

Tim O'Brien

Born in Wheeling, West Virginia in 1954, Grammy winning singer songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Tim O'Brien grew up singing in church and in school. After seeing Doc Watson on TV, he became a lifelong devotee of old time and bluegrass music. Tim started touring nationally in 1978 with Colorado bluegrass band Hot Rize. His songs "Walk the Way the Wind Blows" and "Untold Stories" were bluegrass hits for Hot Rize, and country hits for Kathy Mattea. Soon more artists like Nickel Creek, Garth Brooks, and The Dixie Chicks covered his songs. Over the years, Tim has recorded and toured with his sister Mollie O'Brien, songwriter Darrell Scott, old-time musician Dirk Powell, and his wife Jan Fabricius. Other collaborators include the Chieftains, Steve Earle, Mark Knopfler, Sturgill Simpson, Tom Paxton, and Billy Strings.

Living in Nashville since 1996, O'Brien's skills on guitar, mandolin, fiddle, and banjo make him an in-demand session player. The International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) awarded him song of the year in 2006 and named him best male vocalist in 1993 and 2006. He was inducted into the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame in 2013 and with Hot Rize, into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame in 2022, and the IBMA Hall of Fame in 2025.

Recent releases *He Walked On* and *Cup of Sugar* wove stories of everyday life into socially conscious themes. *Paper Flowers*, his 2025 duet release with Jan Fabricius narrated the couple's life together. Other notable O'Brien recordings include the bluegrass Dylan covers of *Red on Blonde*, the Celtic-Appalachian fusion of *The Crossing*, and the Grammy winning folk of *Fiddler's Green*. His duet with Darrell Scott, *Real Time*, is a cult favorite, and he won a bluegrass Grammy as part of The Earls of Leicester. *The Tim O'Brien Songbook*, coming in May of 2026, collects forty originals from his fifty plus years on the scene.