

# asheville music: then & now

## From Bluegrass to Newgrass to Nograss

Asheville's musical legacy has deep roots. The story begins with Scotch-Irish immigrants who settled in Western North Carolina because the mountains and rolling hills reminded them of home. This mountain music legacy has influenced American music for more than two centuries.

A progressive and collaborative arts community, Asheville's modern music scene melds old and new with surprising ease. Music permeates the city from the street musicians who serenade you downtown, to multi-generation bluegrass jam sessions, to a rock club (The Orange Peel) named one of the best in the country by *Rolling Stone*.

## New Guidebook! *Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina*

Mountain music traditions are alive and well in the Blue Ridge, and a new travel guidebook, *Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina*, offers an epic tour to the public settings where folk music and dance still thrive. Mountain musicians are as laid-back and welcoming as they come, so bring your clogs and banjo and play on in...

## Top 8 Toe-Tappin' Adventures in Asheville

**1. Shindig Under the Stars:** Bring your lawn chair (and an instrument, if you play one) for a free evening of traditional Southern Appalachian music, jam sessions and folk dancing at Shindig on the Green, Saturday nights under the stars from June through August in Pack Square Park.

**2. Pick 'n Pie:** Learn the secrets of mountain kitchens and mountain music in the same evening! Native Ground Music and Log Cabin Cooking partner to share their deep knowledge of Appalachian arts in beginners' classes in a charming farmhouse setting.

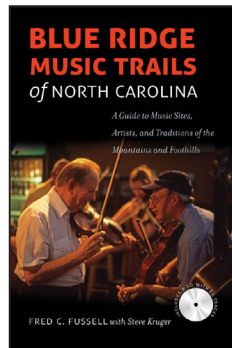
**3. Old Time Jams:** Appalachian and Celtic music legacies are honored at the informal weekly jam sessions at Isis and Jack of the Wood. Rub elbows, and instruments, with locals while you enjoy a fresh, hand-crafted pint from Green Man and some time-traveling acoustic tunes.



**4. The Nation's Longest Running Folk Festival:** Since 1928, mountain fiddlers, banjo pickers, dulcimer sweepers, dancers, balladeers and others have come to enjoy themselves "along about sundown" the first weekend in August at the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival.

**5. Bluegrass Buskers:** Nowhere is the music culture and bluegrass influence more accessible than on the streets of Asheville. When the weather is nice, nearly every downtown corner offers a spontaneous stage. Head to Pack Square or the iconic Flat Iron statue along the Urban Trail for bands like 13 Strings and a Two Dollar Bill, Flat Creek Trio and The Leather Britches.

**6. Music Hall Haunts:** From intimate listening rooms to large music halls ideal for dancing, Asheville area music venues run the gamut: Grey Eagle, White Horse Black Mountain, Isis Music Hall and The Orange Peel offer variety in their line-ups, but bluegrass and roots can always be found if you watch the schedules. Tip: Asheville's breweries are also musically inclined. Pisgah, Highland, Wedge and



## Musical Road Tripping: *A Guidebook for the Ears*

Listen while you explore. Many of the region's historic musicians are featured on a 20-track companion CD for the newly released *Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina*. Imagine driving along the famed Blue Ridge Parkway with sweeping mountain views—nothing could be more fitting than a soundtrack of authentic Southern Appalachian music.

Songs from this "guidebook for the ears" include "Swannanoa Tunnel," "Frankie Silver's Confession" and "Tom Dooley" and are based on actual events that took place in the region.



French Broad Brewing all offer live music with craft beer cool. **TIP:** Want a daytime gig? Try Bluegrass Brunch with the Pond Brothers at The One Stop at Asheville Music Hall.

**7. Contra and Square Dance:** Pack a skirt that twirls! European and American folk dance is seeing a revival, and nowhere is that more clear than in the mountains of Western N.C. At Grey Eagle, Warren Wilson or White Horse Black Mountain, the locals will take you in their arms, quite literally, and show you the steps.

**8. Asheville Drum Circle:** You might hear a fiddle or banjo thrown in the mix, but the instrument of choice for this 10+ year Asheville tradition is the drum.