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## Goodbye Bluegrass Gypsy

Friends and admirers look back on the life and career of legendary Bluegrass community supporter Tony de Boer, pictured here with his daughter Cindy de Boer.



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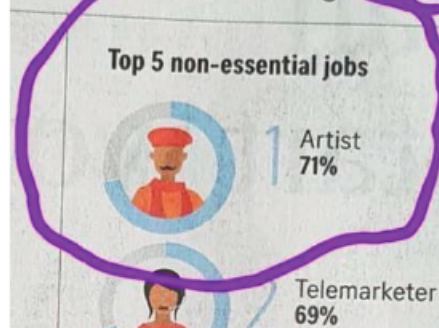


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Tony de Boer up at 6 a.m., a picture first used back in *Bluegrass Canada* magazine January 2014.



# Justin Nauss

## Denis describes an up and coming banjo whiz kid

By Denis LePage



*Denis LePage has spent over 40 years mastering the banjo, and is an active member of the Canadian bluegrass community. He currently runs a website dedicated to banjo instruction: [banjoden.com](http://banjoden.com).*

I'm always amazed by the number of really accomplished multi-instrumentalist that we have here in Canada. Although there are many of these players right across the country, the East Coast seems to be particularly blessed to have so many.

I had heard the Bluegrass Unit's latest CD and was really impressed with the group and the banjo playing, so it was really a treat to meet banjoist, Justin Nauss at the 2019 Tottenham Bluegrass Festival when the band was performing there. The interesting thing was, when I went over to catch a jam where the band was playing and to introduce myself, Justin wasn't on the banjo,

he was killing it on the guitar!

Justin has great attack and instinct on the banjo and uses and incorporates a lot of bluesy, syncopated licks in his playing. You might want to consider using some of these in your own playing for added colour and emphasis. I have tabbed out (..at least as close as I could figure it out!) the opening and closing measures of Justin's break in Blue Kentucky Wind which I think really demonstrates some of this in his style. But before we get to that, here is a short run down of his musical background.

Justin Nauss hails from Nova Scotia, a province that has

produced many really outstanding musicians of all genres. After starting out on guitar with some instruction from his father as well as some formal lessons, he found that his real interest was in the banjo. His family had attended many bluegrass festivals and shows and Justin had an opportunity to meet many fine banjo players and learn what he could from them. He got his first banjo at the age of 13 and by watching videos and live shows, listening, jamming, practicing and using tablature he was able to turn himself into the fine banjo player he is today.

He has been a member of several



bluegrass bands including Constant Connection (playing mandolin) and Eight Wheel Drive (playing banjo). In 2015 Justin, his brother Jeff Nauss and friend Waylon Robicheau put together a new group called the Bluegrass Unit. That band is still together today and the current lineup includes Dave Noel on bass and Andrew Sneddon on Dobro. They are a great group and I highly recommend getting out to see them (if that's at all possible during these times!) or at least getting your hands on their CD.

Here are the opening few bars....( for all you banjo techy people out there you'll notice a nice use of the short forward/backward roll and a lot of use of the hammer on/pull off on the third string)

Here are the closing few bars... Here Justin uses some tasty single string and the 3 – 5 G position to add a really nice bluesy closing to the break.

Thanks Justin, Stay well and we hope to see you and the band soon!



BLUE KENTUCKY WIND - INTRO

Handwritten musical notation for the first system of the 'INTRO' section. It consists of two staves. The top staff shows fret numbers (0, X, 0, X, 0, 2, 0, X, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2-3, 3, 0) and the bottom staff shows the corresponding fretboard positions with vertical lines and checkmarks. The notation includes a short forward roll (3-4) and a hammer on/pull off (3-5).

Handwritten musical notation for the second system of the 'INTRO' section. It consists of two staves. The top staff shows fret numbers (0, X, 0, 0, X, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) and the bottom staff shows the corresponding fretboard positions with vertical lines and checkmarks. The notation includes a short backward roll (3-2) and a hammer on/pull off (3-2).

EXTRO

Handwritten musical notation for the 'EXTRO' section. It consists of two staves. The top staff shows fret numbers (0, 3, 2, 3, 2, 0, X, X, X, X, 3, 3, 5, 5, 3, 0, 3, 0) and the bottom staff shows the corresponding fretboard positions with vertical lines and checkmarks. The notation includes a single string and a 3-5 G position.