

# STEAMBOAT *Unplugged*

February 21, 2018 at 5:30 pm

## 2018 MUSICIAN BIOS



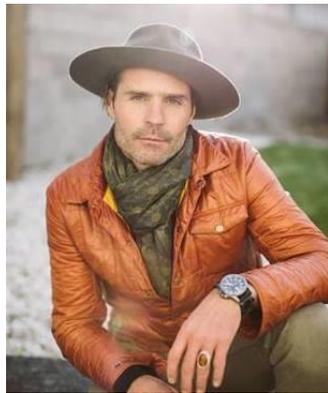
**Andy Thorn:** Since being drafted from the Emmitt-Nershi Band to join Leftover Salmon, Andy Thorn's powerful, driving, banjo picking has helped carry the band to new heights. Thorn first began playing banjo at age 12 after purchasing one at his neighbor's yard sale and has not stopped picking since. After high school Thorn moved onto the University of North Carolina where he earned a degree in Jazz Guitar and played in seminal local band Big Fat Gap, which has a long history of graduating players into bigger bands. From there he moved to Colorado and joined The Broke Mountain Bluegrass Band, which included Anders Beck from Greensky Bluegrass and Travis Book from The Infamous Stringdusters in its lineup. The band was only around for a brief time, but they won the 2003 RockyGrass Bluegrass Festival Band Contest. That same year Thorn won the RockyGrass banjo contest. Despite the wave of attention that followed, the band soon broke up as they all begin to move onto other bands. Thorn moved back to the East Coast and joined flatpicking legend Larry Keel's band. His time with Keel was brief as he was then recruited to fill the empty banjo spot in the Emmitt-Nershi Band, which led to him joining Leftover Salmon in 2010.



**Adam Aijala:** Adam Aijala is the guitar player for Yonder Mountain String Band. He has played guitar for over 32 years, inspired by the work of Greg Ginn of Black Flag, Jimi Hendrix, Jimmy Page and Metallica. When he was introduced to the Grateful Dead he took a sharp, but very mellow left turn into Folk music with Bob Dylan, Neil Young and eventually, Old & In the Way. He felt charged by Bluegrass, particularly the fast songs. It began with a mix tape from a friend in his senior year at UMass that included some Doc Watson and Norman Blake. In 1996 he attended RockyGrass in Lyons, CO and saw Scott Nygaard when he was a part of Tim O'Brien and the O'Boys. This was the first time he had witnessed anyone flatpick a guitar and he realized he had a new goal to work towards. In the spring of 1997 at a David Grisman Quintet show at the Warfield in San Francisco and he bought the first self-titled album which features Tony Rice on guitar and was completely hooked. Twenty years later, he couldn't be happier to share the stage with his fellow bandmates; loving what he does and never taking it for granted!



**Bridget Law:** Born and raised in Colorado, Bridget Law loves the mountains and the music that hails from them. Playing the fiddle has been her passion since her youth. She is a founding member of the group Elephant Revival which formed in 2006 and has toured extensively throughout the US, Canada and beyond. Bridget's musical aspirations have led her on stage with many well-known musicians such as Bela Fleck, Sam Bush, Lyle Lovett, Ani Difranco, Michael Franti, Little Feat, George Clinton, String Cheese Incident, Yonder Mountain String Band and more. Original music is her passion and she enjoys supporting creative people as they dive into new realms of music. Currently her main musical project is with her true love, the group is called "Tierro with Bridget Law." You will also see her guesting often with WE DREAM DAWN, Bonfire Dub and Elephant Revival.



**Scotty Stoughton:** At the heart of all his endeavors, Scotty Stoughton is an artist. He lives and breathes music and the world that holds its sound waves. Onstage as front man with Bonfire Dub or behind the scenes producing his many festivals and events, including WinterWonderGrass and Campout for the Cause, Stoughton values music as more than a platform where rhythm meets beat. For him, it's an expression that sets the stage for a life worth living, a vision worth having and a dream worth creating. Stoughton's production company, Bonfire Entertainment, puts a spotlight on community and interpersonal connection, as well as the overall impact we have on the environment. Stoughton finds solace and inspiration in the natural world, especially on the water, and is the co-founder of Stand Up Paddle Colorado. His support of international non-profit organizations, along with local involvement through community events, always keeps his hands moving quickly without ever losing the beat.



**Tyler Grant:** National Flatpicking Champion, Tyler Grant is an internationally recognized guitar virtuoso, songwriter, vocalist and leader of the band Grant Farm®. Tyler has appeared at most major US festivals and performed thousands of concerts and guitar workshops worldwide. He was an original member of the Emmitt-Nershi Band and was a sideman for Abigail Washburn, April Verch and Adrienne Young. He has produced four solo albums and four releases by Grant Farm for his own Grant Central Records. His 2016 solo release, Earth and Wood, is a triumphant return to Bluegrass. The latest Grant Farm album, Kiss the Ground, also released Summer 2016, is an ambitious concept album which discusses the struggles of hard working people in modern society. [www.tylergrant.com](http://www.tylergrant.com).