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Jackson Hollow looking their finest.



After being signed by Mountain Fever Records during the pandemic, Jackson Hollow works on Bluegrass CD and releases “Travellin’ Heart” on Sirius Radio.



B.C. Band
Chosen for **IBMA**
the **SHOWCASE!**

By Mike Kirley

BMAC: Hi guys, nice to talk to you. Are you a four piece or a five piece band?

Mike: Well, we are presently getting ready for a showcase at the International Bluegrass Music Association, and we are hiring Jeff Scroggins. Are you familiar with Jeff?

BMAC: Yes, as a matter of fact we just did a feature on Jeff for our October edition of the magazine.

Mike: We are usually a four-piece band, but we hire a fifth player for special occasions. **Tianna** is here, by the way.

BMAC: Hi **Tianna**. I love the Mp3s you sent me. I am really impressed by them.

Tianna: Well, thank you.

BMAC: I am a real fan of some singers that sound like you. I hope you don't mind being compared to Alison Krauss, Emily Lou Harris, Rhonda Vincent, or Dolly Parton.

Tianna: No, I consider that a real compliment.

BMAC: You have kind of a honey, smokey flavour to your voice. It is hard to describe, but I really enjoy it. I made a CD, and it stays in my car. You do have your own sound, though; the whole band sound is very polished. How did Jackson Hollow form?

Tianna: Well, Mike and I have been in the Country Music industry for about twenty years or so. We met another husband and wife that were playing music together. We hung out together one night and started playing Bluegrass. We had always loved Bluegrass, and we liked the sound, so we decided to form a band. In the end though, we ended up taking different directions. Kirby and Dave went down to the states.

Mike: The other two members were Kirby and Dave Barber.

"I just about fell off my chair."

We met them in 2015.

BMAC: Who were your Bluegrass influences?

Tianna: We had this old-time fiddler friend who was always wanting us to go to Wintergrass in Washington State. I saw Rhonda Vincent and I just about fell off my chair. I couldn't get over her.

BMAC: She does that to people who haven't seen her live.

Tianna: This may be controversial to say, but I feel that where Country Music is going right now is not for me. People aren't necessarily playing live on their recordings. I feel like we are losing the excellence of the music. When you see someone like Rhonda Vincent, she sounds better than anything, and she is playing live. That's what I wish I could do. Just be like her where nothing is hidden. The Country music lately is in a gray area. It is becoming more Pop, with more beats. They are not having fiddles and steel guitars. They just want guitar players and drums. That's not the Country Music that I grew up on. I really love the traditional. Once it started to change, that's when they started to lose me a little bit. I still do it. I still get hired to do background vocals in all-star bands. I do it to make a living, but it is not the music I want to do myself.

Mike: I was introduced to Bluegrass music early on. I didn't really take it seriously until we went to Wintergrass. I appreciated it. I grew up playing old time fiddle music. I am a third-generation fiddle player. My Grandpa played the fiddle. My Dad played fiddle and mandolin. I entered fiddle contests, and I played back up for Country artists. I branched out from there to Folk and other genres. Grenville Island had a bluegrass festival in the late '80's, early nineties. I played with a Canadian Band called Tumble Weed on a number of occasions, filling in when their fiddle player was unavailable. Michael Heiden. He is a luthier as well. I'm sure you have



Above: Placeholder text.

heard of him. It wasn't until 2010, when we went to Wintergrass that I decided to play serious bluegrass. We were basically gifted the tickets and the hotel room. That's when our lives changed musically. We saw The Time Jumpers, Vincent and Daley, the Quebe Sisters at another festival in Oregon. Those two festivals basically changed our lives. We caught the bug and that was it.

BMAC: You caught the Bluegrass Bug.

Mike: Yes. We were in deep, very excited. Our love now is for more traditional music.

BMAC: Tell me about your songs. Do you write them? How do you get your songs?

