bluegrass Union (BBU), will take place over Presidents' Day Weekend, February 14-16, 2014, at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel, Framingham, MA. Year after year, this nationally acclaimed celebration of bluegrass music continues to win new converts while delighting seasoned veterans.

The region's top wintertime roots music festival features three days of national and regional artists on the Main Stage, the next generation of rising stars on the Showcase Stage, and an extensive lineup of educational programs including Master Classes, Workshops, instructor-led Jam Sessions, and the renowned Joe Val Bluegrass Academy for Kids. The Festival features all this, plus instrument vendors, luthiers, and of course, picking around the clock.

If you're new to bluegrass, you'll enjoy a veritable primer in nearly all facets of this original American art form – while longtime fans will appreciate the wide range of talent presented. Festival favorites **The Gibson Brothers**, perhaps the most decorated band in bluegrass today, will demonstrate just why they walked away with four awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) in 2013 including the coveted Entertainers of the Year. **Junior Sisk**, the IBMA's 2013 Male Vocalist of the Year, will be on hand as well, fronting his hard-driving, traditional band **Ramblers Choice**. The dynamic **IIIrd Tyme Out** will be unveiling a strong new lineup in support of the band's powerhouse lead singer Russell Moore. **Blue Highway**, one of the most esteemed and influential bands in contemporary bluegrass will showcase new original material from their album *The Game*, to be released this January. Popular songwriter and Sirius-XM radio personality **Chris Jones** and his band **the Night Drivers** will also feature some of today's finest newly composed bluegrass songs during their set.

Fans of country music – both modern and traditional – will not want to miss a special acoustic reunion performance by the three co-founders of the **Desert Rose Band**: Chris Hillman (Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member, formerly with the Byrds and the Flying Burrito Brothers), Herb Pedersen (the Dillards, Laurel Canyon Ramblers, Old and in the Way, Emmylou Harris), John Jorgenson (Elton John, Bob Dylan, John Jorgenson Quintet), and Bill Bryson (Laurel Canyon Ramblers, Dan Fogelberg, Bluegrass Cardinals). During the late-'80s, this versatile ensemble chalked up seven top-ten country hits while never losing sight of their bluegrass, folk, and honky-tonk roots.

The festival will also feature debut performances from **Detour**, **Balsam Range** (2013 IBMA Album of the Year for *Papertown*), the **Hillbenders**, as well as some old friends in new configurations. **Sister Sadie** features past IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year Dale Ann Bradley along with friends Gina Britt, Tina Adair, Beth Lawrence and Deanie Richardson. **Sideline** features Steve Dilling, Darryl Webb, Jason Moore, Jimmy VanCleve, and Skip Cherryholmes.

Dedicated to preserving the past and nurturing the future, the Boston Bluegrass Union continues its commitment to education with daylong Master Classes kicking off the festival on Friday. During the weekend, over fifty Workshops and Directed Jams for festival patrons of all ages will examine the instrumental and vocal techniques unique to bluegrass, the music's history and culture. The BBU helps train the next generation of musicians with the [Joe Val Bluegrass Academy for Kids](#), now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, presenting a free, intensive three-day program that teaches children (ages 5 - 17) how to play, sing, and perform bluegrass music. Visit the festival website for further details on the extensive education offerings, schedules and registration details.

Established in 1985, the Joe Val Bluegrass Festival celebrates the legacy of the late **Joe Val**, a pioneering Massachusetts-based vocalist, musician, and bandleader, whose riveting performances, recordings, and generous nature did so much to spread the popularity of bluegrass in the Northeast. From its humble beginnings as a local tribute to Joe and the regional bluegrass scene, the festival has grown to become one of the most celebrated bluegrass events in the country. In 2006, the Joe Val Bluegrass Festival won the prestigious Event of the Year award from the IBMA. And in 2012, the festival was listed by USA TODAY as one of the [Ten Great Places to Go to Bluegrass Festivals](#).

The Sheraton Framingham is located just 18 miles west of Boston, directly adjacent to the Mass Pike (Rt. 90, Exit 12) and Rt. 9. At this time, all hotel rooms are sold out at the Sheraton, but rooms are available nearby at the Marriott Residence Inn (508-370-0001), the Double Tree Hilton (800-222-Tree) and the Natick Courtyard Marriott (508-655-6100). Weekend tickets are now on sale and single day tickets will go on sale beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>. Note Saturday tickets will be in short supply so we strongly encourage early weekend ticket purchases. The festival has sold out in past years.

The Boston Bluegrass Union is a 501(c)3 non-profit, all volunteer organization, dedicated to preserving and promoting this original American music genre. Celebrating our 38th season, the BBU is the premier source for events, education, and information on bluegrass music in the Northeast.

Media Information: Contact Gerry Katz at [gkatz@bbu.org](mailto:gkatz@bbu.org) for additional information, images, or interview requests. Visit [www.bbu.org](http://www.bbu.org) for festival details, including Main Stage and Workshop schedules, artist biographies, and more.

### **Ticket Prices**

Weekend Pass - Adult \$110, Students (w/ ID) and Youth \$40

Single Day Friday - Adult \$35, Students (w/ ID) \$15, and Youth (16 and under) \$10

Single Day Saturday - Adult \$60, Students (w/ ID) \$30, and Youth \$25

Single Day Sunday - Adult \$40, Students (w/ ID) \$20, and Youth \$15

Additional Discounts for BBU Members and for Advance Ticket Purchase

Children under 12 and accompanied by adults are free all weekend

### **Main Stage Lineup**

[The Gibson Brothers](#) (Sat)

[Blue Highway](#) (Fri)

[Russell Moore and Illrd Tyme Out](#) (Sun)

[Junior Sisk and Ramblers Choice](#) (Sun)

[Acoustic Desert Rose Band Acoustic](#) (Sat)

[Balsam Range](#) (Sat)

[Sister Sadie featuring Dale Ann Bradley](#) (Sat)

[Sideline](#) (Fri)

[Special Consensus](#) (Sat)

[Chris Jones and the Night Drivers](#) (Fri)

[The Spinney Brothers](#) (Sun)

[Hillbenders](#) (Sat)

[Detour](#) (Sun)

[Bluegrass Gospel Project](#) (Sun)

[Berklee All-Stars](#) (Fri)

[The Reunion Band](#) (Sat)

[Dick Bowden's Flying Circus Tribute to Don Stover](#) (Sat)

[The Feinberg Brothers](#) (Fri)

[The Lonely Heartstring Band](#) (Sat)

[Joe Val Kids Academy Performance](#) (Sun)

### **Listing:**

The Boston Bluegrass Union presents the 29<sup>th</sup> Joe Val Bluegrass Festival, Sheraton Framingham Hotel, 1657 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA 01701. Friday, February 14 7:00 PM to Midnight; Saturday, February 15 10:30 AM to Midnight; Sunday, February 16 10 AM to 6 PM. Weekend tickets \$110. Friday \$35, Saturday \$60, Sunday \$40. Discounts for advance ticket purchase and students. Children under 12 free. Advance tickets available online from [www.bbu.org](http://www.bbu.org) or with check and SASE payable to BBU, PO Box 650061, W. Newton, MA 02465, 617-782-2251 Handicapped accessible.