Press kit

Toby and the Reno Grass · Bluegrass · Reno, Nevada

SHORT BIO

Toby and the Reno Grass is a five-piece bluegrass band from Reno, Nevada. Guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle and upright bass, five voices, and a repertoire that runs from Flatt & Scruggs and the Stanley Brothers to newer grass and the occasional song you didn't expect to hear on a banjo. Toby is the dog.

LONG BIO

Toby and the Reno Grass came together in Reno, Nevada, out of the city's bluegrass jam scene, and took its name from a dog who still outranks every member of the band. The five-piece plays traditional bluegrass the way it was meant to be played, driven and acoustic, with the hot picking and stacked harmonies of the classic era, and is not shy about pulling a tune from outside the canon when it swings.

The band spent the summer of 2025 as the house act at Black Rabbit Mead Co. in Reno, has appeared on KOLO 8 Morning News, and played the 39th annual Bowers Bluegrass Festival in 2026. They play festivals, breweries, farmers markets, weddings and private events across the Reno/Tahoe area and Northern California, as a stage show or as a stroll-around acoustic act.

LINEUP

- **Al Beckman**, guitar
- **Kevin Hogan**, banjo
- **Zack Valenza**, mandolin
- **Ryan Cass**, fiddle
- **Laurens Kraal**, upright bass
- **Toby**, namesake

Everyone sings.

PRESS PHOTOS

High-resolution, free to use for promotion. Click to open, then save.



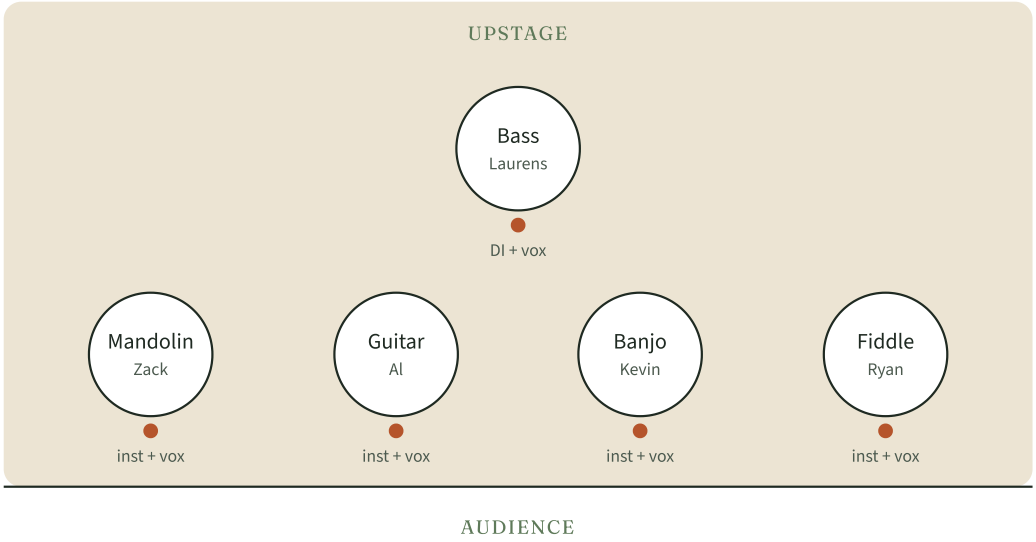


VIDEO

- CBA Father's Day Festival submission · youtube.com/watch?v=zK9RMKCZfXM
- Live at Bowers Bluegrass Festival 2026 · youtube.com/watch?v=KNHiSQfLq3k
- KOLO 8 Morning News appearance · youtube.com/watch?v=yvaGSAyjBzI
- Full live sets on YouTube · youtube.com/@TobyandtheRenoGrass1

STAGE PLOT

Five-piece, fully acoustic. Preferred setup is individual mics or pickups per instrument plus a vocal mic for each of the five, since everyone sings; we can also play around a single large-diaphragm condenser for smaller rooms. No drums, no amps, no backline needed beyond mics, stands and a DI for the bass.



Orange dots are mic positions. Lineup across the front can flex to the room.

INPUT LIST

#	Source	Mic / DI	Notes
1	Guitar	Instrument mic or DI	Al, downstage center-left
2	Banjo	Instrument mic	Kevin, downstage center-right
3	Mandolin	Instrument mic	Zack, downstage left
4	Fiddle	Instrument mic or pickup	Ryan, downstage right
5	Upright bass	DI (pickup) or mic	Laurens, upstage center
6	Vocal	Vocal mic, boom stand	Al
7	Vocal	Vocal mic, boom stand	Kevin
8	Vocal	Vocal mic, boom stand	Zack
9	Vocal	Vocal mic, boom stand	Ryan
10	Vocal	Vocal mic, boom stand	Laurens

Single-mic alternative: one large-diaphragm condenser downstage center, bass on DI. Two monitor mixes are plenty.

BOOKING & CONTACT

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Based in Reno, NV. Available throughout the Reno/Tahoe area and Northern California.