

WHAT FOLKS ARE SAYING:

Silas House, bestselling

author: "The 23 String Band is the best band to come out of Eastern Kentucky in a long while. Their shows are electrifying, their songwriting is top-notch, and their vocals are as tight as the cork in a jug of moonshine. They're my favorite band from the region."

Gabrielle Gray, Executive Director, International Bluegrass Music Museum:

"The 23 String Band was one of the most exciting and original bands to play ROMP 2010. We were pleased but totally unsurprised when they surfaced as one of the most-requested bands to return for ROMP 2011."

Daniel C. Morrison, Alternative Revolt Magazine (Forecastle Fest review):

"It wasn't that oldies stuff I remember and it didn't have that whiny feel that some of the country music artists have. It was a different sound, as if bluegrass finally evolved. I particularly liked the 23 String Band."

Tiffany Bourne, President, Master Musicians Festival:

"The 23 String Band's live show is electrifying. Their performance at the 2010 Master Musicians Festival had the crowd on their feet from the first song to the last. The combination of youthful energy and extraordinary musical ability make for an exceptional performance."

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The 23 String Band



2011 RockyGrass band competition winners!

Hailing from all around Kentucky, **The 23 String Band** pays homage to the deep roots of American traditional music, while pushing forward with genre-bending, hard-driving originals and distinctive arrangements. Their youthful brand of "original hillbilly music" weaves in and out of old-time, bluegrass, acoustic roots, and anything else that strikes their fancy—it's not uncommon to hear a Beastie Boys cover by these boys. It's a contagious conglomeration that's entertaining, energetic, and will get you on your feet and dancing every time!

REVIEW OF THE NEW ALBUM, CATCH 23

"This fuel injected project just made a lasting mark on the West Coast radio scene. Their up front style grabs you and won't let you go until you have listened to the entire project. While listening to *Catch 23*, you never know what's coming next. Whether it is the awesome instrumental work, the superb song selection, or the unique singing, it all fits together like a favorite sweater. It was necessary for me to play this project several times in order to get the full impact of this fine work of art. It just overwhelms you. There were many high points to this project, but the two that stand out are the bass break on Long Hot Summer Days, and the unusual arrangement of Cripple Creek. I can't wait to share this with my listeners."

AL SHUSTERMAN, KCBL RADIO CALIFORNIA

Contact the band

2111 Village Dr
Louisville, KY 40205

the23stringband@yahoo.com
www.the23stringband.com

270-779-8161 * 502-938-5469

WE PROUDLY ENDORSE:



More buzz...

WESU Radio, Middletown, Conn.

"Kentucky bluegrass. Edgy. And well done."

Michael Powell, LEO Weekly

"While The Avett Brothers are selling out theaters nationwide for high-dollar tickets, it would be pretty easy to catch the 23 String Band around the state for less money and just as much fun. Yes, these local boys employ a very similar approach—a thick concoction of bluegrass, Gram Parsons country, cowpunk (particularly on opener "Ramblin' Around") and what the band describes as "Original Hillbilly Music." Their eponymous debut album features mach-three pickin', ornate fiddle and mandolin arrangements, upright bass and all the elements of traditional, authentic mountain music with a youthful twist. The group unequivocally wears its excitement on its sleeve for all ten tracks, and each song sounds like a blast to see live, which is all that counts in true bluegrass music."

Brian Bourgojn, Music Director, WCNI Radio, New London, Conn.

"I really like the style and energy—a revival of sorts, moving the music to the modern era without losing the soul. The no-nonsense production lets the band kick back and do some fine picking. I think that is what's so fun about [sophomore album] *Catch 23*. Hope to see you in New England sometime."

Dave Wilson, Bluegrass on the Bay

"Thank you for making our 9th Annual Bluegrass on the Bay so memorable. You guys just made me a hero. Your enthusiasm and expertise were much appreciated. By the way, the song people keep commenting on the most is "Long Hot Summer Days." Of all the songs you did, that apparently was the standout to the crowd. The jam at the end of the evening [with Town Mountain] was one of the most enjoyable it's ever been my pleasure to hear. I was absolutely blown away as was the crowd. Much success to you guys!"

Frank Hoppe, KCSN Radio, California

"A tantalizing new Americana release from a talented group of musicians, *Catch 23* covers a lot of roots territory with a little something for everyone."

David Merrell, The Diverse Arts Project

"This friendly and talented group played energetic, musically intricate bluegrass tunes that made me want to stomp my feet and sing along without knowing the words."

