

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: June 25, 2014

Accidental Convergence Leads to Albany Band's Success

Oak Hill, New York: What happens when a talented but relatively unknown band with a gifted songwriter leading the way collides with an internationally famous, award-winning bluegrass festival in upstate New York? Lots. That's what. And that's exactly what happened to [Jim Gaudet and The Railroad Boys](#) from Albany, NY, when they played the [Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival](#) for the first time four years ago. Little did Gaudet know how well-received his band and his original songs would be. Little did he know what clout accompanied the wholehearted endorsement of Grey Fox producer, Mary Tyler Doub, one of the leading movers and shakers in the genre of bluegrass music.

First appearing as a showcase band, Jim Gaudet and The Railroad Boys got rave reviews from Grey Fox fans — thousands of bluegrass enthusiasts who make an annual pilgrimage to the festival from thirty-some states and over a dozen countries.

"Their talent was obvious; their personalities disarming; and it was clear they were a perfect fit for the festival," says producer, Mary Tyler Doub, from Owings Mills, Maryland. "Our friendship was instant and I felt a level of trust that you rarely find in this business. These guys are the real deal."

Doub continues, "What spoke to me first were Jim's songs and his voice. He didn't sound like other singers and I like that uniqueness very much. His lyrics and melodies struck me as fresh and powerful. I wanted those songs and that energy and that sound at Grey Fox."

Of course they were invited back; and the favorite sons of the capital region quickly entered the inner circle of the Grey Fox family.

"Prior to Grey Fox, songs were pouring out of me, the band was playing locally on a regular basis, but we all felt like were

going nowhere fast," muses Gaudet. "We needed a break, and boy, did we get one!"

The connection and good fortune continued that fall when Doub invited Jim Gaudet and The Railroad Boys to showcase in the Grey Fox suite at the International Bluegrass Music Association's annual convention in Nashville, TN. Doub helped found IBMA in 1985 and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors. The night the Railroad Boys performed, the suite was packed with bluegrass luminaries such as the publishers of Bluegrass Unlimited, influential radio hosts, several event producers from around the country, and other industry professionals. They nailed it.

"By the end of the weekend, we had bookings at some of the top festivals in the country including Wintergrass in Bellevue, Washington, and we were talking with others," recalls Gaudet. "We were elated. We relived the week all the way home, excited about the future, and thinking: maybe we're off and running!"

Gaudet says, "Looking back at our accidental stumbling into the right place at the right time, it almost seems to follow a calculated plan of events. Since then, we've had bookings that any well-established bluegrass band would die for."

The band has played four International Bluegrass Music Association Events of the Year: Wintergrass (WA); Joe Val (MA); Podunk (CT) and Grey Fox (NY); and last year was selected to fill a coveted spot in IBMA's Bluegrass Ramble in Raleigh, NC.

They also recently answered an invitation to perform live on WAMU's Katy Daley Show in Washington, DC—arguably the most sought after radio show in the U.S. Their performance so impressed the NPR station's producers that it was chosen to be rebroadcast on the popular show, Editor's Picks.

Bluegrass takes no prisoners. You've got be outstanding vocally and instrumentally. You need excellent material. And you need to connect with your audience in a big, big way. Otherwise, you're forgettable. The combination of Jim Gaudet (songwriter, guitar & vocals); Sten Isachsen (mandolin, guitar, dobro); Bobby Ristau (bass & vocals); Scott Hopkins (banjo, vocals), and Matt Kane (fiddle) has all the right stuff in spades.

Three CDs later... with gigs at major festivals... and even more fabulous original material coming all the time, Jim Gaudet and the Railroad Boys are definitely going somewhere fast.

Where can you see them next? Do yourself a favor and catch them at Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival along with 42 other bands. A who's who of bluegrass, Grey Fox features Nickel Creek, The Carolina Chocolate Drops, Del McCoury Band, The Gibson Brothers, Tim O'Brien & Darrell Scott, The Claire Lynch Band, Keller Williams with The Travelin' McCourys, Balsam Range, Steep Canyon Rangers, Della Mae, The Steel Wheels, Red Wine, Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen, Nora Jane Struthers, Wood & Wire, The Barefoot Movement, The Revelers, Gangstagrass, Mo'Mojo plus more including Albany, NY's favorite sons, Jim Gaudet & The Railroad Boys. July 17-20 in Oak Hill, NY. www.greyfoxbluegrass.com; 888.946.8495.

Contact: Mary Burdette

603.677.2178

burdette@greyfoxbluegrass.com