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Down East with THIRD HARMONY

By
Karen
DeCoste



New Brunswick's "Third Harmony" have been together since 2015. They delight audiences at festivals and at a favorite popular venue, the Paysan Lounge in St. Antoine NB. Founding members of the band are Natasha Richard playing fiddle and vocals, her partner Dave Noel on bass and Natasha's dad Gerry Richard on guitar and vocals. Recently good friends Ron Savoie on mandolin and vocals and Daniel Maillet on Banjo and vocals have joined Third Harmony.

I had a chance to talk with Natasha recently and she

shared her early experiences with bluegrass music. She would often join her dad Gerry on stage at the early age of three when he played with the band "Backroads". She also has fond memories of her mother singing and this was a great inspiration for her. Her grandpa introduced her at the age of five to the fiddle. Some of her influences over the years have been Rhonda Vincent, Alison Krauss, Alicia Nugent and Flatt Lonesome. Natasha is grateful for the opportunities she has had over the years with music and remembers fondly a trip to

Nashville in 2013 at a fiddle camp Megan Lynch hosted. She was able to attend the Grand Old Opry and the famous Station Inn while on that trip. What a treat that must have been for a young musician.

*"multi award
winning band"*

Natasha was honored in 2019 with Female Vocalist of the year at the Eastern Canada Bluegrass Music



Awards (ECBMA). Third Harmony's project that year won Recording of the Year. The band also won Vocal Group of the Year.

Dave Noel, while playing bass with Third Harmony, also plays in a band with friends Justin & Jeff Nauss of the Bluegrass Unit. You can often find Dave and Natasha jamming away the weekends together when they are not on stage. They both have a deep love for music.

Gerry Richard, no stranger to bluegrass music, has been performing since the age of 13 years old. He started with the band Misty Mountain then went on to play with the popular NB band Backroads for many years. He has a long-time friendship with musicians Ron and Daniel.

Ron Savoie is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist and vocalist. He has won Mandolin Player of the year several times at the ECBMA. An original member of the Misty Mountain band, Ron has also played with the Bluegrass 4 . He played with the Canadian Grass Unit for years, Acoustic Heartstrings, the Sidekicks and Route 126.

Third Harmony are pleased to have Ron as one of it's newest members.

Daniel Maillet comes from a musical family, his well - known father and bass player Fern Maillet and also his brother Norm Maillet. Daniel has won his Masters on guitar from the ECBMA (5 time winner) and has played with the band River Bottom, the Sidekicks, New Highway and also still plays with Riverbank. Third Harmony are pleased to have Daniel join the band.

If you are looking to catch up with Third Harmony to see a great performance and have a chat, you can see them this summer at the following events.

June 16-18, 2023 - Gallop Canal Bluegrass Festival in Iroquois, ON

July 7-9, 2023 - 36 th Annual PEI Bluegrass; Oldtime Music Festival in Dundas, PEI

July 14-16, 2023 - Evangeline Bluegrass Festival in PEI

July 27-30, 2023 - 50 th Annual NS Bluegrass; Oldtime Music Festival in Ardoise, NS

August 25-27, 2023 - Rogersville Bluegrass Festival in NB

This band has many followers in the Atlantic Region and beyond. You will enjoy Natasha's booming voice and the band's excellent musicians and harmonies when they perform. They like to play traditional bluegrass music and some modern selections. There is something for everyone. Come out and support some of Canada's finest musicians.

Karen DeCoste



Photos courtesy of Natasha Richard