

## 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!

**The 23 String Band** plays fun, fuel-injected, original Americana that dangerously weaves across the lanes of modern acoustic music — windows down, accelerator to the floor, on a joyride into the unknown with one eye on the vintage sounds in the rearview mirror. It's a bluegrass attack fueled by high-octane rock-n-roll energy and triple-distilled oldtimey roots. Your feet hurt from dancing; your face hurts from grinning. Get ready: you're riding shotgun!

### 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

WE PROUDLY ENDORSE:



## Contact the band

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## 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 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)
- ◆2012 & 2010 Master Musicians Festival (Somerset, KY)
- ◆2012, 2011 & 2010 ROMP (Owensboro, KY)
- ◆2011 Bluegrass on the Bay (Great Falls, MT)
- ◆2012 & 2011 Beartrap Summer Fest (Casper, WY)
- ◆2012 Festival of the Bluegrass (Lexington, KY)



- ◆2010 & 2011 Kentucky Bluegrass Music Festival (Louisville, KY)
- ◆2012, 2011 & 2010 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)
- ◆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."