

THE STANLEYTONES ▶ BLUEGRASS BAND ◀



The Stanleytones Bluegrass Band was formed in 1999 when the original members met while attending local jam sessions in the Boulder area. The band was named after the Stanley Brothers, Ralph and Carter, who played throughout the 50's until Carter's death in 1964. Having finished recording their second C.D., the Stanleytones' passion for traditional hard-driving bluegrass is evident in their sound and has made them what they are today—a classic bluegrass band reminiscent of those early bands of the 50's and 60's with an added repertoire of original compositions comprised of melodic instrumentals and skillful vocal harmonies.

With their red-hot picking and dynamic vocals, they blend bluegrass, old time, country, honky-tonk, and gospel music into their own unique style of high-energy bluegrass. This is a dedicated band that specializes in hard-driving, classic bluegrass. To watch the choreographed performance around the single mike is a show in itself.

Reviews

Bluegrass Unlimited

"For bluegrass that adheres to established values but still seethes with creativeness, the music of the Stanleytones certainly has sterling credentials."

KGNU Radio, Buck Buckner

"This band follows the way to the masters. The group's strong traditional songs are sometimes flavored with a dash of western swing or a pinch of jazz giving each song the authentic sound of bluegrass music as practiced here in Colorado."

Denver Post

"These guys have it down. One of the best traditional bluegrass bands to hit the Colorado Front range in a long time."

Colorado Bluegrass Music Society

"Channeled from Virginia's Stanley Brothers, the spirit, energy of mountain music is in the hands of Colorado's Stanleytones. Bluegrass fans for this fine Stanleytones CD are now requesting, 'May I have some more please'."



The Stanleytones
Bluegrass Band



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Member Bios

Jim Bertolin has been playing bluegrass since the 1970's when he played with the Windy Ridge Ramblers and Prairie Union Bluegrass Band, touring the Midwest. He plays a variety of styles, from classic Scruggs to melodic fiddle tunes, and old-time frailing. His musical influences for traditional banjo playing are Earl Scruggs, Ralph Stanley, J.D. Crowe, but for his melodic influence he credits Bob Black and Jack Hicks. His favorite new banjo players are Robbie McCoury and Jake Jenkins. His main dobro influence is Josh Graves (did we mention that Jim also is their dobro player?).



Clarke Wright has been playing Bluegrass in some form or another since the early 1970s. He worked with David Ferretta and the Sunday River Boys in Denver in the mid '70s and appears on their Biscuit City recording "You Can Dress 'Em Up, But You Can't Take 'Em Out." If you ask Clarke how long he has been playing fiddle he will tell you, "Long enough to where you would say, 'Wow, shouldn't you be better than that?'" He has spent over 30 years with The Hollywood Rodeo Band and later their pared down acoustic version, High, Wide and Handsome. HRB/HWH recorded 7 albums and has toured extensively, visiting over 40 nations and territories, entertaining our nation's Armed Forces.



Jeremy Kimball was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia. He grew up on the opposite side of the Mason-Dixon Line in Marietta, on the banks of the Ohio River. The son of a high school /college band director, he played the trombone and baritone in classically based bands from age 9 to 16. He discovered traditional bluegrass after moving to Ft. Collins CO at age 18. He picked up the guitar at age 22 and currently plays rhythm guitar on an HD 28 Martin and sings lead and tenor. His vocal influences, among others, consist of Keith Whitley, Charlie Moore and Dave Evans.



In the 80s, **Ron Dropcho's** younger brother introduced him to the sounds of the David Grisman Quintet, and some bootleg Mike Marshall/Darol Anger tapes. Ron had never heard acoustic music like this before and was blown away. Shortly after moving to Boulder in 1990, Ron went to a Sam Bush show on New Year's Eve. After that show, he was determined to buy a mandolin and learn how to play. Local musician Greg Schochet taught him some fiddle tunes and fundamental music theory. He started attending jams in Boulder and Nederland.



Dave Pullins grew up in West Virginia where he was exposed to all types of music through friends and family. He began playing piano and guitar at a young age. Dave started going to live "Mountain Stage" shows at the Cultural Center in Charleston and after seeing the likes of Sam Bush, Mike Marshall, and Jamie Masefield he started playing the mandolin. Since moving to Gilpin County in 2009 he has played in and toured with various bands.



Paul Sink grew up in a bluegrass pickin' family in the Roanoke/Blacksburg area of southwestern Virginia. He started playing bass and guitar around age 16. After playing in a couple of bands during college he moved to Nederland, CO and immediately became involved in the local bluegrass/jamgrass scene. Paul has played with a lot of different bands off and on but always leans back on his roots of traditional mountain music. His main influences, among others, are Bill Monroe, the Stanley Brothers, Clarence White, Tony Rice, Doc Watson, Dave Peters, Bryan Sutton and Larry Keel.



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