

WILD BLUE YONDER

This Appalachian Americana band from Knoxville, Tennessee, offers a crowd-pleasing musical mix of high-energy hoedowns, old-time mountain tunes and edgy acoustic originals. All veteran entertainers, WILD BLUE YONDER members blend the best of the old with a splash of the new in a wide range of styles that guarantees audiences of all ages a toe-tapping good time. WILD BLUE YONDER'S professionalism and on-stage excitement are always a winning combination.

Warm, folky harmonies backed by spicy fiddles, singing mandolin, guitar and bass provide the canvas from which WILD BLUE YONDER paints its unique musical portrait. Their show features a few traditional gospel favorites as well.

WILD BLUE YONDER's second CD release, "Above & Beyond," is a heartwarming, soulful and foot-stomping foray into the outer reaches of acoustic music. It features seven new original tunes, one of which was selected by the Mast General Store for its 125th year anniversary compilation CD. "Love So True" is a tale of lasting love woven through a gentle, flowing melody.

Songs from Wild Blue Yonder's 2002 and 2004 releases can be heard on more than 200 radio stations across the United States, in addition to stations in England, Canada, Australia, Belgium, Norway, Germany, The Netherlands and Holland.



THE BAND MEMBERS

Melissa Wade, from Knoxville, on lead vocals and rhythm guitar, fronts the band and writes and arranges most of their original material. Also an accomplished pianist and piano instructor, her performance experience covers a variety of styles, bringing a unique combination of newgrass, folk and gospel influences to the WBY sound.

Philip Coward, from Knoxville, on mandolin, lead acoustic guitar and vocals, shares leadership duties in the band and contributes to their signature energetic show. He also co-writes and arranges much of the group's original material and has performed in various bands for almost 30 years, one of which toured overseas with the USO in the 1970's.

Twin fiddles and eclectic percussion add an extra special spice to the Wild Blue Yonder recipe. Classically-trained violinist and virtuoso fiddler **Cindy Wallace** lights up the band's stage show with lively fiddle tunes as well as beautiful string arrangements on their slower numbers. She is joined by sister **Laura Knight**, who does double duty on a variety of percussion instruments. The two spent many seasons as entertainers at Dollywood theme park in Pigeon Forge, TN.

"This is a new, young band, not to be missed. They seem to have everything needed to rocket them to success. Great vocals, great instrumentalship . . . great stage presence and most importantly their own personality and brand of humor."...Steve Kaufman, Three-Time National Flatpick Guitar Champion

WILD BLUE YONDER'S Noteworthy Performances 2002-2016

- Louie Bluie Arts & Music Festival in LaFollette, TN, 2016
- Pickle Festival sponsored by French Broad Preservation Assoc., 2016
- Louisville Octoberfest, 2016
- Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, 2012 & 2016
- Tennessee Fall Homecoming at the Museum of Appalachia, 2004, 2005, 2007 & 2008
- Maryville's Foothills Fall Festival, 2003
- Rhythm "N' Roots in Bristol, TN, 2004 & 2005
- Dollywood Parade for Friends of Great Smoky Mountains, Pigeon Forge, TN
- Tennessee Theater for Tennessee Valley Homecoming, Knoxville
- **7 sold-out shows at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center, Townsend, TN**
- Opening for Tommy Emmanuel at Knoxville's "Autumn on the Square" concert series, sponsored by AC Entertainment
- Bloomsdays at University of Tennessee Ag Campus, 2007-2013
- "Hooray for Harriman" Festival, 2010
- Jammin' at Hippie Jacks in Monterey, TN, 2008
- Stringtime in the Smokies in Pigeon Forge, TN, 2009
- Stars & Stripes July 4th Festival in Waynesville, NC, 2008
- Carolina Mountain Ribfest at Asheville, NC fairgrounds, 2009
- Legends of Bluegrass & Country Music Festival in Columbia, MS, 2004
- Earthday Festival in Farragut, TN, 2003
- Fourth of July Fest at Patriot Park in Pigeon Forge, TN, 2003
- Tennessee Theater for Tennessee Valley Homecoming, 2006
- WDVX Camperfest, 2002
- Numerous corporate and private events at The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa, Asheville, NC
- Tennessee Fall Homecoming at the Museum of Appalachia, Norris, TN
- Concord Yacht Club, Knoxville
- Elk River Club, Banner Elk, NC
- Two sold-out performances at The Palace Theater, Maryville, TN
- Bluegrass Breakdown radio show on Nashville Public Radio with Dave Higgs
- Holiday civic events for cities of Madisonville, Lenoir City, Kingston and Knoxville, TN
- UT tailgate parties for Merrill Lynch Corporation and Rinker Materials, Knoxville
- Wedding receptions at Whitestone Inn and Maple Grove Inn, Kingston and Knoxville, TN
- University of Tennessee "Welcome Back BBQ" for UT Vols football team
- Dollywood theme park, Pigeon Forge, TN
- Opening for Doc Watson's 80th Birthday Celebration sponsored by the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance, Bristol, VA
- WIVK Radio's "Saturday Night On The Town," Knoxville

"a captivatingly original sound . . . unforgettable and powerful music . . . the songs are creatively and imaginatively arranged and the whole album a burst of fresh bluegrassical air" . . . Dave Higgs, Nashville Public Radio host

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