

**Review of Concert by The Infamous Stringdusters at the
BPACC/Lucy Opry Pickin' Picnic on May 2, 2009**

by Betty Westmoreland

The Bartlett Performing Arts & Conference Center (BPACC) and the Lucy Opry collaborated once again on their outstanding Pickin' Picnic, which is held annually at the Center. Sometimes it is hot and sunny, requiring sunscreen for the listeners at the outdoor portion of the weekend festival. Sometimes, it rains. The 2009 festival (May 1-2) brought threats of rain and then finally...rain! No matter! BPACC director, Ron Jewell, and Lucy Opry owners, Will and Beth Mays, handled it all with their usual dexterity. Bands continued to perform outdoors to delight their fans right up to the ticketed performance indoors on Saturday, May 2, by THE INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS.

The Infamous Stringdusters are six of the most talented young musicians on the bluegrass music scene today. It sometimes happens that putting together a number of the best players doesn't quite work out. Being 'the best' doesn't always guarantee that the music or its presentation is right. This time it worked and it is definitely right! Oh goodness! Do these players ever make music! Here is proof: The International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) named the band's *Fork in the Road* as their Album of the Year; the album's title track was named Song of the Year; and the entire band was named Best Emerging Artist! Oh, and did we mention that they're songwriters, too? Believe it! Check out their two fine albums, *Fork in the Road* (Sugar Hill, 2007) and *The Infamous Stringdusters* (Sugar Hill, 2008).

Here they are with just a few of their accomplishments:

ANDY HALL (Dobro) has performed with the likes of Earl Scruggs, Dolly Parton, and Charlie Daniels, in addition to producing his own solo albums.

ANDY FALCO (Guitar) is the most recent addition to the band, having toured with Alecia Nugent, the Greencards, and Levon Helm, of The Band.

CHRIS PANDOLFI (Banjo) was a student of the legendary Tony Trischka and has toured with the New England Bluegrass Band and Drew Emmitt, former mandolinist with Leftover Salmon. Pandolfi is also from the school of 'laid-back' banjo players and is such fun to watch.

JEREMY GARRETT (Fiddle) has also performed with bluegrass greats. Bobby Osborne, Chris Jones, Ronnie Bowman, and Jim Hurst are just a few names the reader may recognize. He even released an album with his dad, Glen Garrett.

JESSE COBB (Mandolin) is a familiar face to Mike Snider fans, since he has toured with Mike—also with Jim Lauderdale, Melonie Cannon, the Fox Family, and Valerie Smith.

TRAVIS BOOK (Upright Bass) and Colorado's Broke Mountain band took the Rockygrass band competition award in 2003, and he has performed with Benny "Burle" Galloway, a songwriter who is well known on the jamgrass circuit.

The band made efficient use of their instruments and also of their time on stage. While The Infamous Stringdusters did not introduce themselves or their songs, this writer took the liberty of looking at the set list as it lay on the floor by the microphones. The band may have used a bit of shorthand lingo in writing down the names, but this is what we saw as we viewed the list in upside-down fashion:

Set 1

1. I Wonder, 2. Well Well, 3. Red Fox, 4. One More Bridge, 5. Molly, 6. When Silence Is the Only Sound, 7. Deep Ellum, 8. Looking Glass, 9. Loving You, and 10. Steam.

Set 2

1. Hey You, 2. 40 West, 3. Starry Night, 4. Dreamy, 5. Wildfire, 6. Cresty, 7. High Road, 8. Rovin', 9. My Destination, 10. Moon Man, and the Encore: Uncle Pen, written by Bill Monroe in tribute to his Uncle Pen Vandiver.

The Infamous Stringdusters put out hot pickin', great vocals, and a show which mixes tradition with tomorrow. Despite a rather muffled sound from the vocal microphones at times, the band carried on like the troupers they have become. Their tender years do not interfere. They are seasoned professionals in a field which is often tough to break into. Look for great things from the Stringdusters.

For more information:

<http://thestringdusters.com>

Stringdusters @ iTunes

The Infamous Stringdusters @ Facebook

The Infamous Stringdusters @ MySpace

The Stringdusters on Twitter

www.lucyopry.com

www.bpacc.org