

Meet the Commonwealth Bluegrass Band ...



Randy Cook

Mandolin, Lead and Harmony Vocals

Randy Cook plays mandolin and sings lead and harmony vocals with the Commonwealth Bluegrass Band. Randy began his musical career during his high school days when he started playing electric guitar with a local country band. While attending Virginia Tech, Randy became interested in Bluegrass music and started playing guitar with the June Apple Band, which performed at various college events and festivals in southwest Virginia.

Randy returned to the Richmond area after graduation and helped form the well-known country-rock band, **Second Helpin'**. While playing with

Second Helpin', Randy started playing the pedal steel guitar, being influenced by great players such as Sneaky Pete, Buddy Emmons and Tom Brumley. The group enjoyed great regional success for many years and appeared on shows with national acts such as **Ricky Skaggs** and **Johnny Paycheck**.

His love of Bluegrass music kept him interested in playing acoustic guitar and mandolin. In the late 1990's Randy joined with banjo great James Bailey (formerly with The Country Gentlemen), Malcolm Pulley and Doug Ganey to form **James Bailey & Company**. The group recorded two CD's and introduced Randy to Bluegrass music at the national level. When not performing with the Commonwealth Bluegrass Band, he continues to play the steel guitar with **The Honky Tonk Experience**. Randy resides with his wife and two daughters in the Mechanicsville area of Hanover County.



Malcolm Pulley

Banjo and Harmony vocals

Banjo player Malcolm Pulley started playing banjo around age 12 under the tutelage of his father, Malcolm Pulley, Sr. After high school, he joined several local bluegrass bands including **Dixie Reign**, and **Virginia Rail**. Malcolm recorded with several local groups and eventually recorded a demo of 10 original songs, including "**In The Gravel Yard**", which was later recorded by Blue Highway and nominated for **IBMA song of the year** in 1996. In the mid 90's, Malcolm met renowned banjo player, James Bailey. Malcolm and James set out to form a band, and with Randy Cook on guitar and Doug Ganey on bass, formed **James Bailey &**

Company. The band recorded two well received CD's before disbanding.

Around 2005, Malcolm joined the Jackie Frost Ensemble playing banjo and mandolin. Their first CD, "Calliope" was nominated for **song of the year** and **album of the year** at the **2006 independent Music Awards**. The band recorded one more CD in 2007, "Cold Lonely Blues".

As a songwriter, Malcolm has had songs recorded by Blue Highway, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, James King, Tina Adair (with Jerry Douglas and Chris Thile), Paul Adkins, James Bailey & Company, Mill Run, Michelle Nixon and Drive, and Jackie Frost, as well as many other local and Regional bands, including groups from Italy, Australia, and Canada. Malcolm resides in Moseley, VA with his wife and two kids.

Jay Kaczor

Guitar, Lead and Harmony Vocals

Jay Kaczor, from Meherrin, VA, is a seasoned professional well beyond his years. At the age of thirteen Jay formed his first band, Jay Kaczor and Bluegrass Connection. Two years later they released their first CD in January of 2007. Jay performed shows with **Rhonda Vincent and the Rage**, North Ridge, and **Appalachian Express** before heading to Tennessee to attend Bethel

University. While at Bethel pursuing his Business Degree, Jay performed with **College Drive** in the Renaissance Program at the university. The band was fortunate enough to play at some of the country's best music events, including Merlefest, Dailey and Vincent festival, Silver Dollar City, Dumplin Valley festival and Big Lick festival. Jay also had the opportunity to perform shows with **Becky Buller** during the semesters.





Joey Damiano

Bass and Vocals

Joey Damiano resides in Monroe Virginia, located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. Joey also started his music journey at an early age, learning to play drums around the age of 5 with his family band. When the bluegrass bug struck the family, his parents bought Joey an upright bass for his 14th birthday. His playing was influenced by the style of Tom Gray and the music of the Seldom Scene. One of his fondest memories is playing on stage with Don Reno as a kid. Since then he's performed with great artists such as Vassar Clements and John McEuen. He spent 13 years playing bass part time with Alvin

Breeden and the VA Cut-ups.

He's also widely known in the old time field as an accomplished bass player. You can also find him from time to time teaching bass workshops at these festivals. It was at one of these festivals where Joey met his beautiful wife Karen who also plays music.

He and Karen now reside back at his home place in Amherst County and yes, he still has his parents' guitar, mandolin and dobro.

Wally Hughes

Fiddle, Lead and Harmony Vocals

Wally is an excellent singer and multi-instrumentalist originally from Delaware, now residing in Northern Virginia. Wally started playing Dobro with his parent's family band when he was 11 and then moved on to the fiddle and other instruments. For a number of years he fronted his own band in Delaware while recording and playing with other groups from the area as well. He recorded and played in a band with Steve Huber in the early 80s and has performed with Valerie Smith and Liberty Pike, Mike Auldridge, Bill Emerson, Mike Munford and many other top DC bluegrass musicians since moving to Northern Virginia.

