



PRESS RELEASE

2026 Ellijay Music Festival Presented by Appalachian Beverage Press Release

EllijayMusicFestival.com
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*Ellijay Songwriters Festival Expands to the Ellijay Music Festival Presented by
Appalachian Beverage in May 2026*

*Festival organizers, host venues, sponsors, supporters and live music fans will welcome
songwriters plus performing artists and bands to the beautiful north Georgia mountains
May 8-10, 2026*

Ellijay, GA –

March 12, 2026 –

Ellijay Songwriters Festival founder and Executive Producer Ray Green announced today that the Ellijay Songwriters Festival will expand and become the Ellijay Music Festival, return to Gilmer County May 8-10, 2026 on Mother's Day weekend, and will be presented by long-time sponsor Appalachian Beverage.

The festival will feature live shows in downtown Ellijay venues including the Gilmer Arts Playhouse, The Butcher & Bottle, Cantaberry Restaurant, The Ellijay Cigar Lounge, plus the Cartecay River Brewing Company.

“We are delighted to produce the Ellijay Music Festival and bring celebrated local and regional songwriters, Grammy Award winners and nominees, national and international touring artists, studio musicians, and record producers to Ellijay for our fans to enjoy for a fourth consecutive year over three exciting days on Mother’s Day weekend.

We have expanded the musical genres that will be performed by our amazing line-up of talented, seasoned-veteran songwriters and musicians to include Country, Pop, Blues, Honky Tonk, Southern Rock, Jazz, Americana, and Rock n' Roll. The festival will feature live music for everyone”, said Green.

The festival is the largest annual spring event in Gilmer County, Georgia. Most shows are free and everyone is welcome.

“The Ellijay Music Festival will bring together thousands of music fans as we celebrate and feature the art of songwriting and live music.

“Attendees will have a chance to meet and hang out with the musicians, listen to their songs, learn the history and stories behind the songs, and enjoy mountain life in beautiful Ellijay, added Green.

“We are thrilled by and sincerely thankful for the enthusiastic community support of the Ellijay Music Festival by our loyal sponsors.

I am particularly grateful that Appalachian Beverage in Ellijay will become our Presenting Sponsor with festival naming rights.

Appalachian Beverage is the largest independent retailer of beverages in north Georgia and owners Mark and Cindy West and son Brady West are invaluable, long-time festival supporters, major sponsors, advisors, and ambassadors without whom the festival would not be possible.

“We are proud and honored to have the Appalachian Beverage name on our festival, and that Mark West serves on our organizing committee.

“Additionally, thanks to the West family and Adam Anacker, owner of host venue The Butcher and Bottle and festival organizing committee member, today we are thrilled and grateful to announce that Anheuser-Busch InBev and Eagle Rock Distributing Company of Norcross, Georgia have become sponsors of the Ellijay Music Festival.

Anheuser-Busch InBev is the largest brewer in the world and Eagle Rock Distributing Company is a giant in the U.S. beverage distribution industry. Both are tremendous additions to our festival and their financial support, brands and participation will help shine a light on performing arts in Ellijay. Their involvement is a testament to our hard work, dedication and success”, said Green.

“Part of our commitment to the Ellijay community is to provide an opportunity for local residents and visitors alike to discover and enjoy the hospitality, culinary scene, variety of activities, adventures, businesses, agri-tourism, and natural resources that Gilmer County has to offer. We look forward to a great festival”, said Anacker who is hosting the festival for the third consecutive year.

“Ray Dog Productions has a proud history of philanthropy in the communities we serve and our festival artists, host venues, sponsors, partners and supporters are delighted to announce that the festival will financially benefit Gilmer Arts, Habitat for Humanity, and Gilmer County Schools music programs that help local students pursue their musical passion and dreams”, said Green.

“Ellijay is a special, beautiful, hospitable city and the ideal place to host a music festival. We encourage everyone to make plans to join us for what promises to be a memorable Mother’s Day weekend”, said West.

Fans can learn more about the festival by visiting EllijayMusicFestival.com

Out-of-town festival-goers can make plans by visiting:

Gilmerchamber.com/explore-the-ellijays

For festival information, a schedule of events, and to purchase tickets please visit EllijayMusicFestival.com

Join our online community to stay connected, get the latest news and content from the Ellijay Music Festival.

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About Gilmer County, Georgia

Known as the Apple Capital and Mountain Bike Capital of Georgia, Gilmer County is home to three rivers, 9 apple orchards, 13 wineries, and Georgia’s deepest lake.

Festivalgoers are invited to extend their adventure in Ellijay by booking a cozy cabin or hotel, hitting a hiking trail, enjoying local wineries and breweries, shopping downtown, and experiencing the area's phenomenal culinary range.

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