

The Blue Ridge Rounders



The Blue Ridge Rounders, of the Dark Corner of South Carolina, have traversed the region, winning band and individual music contests throughout the Carolinas. They are the 2006 Music Mountain Champions and winners at the North Carolina State Fair Old Time band contest. Bob and Amy Buckingham and Joshua Johnson have won individual contests on fiddle, banjo, mandolin and vocals.

The band plays throughout the region ranging from Virginia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Georgia. They have played as far north as Pennsylvania and much to their local fans' consternation, rarely appear in their native Upstate of South Carolina.

They are featured at festivals through the summer months and also teach at workshops and week long music camps like Blue Ridge Music Week at Mars Hill College.

Formed in 2002, the band released their first CD in June of 2006, *The Rounder Way*, *Dog Trot 101*, and are actively preparing for a follow-up release. Bob and Amy have appeared on several other projects with leading fiddlers and players of old time music.

The vocal prowess and instrumental skill of the Rounders transcends the commonly held notion of droning fiddles and trance inducing tunes. The Rounders entertain with a variety show befitting the string band tradition with songs, tunes, and revelry. They are not afraid to take chances and any good song is worthy of treatment to the Rounder Way.

Dan Wood reaches back to his family roots in Madison County, North Carolina, for songs and hymns as well as banjo tunes of that area. It is the same tradition as depicted in the movie *Songcatcher*. Dan is a masterful bass player, having honed his skill with bluegrass bands in the past. His command of old time banjo playing culminates in an eloquent simplicity with just the right touch of swing. The directness of his voice and the understated power of his vocals catch you up in the story of the song. Dan is also a master of ceremonies with an engaging style and a wry wit.

Joshua Johnson was a classical guitarist who has seen the light and taken up old time banjo. He has found his voice within the repertoires of older members of the tradition, Roscoe Holcomb, Dock Boggs and Wade Mainer. Josh's approach to banjo is unparalleled in his unique understanding of its potential. His vocals catch that lonesome edge of mountain angst. His is an impressive guitarist as well.

Amy Buckingham has been singing and playing her guitar for many decades. She can stop you dead with her vocals. Her prowess on fiddle, banjo and mandolin is also worthy of note. She is modest about her abilities, but they speak well for themselves. Let's just say, her fiddling will set your feet to tapping and your heart to singing. She has recorded with other artists on bass, guitar and banjo.

Bob Buckingham teaches and writes about music, plays the fiddle, mandolin, sometimes banjo, and sings with the Rounders. He has actively played old time and bluegrass music since finding like-minded musicians while serving in the military many years ago. Since then he has performed with numerous and various musical groups around much of the country. He is a respected teacher and writer, knowledgeable about the music, its history and nuances.

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