

July 2010
No. 2 Volume 3

This Month at BASC

The Official eNewsletter of the Bluegrass Association of Southern California

The Bluegrass Association of Southern California

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The Brombies to Perform at BASC Bluegrass Night

Tuesday, July 20th, 2010
[Braemar Country Club](#)

4001 Reseda Bl. Tarzana 91356
6:30 to 9:00 PM

The Brombies are prominent musicians in the recording studios and Bluegrass scene of Los Angeles. They've played with many bluegrass and country music musicians over the

years including The Bluegrass Cardinals, The Laurel Canyon Ramblers, Vince Gill, Laurie Lewis, Desert Rose Band, Byron Berline and many others.

They've been playing together since 2005 and play all over the United States. The band places a lot of emphasis on their vocals & harmonies and presenting their original Bluegrass songs along with the traditional music of

"the Masters". They all feel that music can be a major contribution of positive energy in our world and it's gotta be fun or "forget about it!"

As individuals, each band member has a long list of credits and as a band they are rapidly becoming a sought after traditional Bluegrass band. Although The Brombies might be considered a new band by Bluegrass standards, they've all been performing as successful musicians for too long to even mention. They perform all over Southern and

Northern California in many venues, concerts in the park, all the local Bluegrass clubs, church picnics, church services and private parties. They've performed in many of the California festivals and into Arizona as well. They've been honored to perform in the IBMA Songwriters Showcase, they were the winners in the Bluegrass category of the



Left to right: Bill Bryson, George Doering, Patrick Sauber, and Jo Ellen Doering

Merlefest Song Contest; they've also taken part in the IBMA after-hours showcases in Nashville.

Admission to the BASC Bluegrass Night at the Braemar is \$5.00, which includes coffee, tea, and soft drinks. \$16.00 admission also includes the world famous Braemar Country Club pasta bar which opens at 6:15 PM. Bar service available. There is ample seating and safe and secure free parking. Advance reservations suggested. Call Harley Tarlitz at (818) 221-4680.

Jams Around Town

The BASC Jam in the Park

[CTMS Center for Folk Music](#)
Encino Park
11953 Ventura Blvd.
Encino, CA 91316
4th Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00 PM
Jeff Fleck 310-390-4391

The Soup Jam

3240 Industry Dr,
Signal Hill, CA
Tuesdays 7:00 PM
Don Rowan 562-883-0573

The New Westside Jam

[Industry & Jazz Cafe](#)
6039 Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA
1st Monday 7:30 PM
Jeff Fleck 310-390-4391

The Altadena Jam

Coffee Gallery
2029 N. Lake
Altadena, CA
2nd Sunday 12:30 PM
Dave Naiditch
french10@pacbell.net

Blue Ridge Pickin' Parlor

17828 Chatsworth St
Granada Hills, CA
1st Saturday 7:30 PM
(818) 282-9001

Orange County Archery

18792 Brookhurst St.
Fountain Valley CA
1st & 3rd Thursday, 6 PM
Shelah Spiegel
(714) 454-1976

Viva Cantina

900 Riverside Drive
Burbank CA 91506
3rd Monday
Clinic: 6-7 PM Jam: 7-10 PM
Matt Merritt (818) 669-9778

Zoey's Cafe

185 E. Santa Clara St.
Ventura CA 93001
2nd and 4th Tuesdays
6:00 to 10:00 PM
Gene Rubin
805-340-2270

Editor

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jeffreyfleck@me.com

*All comments, suggestions,
and submissions will be gladly
considered.*

The Next So Cal Bluegrass Generation Takes Off

-- By Jeff Fleck

Southern California is a long way from Rosine Kentucky. Still, our part of the country has produced its share of top flight Bluegrass pickers, going back to the 1960s with Clarence and Roland White's Kentucky Colonels, up through present day Bluegrass "stars" like Chris Thile, Stuart Duncan, and Gabe Whitcher.



Kyle Murphy

Now four more young Southern California Bluegrass pickers are about to leave the family fold. Many of us have watched these four grow up on the stage at Topanga, the jams at Huck Finn, Blythe, and Parkfield, and in local Bluegrass venues. Last month, they each graduated from high school and are about to set out on their own musical journeys. While we are sorry to see them go, we surely wish them luck on their new adventure.

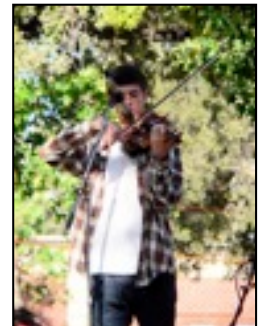
Kyle Murphy, who graduated from Culver City High School, grew up playing Bluegrass because his father Jim, a professor of physics at Santa Monica College, "always played Bluegrass and when I was little I would listen to him and wanted an instrument to play." He started lessons in classical violin with Sarah Behar at Boulevard Music in Culver City when he was seven years old, but soon veered off into Bluegrass and was fortunate to find a great teacher in Richard Greene. In recent years, he has turned his attention to the mandolin, and has been inspired by another great teacher, Bob Applebaum.

