

Northern Nevada Bluegrass Association Presents

California Bluegrass Reunion

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025, 7pm (doors open at 6:30)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1135 12th St. Sparks (right behind the Sparks Public Library)

Tickets - \$35 (20% discount for NNBA Members)

Children 12 and under free. Youth 13+ with student ID - \$15

Available online at nnba.org and at the door (unless sold out)

Limited seating. Contact info@nnba.org for more info.



From left: John Reischman, Bill Evans, Sharon Gilchrist, Mike Witcher, Jim Nunally & Chad Manning

This year's concert brings together some of the finest talents in bluegrass, including **Bill Evans** (banjo), **John Reischman** (mandolin), **Jim Nunally** (guitar), **Chad Manning** (fiddle), **Sharon Gilchrist** (bass) and **Mike Witcher** (dobro). These musicians have performed together in various combinations for decades and for this year's Freight concert, the Reunion pays a special tribute to the music of the California songwriters and tunesmiths.

Tribute to California songwriters and tunesmiths! This year, the California Bluegrass Reunion will pay tribute to the California songwriters and tunesmiths that have shaped acoustic music over the last five decades, including new performances of songs from such California-based composers as Kate Wolf, Herb Pedersen, Laurie Lewis, Kathy Kallick, Tony Rice, David Gisman and more – including, of course, the compositions of the Bluegrass Reunion band members themselves.

2025 Band Member Bios

Opening the show: **Nell & Jim** features Jim Nunally on vocals, guitar, and banjo, and Nell Robinson on vocals and miniflute, tight harmonies and original genre-bending music. “Those just getting acquainted with Nell Robinson and Jim Nunally ought to know they are hardly the unassuming artists their eponymous band moniker might make them out to be. Seasoned songwriters and musicians hosting the likes of performances with PBS and the former *Prairie Home Companion*, Grammy accolades, and more between their cumulative resumes... the duo has made a shift to look inward – literally and emotionally – for the inspiration to their latest batch of songs.” (Kira Grunenber, *American Songwriter*). For info: <http://nellandjim.com>

Bill Evans has been involved with bluegrass music and the world of the banjo as a player, teacher, composer, writer and historian for over forty-five years. He is a recipient of the coveted Steve Martin Banjo Prize, is a member of the American Banjo Museum’s Hall of Fame and the author of “Banjo for Dummies.” He occupies a unique niche in the banjo world: celebrated worldwide for his traditional as well as progressive bluegrass banjo styles as well as his innovative original compositions, he also enjoys a reputation as an outstanding instructor as well as being an expert player of 19th century minstrel and classic banjo styles. Bill currently tours with his solo show *The Banjo in America*. In over twenty-seven years as a California-based performer, he has performed with David Grisman, Peter Rowan, Alan Munde, Jody Stecher, Eric & Suzy Thompson, David Bromberg, Tony Trischka, and Kathy Kallick among many others. For ten years, Bill hosted a monthly bluegrass residency at the Kensington Circus Pub with Jim Nunally and Chad Manning that drew fans from all over the world. He hosts five instructional courses for Peghead Nation. For more, visit billevansbanjo.com.

Grammy Award-winning musician **John Reischman** has been a foundational mandolinist, composer, bandleader, and musical educator in bluegrass and North American roots and folk music since emerging from the vibrant “new acoustic” music scene of the Bay Area in the 1980s. A founding member of the groundbreaking Tony Rice Unit, Reischman’s mastery of bluegrass, old-time, swing, and multiple Latin American musical styles, coupled with an Old Masters sense of tone, taste and musicality, has brought him a global reputation as one of the finest mandolinists of his era. John was a founding member of the California band **The Good Ol’ Persons** and he has led **John Reischman & The Jaybirds** for over twenty years. For more, visit johnreischman.com.

Chad Manning is a San Francisco Bay Area fiddler who has played with the David Grisman Quintet & Bluegrass Experience and Laurie Lewis. Over the years, he has shared the stage with J. D. Crowe, Curly Seckler, Alan Munde, and Tony Trischka, contributing his fiddle work to a wide variety of projects. Together with his wife Catherine, Chad runs Manning Music in Berkeley, California. The school serves over 250 students. Chad also teaches online courses from Peghead Nation. Chad’s current band, *Charlie Torch*, brings his family into his music. With his son Jasper on mandolin, daughter Jayna on guitar and vocals, and long-time friends Tyler Stegall and Mark Schatz, the group creates music that reflects their shared history and love for bluegrass and country traditions. For more info, visit chadmanning.com.

San Francisco Bay Area native **Jim Nunally** is a musician, composer, record producer and teacher – all in addition to being one of the finest guitar players in the world. His third-generation traditional music roots began in Arkansas with this guitar-playing grandfather who taught Jim’s father who in turn taught Jim. This pedigree contributes to his unmistakably traditional sound. For the last several years, Jim has co-led the **Nell & Jim Band** with Nell Robinson, performing a unique mix of original Americana sounds based around their outstanding duet singing and Jim’s arranging. Jim has performed with the David Grisman Bluegrass Experience, John Reischman & The Jaybirds, and Keith Little as well as leading the path-breaking California band Due West. For more info, visit jimnunally.com.

Sharon Gilchrist has long made her home in the American acoustic music scene. You may have seen her playing mandolin or upright bass, singing a traditional ballad, or performing an original piece on a concert or festival stage anywhere in North America. She has performed with the Peter Rowan and Tony Rice Quartet, Scott Nygaard and John Reischman, Darol Anger, Laurie Lewis, Scott Law and others. She earned a degree in Mandolin Performance from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, and has taught mandolin for 15 years both privately and online at Peghead Nation and at some of the nation’s finest music camps. Sharon currently resides in Nashville, TN after living for almost a decade in California. Learn more at sharongilchristmusic.com.

Resonator guitarist **Mike Witcher** has toured and recorded with the likes of Dolly Parton, Dwight Yoakam, Peter Rowan, Bette Midler, The Gibson Brothers, Sara Watkins, and Laurie Lewis. Known for his gorgeous tone and tasteful playing, Mike is also one of the most sought-after educators in the world of slide guitar.