

Johnny Possum



Since 2005 Johnny Possum (formerly Johnny Possum's Good Time Hootin' Band) has been delivering their own brand of string band music featuring guitar, fiddle, mandolin, banjo and upright bass. From performances throughout New Zealand, to appearances at festivals in the USA the band has developed a solid fan base and following.

Taking the role of vocalist and mandolin player, Bryan Peters, lays a solid vocal and instrumental foundation for the band. Vicki Johnson on fiddle and vocals shows her varied background from Irish to jazz with a voice full of character and emotion essential for conveying the stories at the heart of the music. On 5 string banjo, Sean Whitaker, adds the 3 fingered rolls typical of both bluegrass and old time musical styles. Keith Taylor on guitar and vocals lays down the driving rhythms so typical of this particular style of American roots music, he also adds a voice full of character and completes the harmony work. Jonathan Rosanowski shows off just one facet of his diverse multi-instrumentalist talents behind a solid upright bass providing the rhythmic bedrock for the band.

The band's debut CD, *'Tickets'* released in 2006 featured the band performing mainly traditional bluegrass tunes in their own style and was a finalist for a 2007 New Zealand Music Award for best Country Music Album, and their first original single, *'Bluegrass Saved the Earth'* was a finalist for Country Music Single of the year. The band delivered its 2nd CD, *'Twister'*, in February 2008. Building on strong Americana roots this recording branches out and incorporates the band's own strong original musical offerings and sees the sound of the band begin to reflect influences from bluegrass, folk, Irish, old time and even a hint of rockabilly. In June of 2009 the band released their 3rd CD this time with a DVD. They recorded a live performance at their favourite theatre of old favourites and also plenty of previously unrecorded material. The CD has 15 of the tracks while the DVD has all 27 tracks on it. The recording truly captures the Possum at their best playing live to an enthusiastic audience.



The band has played extensively throughout New Zealand and gained international exposure with two tours of the USA. The first in 2007 saw them receive the 'Rising Legends' Award from the National Old Time Country and Bluegrass Association. Their 2nd visit in 2008 received rave reviews and a growing fan base as they toured the heartland of this musical style following the Appalachian Mountains and travelling through Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. A return visit is on the cards for 2010.

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