December 2025 Newsletter

Jam Calendar

Boyd's Jig and Reel
Every Tuesday at 6:30PM
[illegible]

Tri-Hop Brewery
Old Time Jam
with [illegible]
Next Jam is Sunday, December 7th
3-6 PM

Laurel Theater
No Jam In December
Join us Thursday, January 8th at 7PM
Weather or Holiday Cancellations Will Be Posted on [illegible]

Tune History

Breakin' Up Christmas

"Breakin' Up Christmas" describes a series of dances to honor gatherings between Christmas on December 25th and "Old Christmas" on January 6th. Learn more about the tune and tradition.
And remember Santa knows what you really want, he added a gift just for you: a list of more Old Time Christmas fiddle tunes.

Worth A Listen

Old Time recordings, videos or other media that you might find interesting.

Joe Bennett presents: The Year of Jubilo
(a full [illegible] song)
With 36 page booklet about the tune

Galax, Virginia Old Fiddler's Convention
[illegible]
Live recordings from the stage, after 6:30

Old Time Jubilation by Gibbs Bagwell [illegible]
[illegible]

BBC's podcast interview with Eddie Bond (2008)
(New Orleans Records Bagwell)

The Bluegrassy
In The Woods (8:29)

Old Time Happenings In December

Updates will be added on the Calendar Page as they are received.

Laurel Theater
5th [illegible]
6th [illegible]
13th [illegible]
20th [illegible], John Doyle, Gabby Ryan

Boyd's Jig & Reel
5th [illegible]
6th [illegible]

Museum of Appalachia
12-13th [illegible]

There are events with an Old Time connection.
Please consult venues for confirmation and for more events.
Laurel Theater
Bobby's Knoxville
Boyd's Jig & Reel

Laurel Theater has some free parking options for Friday and Saturday evening shows.
The Calendar page has more information.

Why Does Sad Music Feel Good?

The Paradox Of Bereavable Sadness

Banjo playing musician Jack Tarkanis uses "Silk River Blues" from W. Virginia Fiddler Ruth Gaspersen to help illustrate what is happening in the grey matter when we listen to music that hurts. The Doctor turns down to some banjo tab. Which brings up another question. Is it even possible to play a sad song on the banjo? According to Steve Martin, "The banjo is such a happy instrument - you don't play a sad song on the banjo - it always comes out as downhill."

Dance

The Laurel Theater Square Dance
The November dance starts in Bobby's Knoxville.
Live music, skilled caller. No partner needed.
No square dance at the Laurel in December.
Starting months in January 2026

Knoxville Contra Dance
Laurel Theater. Every Monday at 7:30PM.
Live music, no new caller. No partner required.

I've Endured: Women In Old Time Music

The East Tennessee Historical Society is hosting the traveling exhibit on "I've Endured: Women In Old Time Music through April 19, 2026. This exhibition, organized by The Bridgeport Country Music Museum, is "a look into the past, present, and future of the genre and the integral role women played in the development of country music as we know it today." They invited five couples of Women In Old Time series at the Laurel Theater starting in March. ETHS is located at 601 E. Gay St. Knoxville, TN 37902.

Contact/More From The Editor