

Southern Express Bio

Southern Express offers the "Best in Bluegrass" throughout the Carolinas. Perfect for any event including but not limited to weddings, festivals, corporate events, cocktail hours, receptions and more!

Meet the Band:

- **Lee Ward: (guitar and lead vocals)** - Founding member of the group. Lee has played with numerous Bluegrass groups throughout the Carolinas for the past 40 + years. Southern Express was formed in 1978.
- **Mike Benton: (mandolin / lead-tenor vocals)** - Mike has played various styles of music over the span of his life and earned his music degree from Appalachian State University. A charter member, Mike re-joined Southern Express in 1988
- **Donnie Gullede: (banjo and baritone vocals)** - Donnie has played banjo since 1968, performing with several regional bluegrass groups. Donnie joined Southern Express in 2012.
- **Brian Hinson: (bass guitar / baritone-lead vocals)** - Brian started playing music at the age of 16. He began playing bass in 1988 when he and a few friends started Common Ground band. Former founding member of A Deeper Shade of Blue, Brian joined Southern Express in 2015.