



Recommended Listening  
12 Albums You Should Know

This list is not at all exhaustive (and certainly favors personal preferences), so many worthy and important artists and albums are overlooked, but it should serve as a good and diverse introduction! As always, find what you like and follow the rabbit hole! Only one album is chosen per artist in general, and most of them have a lifetime of work to dig into.

**CLASSIC BLUEGRASS**

Bill Monroe - *Anthology*  
Bill Monroe & His Blue Grass Boys - *16 Gems*  
Flatt & Scruggs *Live at Carnegie Hall*  
The Stanley Brothers and The Clinch Mountain Boys: *The Complete Mercury Recordings*  
Jim & Jesse McReynolds & The Virginia Boys - *Jim & Jesse*  
The Osborne Brothers, *The Best Of*  
Reno & Smiley - *Bluegrass 1963*  
Jimmy Martin & The Sunny Mountain Boys - *Good 'N Country*  
The Country Gentlemen *Sing and Play Folk Songs and Bluegrass*  
The Best of Mac Wiseman - *Essential Original Masters*  
The Dillards - *Back Porch Bluegrass*  
The Kentucky Colonels - *1966*

**(MORE OR LESS) TRADITIONAL MODERN BLUEGRASS**

J.D. Crowe & *The New South*  
The Bluegrass Album Band - *Lonesome Moonlight: The Songs of Bill Monroe*  
John Hartford - *Steam Powered Aereoplane*  
*The Johnson Mountain Boys*  
The Seldom Scene - *Old Train*  
Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out - *Footprints: A Illrd Tyme Out Collection*  
Lonesome River Band - *Chronology, Vols. 1 & 2*  
*Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver*  
Special Consensus - *Scratch Gravel Road*  
Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder - *History of the Future*

*The Earls of Leicester*

The Del McCoury Band - *The Cold Hard Facts*

Honorable mention: Peter Rowan, The Grascals, The Boxcars, Nashville Bluegrass Band

### **PROGRESSIVE BLUEGRASS (-ish stuff)**

New Grass Revival - *On the Boulevard*

Bela Fleck - *The Bluegrass Sessions: Tales from the Acoustic Planet, vol. 2*

*Hot Rize*

Strength in Numbers - *The Telluride Session*

Alison Krauss & Union Station - *Every Time You Say Goodbye*

*Nickel Creek*

Sam Bush - *Late As Usual*

Crooked Still - *Some Strange Country*

Joy Kills Sorrow - *This Unknown Science*

*The Infamous Stringdusters*

Punch Brothers - *Antifogmatic*

Sarah Jarosz - *Follow Me Down*

Honorable mention: Mountain Heart, Front Country

### **FOR MANDOLIN PLAYERS**

Bill Monroe & His Bluegrass Boys - *Bluegrass Instrumentals*

*David Grisman Quintet*

Chris Thile - *Not All Who Wander Are Lost*

Mike Marshall - *Gator Strut*

David Grisman & Sam Bush - *Hold On, We're Strummin'*

Matt Flinner - *The View From Here*

John Reischman - *North of the Border*

Sierra Hull - *Weighted Mind*

Mike Marshall & Chris Thile - *Into the Cauldron*

Adam Steffey - *One More for the Road*

*Bluegrass Mandolin Extravaganza*

Ronnie McCoury - *Heartbreak Town*

Honorable mention: Hamilton de Holanda, Jethro Burns, Jesse McReynolds, Modern Mandolin Quartet, The Greencards

### **FOR GUITAR PLAYERS**

Tony Rice - *Church Street Blues*

Clarence White - *33 Guitar Instrumentals*

*Norman Blake & Tony Rice*

Doc Watson - *Southbound*

David Grier - *I've Got the House to Myself*  
Russ Barenberg, Edgar Meyer & Jerry Douglas - *Skip, Hop & Wobble*  
Bryan Sutton - *Ready to Go*  
Kenny Smith - *Studebaker*  
Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder (Bryan Sutton, guitar) - *Ancient Tones*  
Sean Watkins - *Let it Fall*  
Cody Kilby - *Just Me*  
Grant Gordy

Honorable mention: Molly Tuttle, Billy Strings

### **FOR BANJO PLAYERS**

Flatt & Scruggs - *Foggy Mountain Banjo*  
Bill Keith, Tony Trischka & Bela Fleck - *Fiddle Tunes for Banjo*  
Alan Munde & Sam Bush - *Together Again for the First Time*  
Tom Adams - *Adams County Banjo*  
Reno & Smiley - *Banjo Special*  
Bela Fleck - *Drive*  
Jim Mills - *Hide Head Blues*  
Kruger Brothers - *The Suite, vol. 1*  
Scott Vestal et al - *Bluegrass '95 (& '96, '97, '98 and '99...)*  
Noam Pikelnny - *Beat the Devil and Carry a Rail*  
Alison Brown - *Stolen Moments*  
Jayme Stone - *The Utmost*

Honorable mention: Tony Furtado, Kristin Scott Benson, Chris Pandolfi, Ned Luberecki

### **FOR FIDDLE PLAYERS**

Kenny Baker Plays Bill Monroe  
Byron Berline - *Jumpin' the Strings*  
Vassar Clements - *The Bluegrass Session*  
Mark O'Connor - *Thirty-Year Retrospective*  
Stuart Duncan  
Bobby Hicks - *Fiddle Patch*  
Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper - *On Down the Line*  
Darol Anger - *Diary of a Fiddler*  
Andy Leftwich - *Ride*  
Aubrey Haynie - *Doin' My Time*  
Casey Driessen - *3D*  
Mike Barnett - *Portraits in Fiddles*

Honorable Mention: Becky Buller, Sara Watkins