

Jim Gaudet and The Railroad Boys Bluegrass for a Contemporary Americana Fan Base

Jim Gaudet has spent three decades repositioning bluegrass for contemporary fans who enjoy a broad pallet of Americana influences in their music. Twice winner of Bluegrass Band of the Year for 2022 and 2023 at the New York Capital District Eddies Awards, Jim Gaudet and The Railroad Boys call their 2021 album *Hillbilly Rock n Roll*. They've enjoyed standing ovations in the middle of songs at festivals across the country including four International Bluegrass Music Association festivals of the year: Wintergrass in Seattle; Joe Val in Boston; Podunk in Hartford, Grey Fox in Oak Hill, New York; plus the IBMA's Bluegrass Ramble in Raleigh, NC.

The late Lena Spencer of Caffe Lena, the renowned Saratoga coffee house that hosted Bob Dylan in 1960, encouraged Jim to write his own music after he performed his version of Lefty Frizzel's "Long Black Veil" more than three decades ago at the coffeehouse. six albums of original music later, Jim and his Railroad Boys still play the Caffe.

Together, The Railroad Boys have more than 200 years of individual experience creating new ventures to showcase Jim Gaudet's prolific writing skills. Jim sings led and plays guitar. Others in the band are:

Sten Isachsen - Mandolin, Backing Vocals
Bobby Ristau - Bass, Backing Vocals, (retired)
Sara Milonovich - Fiddle, Backing Vocals
Tucker Callander - Fiddle, Backing Vocals
Rich Pagano – Piano, Backing Vocals
Bobby Buckley – Bass, Backing Vocals

Grey Fox producer Mary Tyler Doub calls Jim Gaudet and The Railroad Boys the real deal. "What spoke to me first were Jim's songs and his voice. His lyrics and melodies struck me as fresh and powerful. Their talent was obvious, their personalities disarming, and it was clear they were a perfect fit for the festival.

Ted Lehmann, IBMA Print/Media Person of The Year: "Jim Gaudet and The Railroad Boys specialize in a progressively flavored bluegrass sound often containing wickedly funny, all original, satirical lyrics. They are consistently entertaining and have attracted an avid, loyal audience. Don't miss an

opportunity to see this band which offers a change of pace and a lot of up-tempo fun.”

NPR’s WAMU in Washington DC was so impressed with the Railroad Boy’s performance they chose to rebroadcast it on their show “Editor’s Choice.”

“Bluegrass Country” host Katy Daley: “Loved having you on the show, please plan on coming back with your new CD. You are an excellent songwriter and if I lived in the Albany area, I would be a regular at your gigs.”

“Warm, gravelly and wise” **The Albany Times Union**

“Jim Gaudet creates whole novels in short phrases that let the listener finish the story the way Dylan, John Prine and Johnny Cash do.” **Don Wilcock, Nippertown**

“When he played the Wintergrass Festival in Seattle recently with his group The Railroad Boys, they did two sets and got standing ovations and encores both times. **The Troy Record**

“One of the Capital Region’s true musical treasures....“uniquely animated, conversational style of singing, his tone every bit as original as the songs he writes. Clear diction, an abundance of good humor, and vocal inflections that follow each song’s emotional arc make you feel like you’re talking with a good friend over the back fence.” **Simply SARATOGA**

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