



**31st Joe Val Bluegrass Festival
February 12 - 14, 2016**

**Sheraton Framingham, Framingham, MA
Presented by the Boston Bluegrass Union**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BOSTON BLUEGRASS UNION ANNOUNCES
2016 BBU HERITAGE AWARD WINNERS**

BOSTON – The Boston Bluegrass Union (BBU) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2016 BBU Heritage Awards. These awards are presented each year by the BBU to honor artists and those working behind the scenes that have made substantial contributions to furthering bluegrass music in New England and beyond. The awards will be presented during the 31st annual Joe Val Bluegrass Festival, Presidents Day Weekend, February 12-14, 2016, at the Sheraton Framingham, Framingham, MA.

The 2016 BBU Heritage Award Artist Winners are the Lilly Brothers

In 2001 the BBU was honored to host a performance by B and Everett Lilly at the 16th Joe Val Bluegrass Festival. It was an historic homecoming for the longtime stalwarts of the Boston bluegrass scene. At the time, the BBU had not initiated its Heritage Awards and we've been remiss with the Lilly's absence from the Award roster. We're pleased this year to have second- and third-generation Lilly family members with us as we honor the Lilly Brothers with the 2016 BBU Heritage Award.

Bluegrass music has many acclaimed heroes, but there are a legion of lesser known and unsung musicians who ventured from the heartland of bluegrass to far flung regions, and established new bluegrass beachheads. Much like Vern Williams and Ray Park on the West Coast, the Lilly Brothers brought bluegrass music to the Boston area and established a music scenes of the highest order. In the process, they influenced generations of musicians that would follow.

The Lilly brothers, Everett and "B" were born in Clear Creek, W. Virginia; B on December 15, 1921 and Everett on July 1, 1923. Steeped in the brother-duet tradition of the early 1930s, they began to perform professionally in 1938 over local radio and in area performances. B sang lead and played guitar; Everett played the mandolin and fiddle, and complimented his brother with his high tenor. The pair was soon joined by neighbor and banjo player Don Stover, and their band became popular locally and throughout the South.

By 1948, they landed a job with WWVA, in Wheeling, West VA, working with fiddler Tex Logan for Red Belcher, and later on their own. In the early 1950s, Everett spent two years playing mandolin and singing tenor with Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs.

Then, in 1952, the Lilly's learned of a radio station opportunity from by then MIT graduate student Tex Logan at Boston's WCOP Hayloft Jamboree. There, the Lilly Brother and Don Stover joined forces with Tex, and as the Confederate Mountaineers, performed as many as seven nights a week in local bars including the Plaza Bar, Mohawk Ranch, and at the Hillbilly Ranch. During their long tenure as the Lilly Brothers and Don Stover, they recorded for the Event, Folkways, and Prestige labels.

With their presence in New England, the Lilly Brothers educated generations of musicians, including such notables as Jim Rooney, Bill Keith, Joe Val and Peter Rowan. Joe Val once said of their influence the local music scene, "Those guys hit on like a bombshell. Nobody'd ever heard anything like that before". Certainly they were the 'real deal' and can be credited with establishing roots and culture of bluegrass music in New England, an appreciation that endures to this day.

In 2002, the Lilly Brothers and Don Stover were inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Association's Hall of Fame. Don Stover passed away in 1996, at age 68. B Lilly passed away in 2005, at age 83. Everett Lilly continued to play and perform with his sons until his death in 2012.

The 2016 BBU Heritage Award Industry Winner is Geoff Bartley

A mainstay of the Boston area folk scene, performer Geoff Bartley wears another hat as longtime host of Tuesday Bluegrass Night at The Cantab Lounge in Central Square, Cambridge, MA. Started in 1993, these evenings have hosted national and regional artist on stage, and served as a regular gathering place for the local bluegrass scene.

Through his tireless work (booking bands, hauling sound equipment, manning the sound system) to expand the bluegrass audience locally, Geoff has become a leader in the Bluegrass Industry in New England. He's hosted many national-level artists including: The James King Band, Jim Hurst & Missy Raines, Tony Trischka, Dale Ann Bradley, Darol Anger, David Grier, Chris Jones,, and more. Geoff has also been responsible for many local bluegrass musicians "cutting their teeth", including members of The Infamous Stringdusters, Crooked Still, Della Mae, Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen, The Gibson Brothers, Joy Kills Sorrow, The Steep Canyon Rangers, Town Mountain, The Deadly Gentlemen, Tim O'Brien's band and many more. And the "after-show" jams are legendary.

The Boston bluegrass community has benefited greatly from the efforts of Geoff Bartley, who has supported bluegrass in the area for decades even though it's not his primary style of music.

The Cambridge Mayor's Office, in conjunction with the BBU, proclaimed February 13, 2004 to be "Geoff Bartley Day", in recognition of his contributions with his music nights at the Cantab. The BBU is now proud to honor him with the Industry Heritage Award and we thank him for his long and untiring support

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 39th season, the BBU is the premier source for events, education, and information on bluegrass music in the Northeast.

Additional Media Information: Contact Gerry Katz at gkatz@bbu.org or (617) 515-8383 for additional information, images, or interview requests. Visit www.bbu.org for details the BBU and the 30th Joe Val Bluegrass Festival, including Main Stage and Workshop schedules, artist biographies, and more.