



ABOVE: MAKING MUSIC AT BOWDON'S LITTLE BIG JAM

# NW GA's Historic High Country



## The Music of Northwest GA

The music of Northwest Georgia's Historic High Country region is real, rooted in the soul of the 17 Southern Appalachian counties that make up this part of the state.

From popular artists performing at Mill Town Music Hall in Bremen to local talent vying to place in the Old Time Fiddler's Convention Contest at Ringgold's 1890's Days, music is bringing people to discover our Land of Sights and Legends...NW Georgia's Historic High Country.

### Find Us Online

[www.GeorgiaHighCountry.org](http://www.GeorgiaHighCountry.org)

<http://www.exploregeorgia.org/region/historic-high-country>

<https://www.facebook.com/GAHighCountry/>

### Services Available

- High Res Photos
- Story Ideas and Contacts
- Suggested itineraries for media visits

### DID YOU KNOW?

*Harold Shedd from Bremen discovered and produced greats such as Toby Keith, Shania Twain, Reba McEntire, Billy Ray Cyrus and the band Alabama. Learn more at [www.MillTownMusicHall.com](http://www.MillTownMusicHall.com).*



Contact:

Kyle Bennett, President  
Historic High Country  
Travel Association

[kbennett@woodstockga.gov](mailto:kbennett@woodstockga.gov)



Contact:

Janet Cochran  
Regional Tourism Project Manager  
GA Dept of Econ. Development

[jcochran@georgia.org](mailto:jcochran@georgia.org)

## Music Locales

### Mill Town Music Hall

West Georgia's largest concert venue in Bremen features a variety of Country, Southern Gospel Blue Grass and Contemporary Christian music genres. **Guided tours available during regular box office hours; appointments preferred.**

[www.MillTownMusicHall.com](http://www.MillTownMusicHall.com)



**The Rock** Yes, it's a campground, but it's also one of the best bluegrass venues in the Southeast, and has been mentioned in many national publications.

[www.therockrvpark.com](http://www.therockrvpark.com)

**Falany Performing Arts Center** at Reinhardt College  
[www.reinhardt.edu](http://www.reinhardt.edu)

### Rome Symphony Orchestra / Rome City Auditorium

The largest theatre of its period still in daily use in the region. It is home of the Rome Symphony Orchestra, the **oldest continuous symphony orchestra in the Southeast.**

Such notables as Loretta Lynn, Dean Martin, and Tenor Roland Hayes have performed on the stage. [www.romesympphony.org](http://www.romesympphony.org)

**Cedartown Performing Arts Center** at the Civic Auditorium  
[www.cedartownshows.com](http://www.cedartownshows.com)



### The Amp / The Mill

Outdoors and downtown – Carrollton's Amp and Villa Rica's Mill provide the perfect ambiance for family entertainment during

the summer months when days are long.

[www.CarrolltonMainStreet.com](http://www.CarrolltonMainStreet.com)

### Brewhouse Music & Grill

The spot where Rome's Brewhouse resides was originally an Opera House and served as the principal center for entertainment before it was destroyed by fire in 1919. After being rebuilt in 1920 and going through several decades of changes, Brewhouse Music & Grill officially opened in 2012 to hold music events. Brewhouse has attracted some of

the biggest names in music since opening. Visitors can enjoy live music every Friday and Saturday evening with special musical talent events planned throughout the year.

<http://romebrewhouse.com>

### DID YOU KNOW?

*The 1850 Old Stone Church in Ringgold is the first church in which the standard "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" was performed.*



#### Above:

- (1) *Randall Franks of Ringgold is Georgia's official Ambassador of the Fiddle.*
- (2) *Calhoun's BBQ, Boogie and Blues festival brings out some of the area's best musicians.*



*Thomas A. Dorsey earned the title of "The Father of Gospel Music" with his wide-spread influence of songwriting and performance, and is most noted for the song "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," which he wrote following the loss of his wife and child.*

## Events

### 1890s Days Jamboree

*Saturday, Memorial Day Weekend*  
90+ fiddlers, guitarists, mandolinists, bands and cloggers from states across the south descend on Ringgold to compete in the 1890s Day Jamboree Old Time Fiddlers Convention. Fiddlers of all ages rosin up their bows and cloggers kick up their heels to win nearly \$7,000 in prize money on the Northwest Georgia Bank stage at the historic Catoosa County Courthouse. The winning fiddler takes home the Randall Franks Trophy, named for the champion fiddler and International Bluegrass Music Museum Legend.

