

UKULELE, CONTINUED

Shimabukuro's approach to the ukulele started at age 4, learning from his mother. As he matured, Shimabukuro also found inspiration from guitar players, drummers, pianists and singers.

Eventually the Honolulu resident realized that he was doing something out of the ordinary with the four-stringed instrument. When the YouTube clip of his original take on George Harrison's love ballad, "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," went viral, response was overwhelming he said, and his recording career began soon after.

He quickly became in great demand, making appearances on programs such as The Today Show, Good Morning America, Jimmy Kimmel Live, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, A Prairie Home Companion and NPR's Morning Edition. Shimabukuro's records have

topped the Billboard World Music Charts on numerous occasions.

His newest album, "The Greatest Day," was recorded in Nashville's famed Ronnie's Place studio and was released last year. The 12 tracks feature some of Shimabukuro's most imaginative and adventuresome playing yet, both on covers and his original compositions. Between concert tours, he enjoys being with his wife and two sons in Hawaii.

All seating for the Fowler Center event is reserved. Individual tickets are \$35 and \$25 for adults, and \$28 and \$20 for senior citizens, students, and A-State faculty and staff, and \$15 and \$10 for A-State students with a current ID.

Visit AState.edu/tickets for tickets and information.

BLUEGRASS, CONTINUED



Photo courtesy of Kim Robins

Robins, center, and her band travel around the country to play their music.

Robins took a break from music to raise a family and to earn two college degrees. Her love for music and performing was rekindled when she met and married renowned bluegrass banjo player Butch Robins. She formed a band, Forty Years Late, and they have performed at the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America's annual convention, at the Folk Alliance conference in Memphis, and at the prestigious Merlefest bluegrass festival. The ensemble has also been an opening act for well-known bluegrass artists including Ralph Stanley, Bobby Osborne and Junior Sisk.

In both 2015 and 2017, Robins was nominated for the Momentum Award given by the International Bluegrass Music Association. This honor recognizes rising stars in the world of bluegrass music. In 2016, Robins released her first CD for the prestigious bluegrass record label Pinecastle Records. That CD has produced

numerous hit songs heard on bluegrass radio stations across the country and on Sirius XM satellite radio.

Seating at the concert is first-come, first-served. Doors to the theatre will open at 6 p.m. KASU will literally "pass the hat" during the concert to collect money to pay the group. The suggested donation is \$5 per person.

In addition to the concert, Terry's Café, 201 S. Pruet St. in Paragould, opens on Bluegrass Mondays to welcome bluegrass music fans. The café serves a country-style buffet meal beginning at 4:30 p.m. on the evenings of Bluegrass Monday concerts. Concessions will also be available at the Collins Theatre.

Bluegrass Monday concerts are on the fourth Monday night of each month. These concerts are presented with support from Bibb Chiropractic Center, the Posey Peddler, Holiday Inn Express and Suites of Paragould, and KASU.

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"Titans of Filmmaking"

A-STATE HERALD

STAFF REPORT

A trio of presenters thrilled a large crowd of country music fans during the "Titans of Filmmaking" special presentations Friday afternoon in the Dyess Community Center the second day of the Johnny Cash Heritage Festival in Dyess. The group spent an hour apiece showing clips from their documentaries and discussing Johnny Cash's rise from the son of poor sharecroppers to a successful singer and songwriter.

The presenters were William Ferris, former chairman of the National Endowments for the Humanities and double Grammy winner; Thom Zimny, a Grammy and Emmy Award-winner and director of the recently-released "Springsteen on Broadway" and the critically-acclaimed film "Elvis Presley: The Searcher;" and Pam Baucom, a co-producer with Ken Burns of "Country Music," an eight-part, 16-hour series aired on PBS.

Cash's daughter Rosanne Cash hosted the speakers after being introduced by Arkansas State University Chancellor Kelly Dampousse.

"It is my great fortune to be a part of this great event," said Dampousse.

He also announced the start of a new tradition where the Johnny Cash song "Ring of Fire" will now be played between the third and fourth quarters of A-State's home football games.

Ferris, who said he has spent his life studying the American South, compared Johnny Cash to other artists, including author William Faulkner in literature and B.B. King in blues music. He discussed his introduction to music during his life journey along Highway 61 and showed photos of people he met along the way who taught him their music and way of life.

Zimny displayed several clips of his latest documentary, "The Gift: The Legend of Johnny Cash," made in collaboration with the Cash estate. He told the crowd he always remembered archival footage he had seen of Dyess and



Photo courtesy of Arkansas State University

Day Two of the Cash Festival was highlighted by the "Titans of Filmmaking" presentation.

thanked Rosanne Cash for trusting him to do the back story on her father.

The documentary explores the evolution of Cash through memories told in Cash's own voice. Zimny had said he wasn't pleased with the documentary's progress until he received a box of recordings in Cash's own voice. He said, "This brought Johnny's voice to the documentary and I wanted to honor that."

In one of the voice recordings, Cash told of his mother's comment about his voice being a "gift," the death of his older brother Jack in a sawing accident and how it affected Johnny throughout his life, his strained relationship with his father and the role of religion in Johnny's life.

Baucom represented a "team of people who relied on so many people who provided primary source material" for the "Country Music" film. It took the Ken Burns crew over eight years to collect and catalog over 100,000 photographs and whittle down the photos and information for the documentary.

The film displays Johnny's beginnings, including his time in the U.S. Air Force, his first marriage, and his personal and professional relationship with Elvis Presley.

Tweet from the Week



Kelly Dampousse @kdamp · 2h

The 2019 @ArkansasState Homecoming theme is "Strength of the Pack." Join the Red Wolf pack to watch "The Lion King" Tuesday night at 7 PM in the @AStateFB stadium. Our homecoming gift to the JBR community.

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