



blue moonshine

Biography – Winter 2008
for immediate release
540.525.6125

Made with only the finest ingredients

Take an area known for traditional music and add the vibrant energy of a new sound. Start with the familiar high and lonesome of bluegrass and add the rowdy energy of a rock band. That's the essence of Blue Moonshine – inspired by tradition, with the fire to create something new.

But if you want to know what really sets Blue Moonshine apart from the other string bands of southwest Virginia, the answer is four. Four part harmony, four songwriters, four friends. It's the singing, it's the songs, it's the good times that these guys have on stage.

And on stage is where Blue Moonshine feels most at home. Beyond all the gigs done together, the individual members have logged thousands of gigs in previous musical endeavors.

Fiddle player Mike Mitchell began his musical journey as a violinist trained at the Royal Conservatory in Canada. After years of touring with rock bands, a brain tumor took away his ability to play, but Mike took it as an opportunity to relearn his beloved instrument, this time as a fiddle player.

Warren Amberson and his trusty mandolin bring the bluegrass bona fides to the group. He founded the first officially recognized US Army bluegrass band, and was recently nominated for an IBMA award for his live recording work with Tony Rice & Vassar Clements.

Bassist and lead guitarist Will Farmer is the youngest member of the group and in his spare time he lends his powerful tenor vocals to the popular party band Monkey Fuzz. Those dance music credentials help him hold down the bottom while his easy-going stage presence and multi-instrumental talent help glue together Blue Moonshine's sound.

Rhythm guitarist Phil Norman took the crooked road to playing mountain music, with pit stops as an itinerant folksinger and front man for a touring rock band. But his songwriting talent quickly helped shape Blue Moonshine's direction and his newness to the genre brings a raw and joyful energy to the band.

Their individual histories disappear as soon as you hear these guys sing together. There is a rare meshing of voices that few bands have – and crowds respond to the sound. Both the band and their 2005 debut CD, *New Mountain Music*, were voted one of Roanoke, Virginia's favorites of the year by the readers of *The Roanoke Times*, and their reputation has only grown thanks to their vibrant live performances.

Blue Moonshine isn't traditional bluegrass – they are growing a new sound in the fertile mountains of southwest Virginia -- a sound that is at home in attentive theaters, rowdy bars, and backyard barbeques. Blue Moonshine takes the familiar and makes it new – grounded in tradition, reaching for great heights.

www.blumoonshineband.com myspace.com/blumoonshineband