Music Camp Instructor Profiles

**JEFF SCROGGINS**

Jeff has won numerous contests and awards in his career, including the prestigious National Bluegrass Banjo Championship, and dozens of state, regional and local banjo contests. Jeff has performed and recorded with many of the top names in bluegrass, and his work has been featured in movies and television as well as numerous radio and TV commercials. He is an internationally known performer and teacher, he has taken his fiery banjo style to stages in Europe, Russia, Japan, Canada, Malaysia, etc. Jeff is also well-known as a banjo teacher. He taught for years at the prestigious Swallow Hill Music School in Denver, Colorado, and he has taught at many bluegrass music camps in the US and abroad. Jeff’s band, Jeff Scroggins and Colorado tours extensively, both nationally and internationally, and it features some of the finest bluegrass talent in the West, including Jeff’s 22 year old son and IBMA Award nominee, mandolinist Tristan Scroggins, 2016 Arizona State Fiddle Champion and 2016 Rockygrass Fiddle Champion Ellie Hakanson, and five-time SPBGMA Midwest Guitarist of the year Greg Blake. The band’s third CD, “Ramblin Feels Good” was released in early 2016.

**GREG BLAKE**

Greg grew up in the mountains of southwest West Virginia and is an award-winning guitarist. He was chosen five times as Guitar Performer of the Year by the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music Association (SPBGMA). Greg is also the former Kansas State Flatpicking champion. His solos are tasteful and fit the feel of the music. Greg’s ability to fit the groove, feel of the music and support the band is the mark of a great musician. He is also an amazing vocalist and has a voice that really captures the high, lonesome sound. GregBlakeMusic.net

**RICK SPARKS**

Rick has been in the music business for over 40 years. In addition to his smooth vocals, he is equally at home playing banjo, guitar, mandolin, dobro and pedal steel guitar. He has developed a reputation as an outstanding teacher on all of his instruments and has over 30 students under his wing.

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**TRISTAN SCROGGINS,** (Denver, Colorado) Tristan is an Award-winning mandolinist and composer. Tristan has toured extensively in the US, Canada, and Ireland for the last six years with the critically acclaimed bluegrass band Jeff Scroggins and Colorado. At 22 he already has a decade of professional experience as a stage performer, instructor, and recording artist. In 2016, Tristan was nominated for the Instrumental Momentum Award from the International Bluegrass Music Association and is the current Arizona State Mandolin and Guitar Champion. While working with Jeff Scroggins and Colorado, Tristan has been a featured artist at the International Bluegrass Music Association’s Wide Open Bluegrass Festival, The European World of Bluegrass Festival, Merlefest, Rockygrass, Wintergrass, the Father’s Day Festival in Grass Valley, RTE Ireland’s National Radio, and the Joe Val Festival in Boston. Tristan has one studio recording of all original tunes, one of which was a finalist for the International Acoustic Music Awards Instrumental Song of the Year. Tristan has also had the privilege of working with and being featured on recordings with Grammy-winning producer Bil Vorndick, Sally Van Meter, Tim O’Brien, Darrell Scott, Mark Schatz, K.C. Groves, Andy Leftwich, Don Rigsby, David Peterson, and Jono Manson. tristanscroggins.com

**MARK SCHATZ,** Mark has been twice named International Bluegrass Music Association’s Bass Player of the Year, Mark Schatz has toured and recorded with a stellar array of artists including Bela Fleck, Tony Rice, John Hartford, Tim and Mollie O’Brien, acoustic innovators Nickel Creek, The Claire Lynch Band, and Sarah Jarosz. Mark is the Musical Director for internationally acclaimed Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble which showcases other talents such as clawhammer banjo and Southern Appalachian clog dancing. This versatile multi-instrumentalist has two of his own solo recordings, Brand New Old Tyme Way and Steppin’ in the Boiler House on Rounder Records, which feature his own eclectic blend of original compositions on the banjo, and two bass instructional videos on Homespun. Mark is currently freelancing which includes touring, recording, instructional camps, and private instruction.

We will be adding additional instructors so please stay tuned as we get them on board. We will update this information as we receive the profile/Bios for the additional instructors.

**Music Camp Costs:** $125.00. New this year we are offering a $5.00 per night of camp discount on camping: RV with water & electric (first come first served) - $20.00 per night • Tent camping - $10.00 per night.

On Wednesday evening, June 21, 2017 we will have a free “Locals Night” with music from Music Camp instructors and band(s) to be named at a later date. Tri-tip dinner with all the fixins will be available for $12.00 each.