



The Americana Music Association Announces Its 2023 Lifetime, Trailblazers and Legacy Award Honorees

The Avett Brothers, George Fontaine Sr., Patty Griffin, Bettye LaVette and Nickel Creek to be honored during the 2023 Americana Honors & Awards on Sept. 20 at the Ryman Auditorium



Top Row (L-R): George Fontaine Sr., Bettye LaVette, Patty Griffin

Bottom Row: The Avett Brothers, Nickel Creek

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Sept. 8, 2023) — Today, the [Americana Music Association](#) announced this year's Lifetime Achievement, Trailblazer and Legacy Award honorees for its 22nd Annual Americana Honors & Awards show on Wednesday, September 20. This group of top-honor recipients includes **The Avett Brothers, George Fontaine Sr., Patty Griffin, Bettye LaVette and Nickel Creek**. This year's honorees will be celebrated during the prestigious ceremony held at the Ryman Auditorium, which serves as the hallmark event of the association's annual AMERICANAFEST, taking place Sept. 19-23 in Nashville, Tenn.

Only a prophet could have predicted the artistic trajectory of **The Avett Brothers** after seeing them perform in their instrument-pounding early days, as when a *No Depression* writer saw them debuting at Merlefest in 2004 and called them "a trio of rompin' stompin' roots Ramones." Brothers Seth and Scott, with bandmate Bob Crawford, had a thoughtful side and sense of purpose, and in a few years, their rousing folk-rock hybrid had built a fierce fanbase on the strength of their moving songs and carefully crafted vocal harmonies. They became four-time Americana Award winners, multiple Grammy nominees and North Carolina roots music icons.

While it isn't exclusively a roots music label, no record company has released music by more stalwarts of and innovators in Americana over the past 25 years than New West Records. The company, based at various times in Athens, GA, Austin, TX, Los Angeles, and Nashville, has earned the trust of era-shaping artists such as Rodney Crowell, Kris Kristofferson, Delbert McClinton, Steve Earle, John Hiatt, Buddy and Julie Miller, and Billy Joe Shaver. Through nearly 500 releases, the label has also introduced vibrant newcomers like Lilly Hiatt, Jaime Wyatt and Nikki Lane, while sustaining important careers like that of Randall Bramblett. The person most responsible for this proliferation of art and good taste is this year's Jack Emerson Award winner, co-founder and owner **George Fontaine, Sr.**

In the 1990s, when the Americana chart was new and rich with established women like Emmylou Harris and Lucinda Williams, **Patty Griffin** stood out as a striking new voice for the format's future. Over the coming years, the Austin-based songwriter realized that promise, growing in stature on the strength of her rapturous voice and incisive, personal songwriting. She was named Americana Artist of the Year in 2007 and won two Grammy Awards while inspiring many other artists to interpret her work.

The bonus E's in **Bettye LaVette's** name might as well stand for excellence and endurance. This year's Legacy Award recipient (presented with the National Museum of African American Music) is one of the finest soul singers and interpreters of American song born in the 20th century. Still, it took until the 21st for a wide musical community to embrace and celebrate her. She's had hits and was hit with setbacks, but Bettye LaVette emerged triumphantly as a singer cherished for her open ears and determination to control her own destiny.

All bands grow together, but the three members of **Nickel Creek** literally grew up playing together, so their innovations stem in no small part from their formative musical and personal history. Over multiple albums and hundreds of exuberant shows, they continue to expose generations to how bluegrass adapts for the 21st century, challenging orthodoxy and luring thousands of new young fans into the wonders of virtuoso-level acoustic Americana.

"This year's Lifetime Achievement honorees represent the diverse sounds that contribute to the American roots music canon," said Jed Hilly, Executive Director of the Americana Music Association and Foundation. "Our honorees have inspired this community individually and have collectively changed the landscape of the music industry. We are truly humbled to be in the same room with them."

In addition to these Lifetime Achievement Awards, the association will also honor distinguished members of the music community with six member-voted annual awards, revealing the winners on Americana music's biggest night at the Ryman Auditorium. View this year's nominees [here](#).

For more than two decades, the prestigious ceremony has celebrated pioneering mainstays and trailblazing newcomers while featuring unforgettable moments in musical history, including Johnny Cash & June Carter Cash's last live performance together, as well as offering show-stopping appearances by k.d. lang, Van Morrison, Mavis Staples, Bob Weir, Buddy Guy, George Strait, Don

Henley, the late John Prine, Bonnie Raitt, Gregg Allman, The Lumineers, Mumford & Sons, Alabama Shakes, Solomon Burke, Rosanne Cash, the late Dr. John with Dan Auerbach, Irma Thomas, Levon Helm, Robert Plant and many more.

Tickets to the Americana Honors & Awards are on sale now [here](#). AMERICANAFEST Conference and Festival Wristbands are on sale [here](#). For more information on the association and AMERICANAFEST, please visit www.americanamusic.org.

Artist excerpts provided by Craig Havighurst.

About The Americana Music Association and The Americana Music Foundation:

The Americana Music Association (501(c)6) and its educational arm, the Americana Music Foundation (501(c)3), are professional not-for-profit organizations whose mission is to advocate for the authentic voice of American roots music around the world and to preserve Americana music through education. The Association and its Foundation endeavors are to strengthen understanding, awareness and appreciation of cultural heritage, shine a light on inspiration and promote future creators' capacity and engagement. Together, the two entities produce educational programs, musical performances and public events; including AMERICANAFEST, the critically acclaimed Americana Honors & Awards program, NYU's Americana Artist-In-Residence program and the Smithsonian's Roots to Pop series.

About AMERICANAFEST:

The 23rd annual AMERICANAFEST will take place September 19-23, 2023 in Nashville, Tenn., once again bringing together music industry professionals and fans alike for five days of discovery, insight and connections. AMERICANAFEST showcases hundreds of artists and bands throughout many notable venues in Nashville, TN. The destination event also features a first-rate industry conference, bringing together the top tier of the music business to discuss current industry topics and issues. Musical festivities are kicked off by the critically acclaimed Americana Honors & Awards, which celebrates luminaries and welcomes the next generation of trailblazers while offering one-of-a-kind performance pairings at Nashville's famed Ryman Auditorium. For more information, please visit www.americanamusic.org.

For more information, artist press photos or to request media credentials, please contact:

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