[www.1890sdays.com](http://www.1890sdays.com)

### Little Big Jam

*Spring and Fall*  
Think back to the days of Woodstock when crowds gathered in an open field to take in the sounds of multiple bands, hanging out with friends and rocking into the night. But Little Big Jam in Bowdon is definitely family-friendly! It's a whole lot of fun, too. [www.littlebigjam.com](http://www.littlebigjam.com)

### Thomas Dorsey Festival

*June*  
Head to Villa Rica for an inspiring look into the life and music Thomas A. Dorsey. While Dorsey made a name for himself as a jazz and blues performer, sacred music was still important to him, and eventually earned him the title "Father of Gospel Music." [www.facebook.com/TADorseybirthplace/](http://www.facebook.com/TADorseybirthplace/)

### GA String Band Festival

*April*  
A celebration of Old Time, pre-WWII music. Some of the finest musicians in the tri-state area compete in Traditional Singing, Fiddle, Banjo, Buck Dance and String Band competitions with \$1900 in prize money awarded. [www.harrisartscenter.com](http://www.harrisartscenter.com)

### Ringgold's Sensational Second Weekends

*Year-Round*  
Two concerts at the 160-year-old Ringgold train depot Ringgold Depot features music of the mountains.

**Sacred Sounds** on second Fridays highlights Southern, bluegrass and country gospel performers. The event is hosted by Randall Franks, "Officer Randy Goode" of TV's "In the Heat of the Night" raising funds for the Pearl and Floyd Franks Scholarship encouraging youth in Appalachian music.

**The Ringgold Opry** on Saturday at 7 p.m. includes performances by acoustic musicians and opportunities for musicians to jam offstage; a great place to enjoy "roots music." <http://www.cityofringgold.com/Visitors/Entertainment.aspx>

### Sacred Harp Singings

There are several locations throughout West Georgia where folks gather for shape-note singing. [www.atlantasacredharp.org/annual.html](http://www.atlantasacredharp.org/annual.html)

(Events continued...)

## Rome River Jam

May

Two days of tailgating and jammin' to multiple bands and musical artists along the Oostanaula River at Rome's Ridge Ferry Park.

[www.romeriverjam.com](http://www.romeriverjam.com)

## Blue Ridge Wine and Jazz Festival

May

Bringing hot jazz, great wines, fine art, and delicious cuisine, to beautiful Blue Ridge, GA.

<http://blueridgewineandjazz.com>

## BBQ, Boogie and Blues

April

BBQ contest combined with great music equals a must-do weekend in Calhoun.

[www.bbqboogieblues.com](http://www.bbqboogieblues.com)



Photo: Rome River Jam

## Singer / Songwriter Concert Series at Chukkar Farm

May through November

Live singer/songwriter concerts organized by James Castos held every First Friday and Saturday May through November. High quality concerts in a gorgeous outdoor setting. Bring a picnic and beverage and have a great date night or evening with friends.

[www.chukkarfarm.com](http://www.chukkarfarm.com)

## Notable Notes



### Music and Wine

There are 11 open vineyards and wineries in Northwest GA, and they often feature musical artists to accompany weekend visitors. See the list of wineries at

[www.exploregeorgia.org/itineraries/georgia-wine-flavor-tour](http://www.exploregeorgia.org/itineraries/georgia-wine-flavor-tour)

### Wedding Walk

Ringgold has long been known as THE place to get married because one could get a license and tie the knot all in the same day. Celebrities who took advantage of this fact include **Dolly Parton, Tammy Wynette and George Jones, and Don Everly** of the Everly Brothers.

These stories are told in the self-guided "Wedding Walk" tour in downtown Ringgold.

[www.cityofringgold.com](http://www.cityofringgold.com)

### Who's Who

NW GA musicians and singers:

- **Sam Hunt** – Cedartown. Country music singer songwriter.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam\\_Hunt\\_\(musician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Hunt_(musician))
- **Butch Walker** – Cartersville. Musician and producer. One of his bands was named "Floyd's Funk Revival" after Rome/Floyd County.  
<http://georgiamusic.org/the-ballad-of-butch-walker/>
- **Thomas Fountain** – Jasper. 2014 Georgia Country Artist of the Year