Tianna: I have written Country songs, no Bluegrass ones yet. Mike writes instrumental songs. We got a grant from Creative B.C. to do this recording, and we only had seven

“We
were
in
deep.”

months to do it. I kind of felt so much pressure that every time I sat down to write I would just feel like it wasn't my song. I started looking outward to friends. Our producer's wife is a song plugger. She got us some songs from the states.

BMAC: What is a song plugger?

Tianna: She finds material for people who are looking to record. She found some stuff that hit me right in the face. Exactly what I wanted to write but didn't know how. And this recording was so important to me. It was to be our debut recording to the Bluegrass community. I wanted there to be a lot of truth to what I was singing. I wanted to be able to emotionally connect to the music. It took a while, but once I found them, I knew. When people ask me which is my favourite, I can't answer. I like them all.

BMAC: The one I keep coming back to is Shallow River.

"Our love now is for more traditional music."

Tianna: That was just a friend of ours who used to work with The Higgins. He had pitched the song to them, but they passed on it. He thought of us, and we took right to it. I loved it right off the bat.

BMAC: Are you writing now?

Tianna: I can't seem to get into it. I used to write a lot.

BMAC: It could be the effect of the Pandemic on you.

Mike: I think what is happening right now is that we have been focusing so much on getting this record done. It is quite a process. We have been working on it since October 2018. We were almost done with the mixing when the pandemic hit. Everything shut down and we had to make the best of that situation. We took the music that we had, hired a lady out of Nashville and did some shopping to the major record labels in Nashville. That is when we connected with Mountain Fever. This was pretty amazing. Nobody was taking on new groups because the pandemic had shut it all down. Mountain Fever was one of the very few acts that was signing people. We were actually able to solidify a contract with them. Being a virtual unknown in

Canada, being signed by them was amazing. We were very excited about that, getting our music out there. And we were added to Bluegrass radio pretty much right out of the gate. We were played on all kinds of radio including Bluegrass Junction. The record company wants to release the singles first, one at a time. The first one is "Travellin' Heart".

BMAC: How would people get a CD when it eventually comes out?

Tianna: It will be on all the platforms: Amazon, Apple Music, CD Baby, Spotify. It will probably be available on our website.

Mike: At this point we only have "Travellin' Heart" out which was officially released by Mountain Fever Records in the US on July 4th/21. It was released in Canada September 1/21.

It debuted at #20 on the Bluegrass Today Charts and was the 2nd most played single for the month of September on Bluegrass Junction on Sirius FM.

The IBMA selected Jackson Hollow for a Virtual International Showcase which was streamed during the World of Bluegrass Conference from Raleigh, NC.

The showcase featured music from their upcoming Cd and was recorded and filmed live at Vancouver's Warehouse Studios with special guest Jeff Scroggins on banjo.

Also, New music is coming in November including a Christmas single, "A Song for Christmas".

BMAC: Will listen for that on Sirius Radio. Do you intend doing Festivals?

Tianna: Yes, we'd love to!

Mike: We've been in touch with some of the festivals. We are certainly open to performing.

BMAC: Have you ever had a scary experience at a festival?

Tianna: Yes. We were at "The Rockin River Festival". It was so hot that in just five minutes the tail fell off the standup bass before we went on stage. Charlie held up his bass and everything was just hanging there like spaghetti!

Mike: He had to "McGiver" it. He borrowed a drill from the stage crew, and he put a bolt through the tailpiece and fastened it. I guess the wire had snapped on the bottom. So, I don't know how he did it, but he tuned it back up and we did the show. It all happened within a ten-minute period, and he never missed the downbeat on the intro song.

BMAC: A hot summer day can wreak havoc with instruments, especially in the violin family, where they use hide glue. I want to thank you for your time, and I wish you well. I am going to recommend Jackson Hollow to all my friends and contacts. We wish you the best. Take care. BMAC would love to review your CD when it comes out. Just send it to:

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