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

- ◆2012 RockyGrass Festival (Lyons, CO)
- ◆2010 Forecastle Festival (Louisville, KY)
- ◆2010 Master Musicians Festival (Somerset, KY)
- ◆2010 & 2011 ROMP (Owensboro, KY)
- ◆2011 Bluegrass on the Bay (Great Falls, MT)
- ◆2011 Beartrap Summer Fest (Casper, WY)
- ◆2010 & 2011 Kentucky Bluegrass Music Festival (Louisville, KY)



- ◆2010 & 2011 Terrapin Hill Harvest Festival (Harrodsburg, KY)
- ◆2011 Licking River Music Festival (Cincinnati, OH)
- ◆2009 Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion (Bristol, TN/VA)
- ◆2010 World Equestrian Games (Lexington, KY)
- ◆2011 Folk in the Fall (Haleyville, AL)
- ◆2009 Mountain Heritage Literary Festival (Harrogate, TN)
- ◆2010 Festival of Faiths (Louisville, KY)
- ◆2011 Folk Alliance International Conference official showcase (Memphis, TN)

Matt Tackett, Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition

"The 23 String Band tore it up as always and played well into the night, keeping everyone on their feet and truly enjoying this thing we call life."

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, Volume 137, no. 247 (Sept 4 2011)

The favorite bands were, in order, the Carolina Chocolate Drops, Steve Martin & the Steep Canyon Rangers, the Punch Brothers with Chris Thile, the 23 String Band, the Infamous Stringdusters, Trampled by Turtles, Sarah Jarosz and Emmylou Harris.

Asked what new band they wanted to see next year, the top choice was the Old Crow Medicine Show.

-ROMP 2011-

Bluegrass Unlimited

"The 23 String Band is an old-time group that offers up a new twist to traditional music. The ten songs on their self-titled debut are a blending of public domain numbers and such band originals as "Ramblin' Around," "East Kentucky Water," and "Valentines Love Bouquet." The band's forte is to take numbers such as "St. James Infirmary," "Cluck Old Hen," and "Sleepy Eyed John" and dress them up with fresh new arrangements. The 23 String Band has certainly given old-time music a face lift and this CD should be eagerly sought after by those who are familiar with the band's extraordinary brand of music."

Sarah Hagerman, Steam Powered Preservation Society

"The 23 String Band were new to me going into Folk Alliance, but I was thoroughly won over by the end of their fiery set. Opening with a damning song about pollution in eastern Kentucky waterways marked them as a band with a conscious bent, although they can groove with a grin on a lighter number like the swing-inspired "Bees Knees." With an impressive range and a charging, commanding presence, I will definitely be checking out more of the 23 String Band."



FIDDLE



Scotty Moore is a member of the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame. **SCOTT MOORE** is not, but he hopes to be one day. Another Kentucky product of a musical family, Scott started playing violin at age four, writing music at six, and singing since before he can remember. He's been a classical soloist with a number of orchestras, played Bach and Paganini in bars all over the country, and

Kentucky fiddle tunes in Carnegie Hall. Music has taken him to five continents. He's played and written music in almost every style you can imagine. He enjoys spicy food and interesting women (or vice versa). He's also been known to climb trees, drive too fast, and streak, but has since cut at least one of those out.

BANJO



CURTIS WILSON comes from the Cumberland Valley region of Kentucky. His grandma having grown up across the street from Dave "String Bean" Akemon had nothing to do with his decision to pick up the banjo, and although he plays the clawhammer style like String Bean, he also plays the two- and three-finger melodic styles as well. He also has a big share of the

band's songwriting. Aside from being the sole voice crying out for Kentucky to cease its involvement with the State Quarter collection, he also moonlights as the lead cut man in the corner of reigning kangaroo boxing champ, "The Captain."

LEAD VOX & GUITAR



Born into a musical family in the hills of eastern Kentucky, **CHRIS SHOUSE** began singing and playing guitar around campfires and church revivals. His love affair with mountain music continues to this day; you can hear it in his fine pickin', and above all in his singing. By turns powerful, sweet, and haunting, he's got the kind of voice that'll set your neck hair

standing up . . . in a good way! Being one of distinction, you may see Chris with tight rolled jeans, argyle socks, and a band of gypsies following his every footstep.

MANDOLIN



Growing up in the river city of Owensboro (just up the road from Bill Monroe's old homeplace), **DAVE HOWARD** didn't play the mandolin, and he didn't play bluegrass. His first stage appearance was at a high school talent show, playing bass on a Beck song — but losing to the seniors who played the Pearl Jam song. Since then Dave's made a name for himself as a fine mandolin player and harmony

singer — sitting in with Vince Herman of Leftover Salmon, filling in for Adrienne Young and Little Sadie, and performing with the Louisville Mandolin Orchestra and with bands all over the region. He often has the additional distinction of having the best beard in the room.

BASS



T. Martin Stam is from Chapel Hill, North Carolina — but he makes his home in Kentucky now, so the rest of the boys don't hold it against him. An accomplished bassist, he began his music career at age five, with the violin. Since then he's studied classical and jazz with luminaries from Yo-Yo Ma to Wynton Marsalis, and completed two music performance degrees in the process.

He loves all kinds of music, and he's just as likely to bust out a Hank Williams song or old-time fiddle tune as anything else. He's also a triathlete, professional dog-walker, breakdancer, and commando fisherman (it's not what you think). . . .