While Kyle likes to listen to rock music, it is Bluegrass that he loves to hear and play. His favorites are Bill Monroe, Ricky Skaggs, Kenny Baker and Blue Highway. He also enjoys bluegrass festivals and jams, and singles out the Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest (where he has been a perennial prize-winner) and the Huck Finn Jubilee as his favorites.

Together with his dad and younger sister Sara, an accomplished fiddler in her own right, he has performed in many local venues as the Murphy Family Band. At the 2010 Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest, the Murphy Family Band won first prize in the band category, while Sara picked up first prize in advanced fiddle and Kyle second prize in advanced mandolin.

Kyle will be attending East Tennessee State University in the Fall because of their Bluegrass music program, and hopes to become a professional musician. But if that doesn't work out, he will always play Bluegrass music. As he says, "music has been an amazing way to make friends from all around the United States. It's a universal language, and that is why it is so amazing."

Connor Vance discovered fiddle music in the fifth grade when a neighbor, Roland Sturm (who happens to be the current talent coordinator of the Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest) invited Connor and his older brother to learn some fiddle tunes. "I can remember playing through the songs in the *Fiddler's Fake Book* for hours, just sight reading in awe of the melodies." Connor had started violin classes at Will Rogers Elementary school the year before, and his subsequent studies, both private and at Santa Monica High School, have concentrated on the the classical repertoire. As a member of the Santa Monica High School Orchestra, he has toured Europe, performing in Prague and Vienna, as well as back home in the USA at Carnegie Hall and the Walt Disney Concert Hall.



Connor Vance

Connor's musical interests are eclectic in the extreme. In addition to classical music, he listens to and plays jazz (both standard and gypsy), Celtic, swing, reggae, metal, and more. He cites Bob Wills, Django Reinhardt, Stephane Grappelli, and Mark O'Connor as early influences. As for Bluegrass music, Connor did a two-year stint with Second Wind Bluegrass, a local band that appeared in venues throughout the Los Angeles area. He currently plays with Paul Statman in the gypsy jazz group, the Statmen.

Jeffrey Fleck Yesterday, 3:26 PM

The Gig Watch

[The Brombies](#)

[Viva Fresh Cantina](#)
900 Riverside Drive
Burbank CA 91506
1st and 3rd Monday
7:30 - 10:30 PM

[Zeke's Smokehouse](#)

2209 Honolulu Ave.
Montrose CA
July 11th
7:00 to 9:00 PM

[BASC Bluegrass Night](#)

Braemar Country Club
4001 Reseda Blvd.
Tarzana CA
July 20th
6:30 - 9:00 PM

[Zeke's Smokehouse](#)

7100 Santa Monica Blvd.
Hollywood CA
July 25th
7:00 to 9:00 PM

[Lonesome Otis](#)

[Music in the Mountains](#)
Big Bear Discovery Center
Amphitheater
July 31st

[Grasslands](#)

Me-N-Ed's Pizza
4115 Paramount Blvd.
Lakewood CA
July 31st
6:30 - 10:00 PM

[The Get Down Boys](#)

Basement Tavern at the Victorian
1700 Ocean Ave
Santa Monica CA
Wednesday Nights

Malibu Cafe at Calamigos Ranch
326 Latigo Canyon
Malibu CA
Sunday Afternoons

In the Fall, Connor will begin studies at UCLA, majoring in violin performance under Guillaume Sutre. But Bluegrass music will remain an important part of his musical life. "It's an incredibly fun type of music to play, so I can't imagine completely leaving it. It's a genre that is accessible and easily enjoyable."

At eighteen years old, **Christian Ward** is already an experienced professional Bluegrass musician. While he started violin with a Suzuki class at school, it didn't take him long to discover Bluegrass music and the "joys of impromptu jam sessions." It didn't hurt that his father is Eric Uglum, a prominent Bluegrass musician and owner of New Wine Sound Studio in Apple Valley. From his dad, Christian learned how to approach his instrument with "humility and focus on fundamentals (pitch, tone, timing)." Christian also found a wonderful teacher in Frank Javorsek. But it is another Southern California fiddler, Stuart Duncan, that remains his "biggest inspiration."



Christian Ward

Christian participated in his first Bluegrass jam at the Parkfield Bluegrass Festival when he was about eleven years old. After that experience, he was hooked. "I couldn't get enough of jamming at all of the events I attended, such as the Huck Finn Jubilee, Blythe Bluegrass Festival, and Grass Valley.

Christian began playing professionally with Brothers Barton and Overdrive. He later joined Chris Stuart and Backcountry and can be heard on their latest release, *Crooked Man*. In 2006, Eric Uglum & Sons, a trio consisting of Christian, his bass-player brother Austin, and his dad released the highly respected CD, *The Old Jerusalem Road*. Currently he plays with Sierra Hull and Highway 111, and participated (with Austin) in their 2008 Japan tour. Christian toured Europe with Chris Stuart and Backcountry in 2007, but his most interesting musical experience -- "the most surreal," as he puts it -- was a Bluegrass tour with his family to the Sultanate of Oman.

Christian graduated from The Academy for Academic Excellence, a charter school in Apple Valley, and plans to continue his Bluegrass activities while in college. "Bluegrass will most likely always play a significant role in my life. I can't imagine life without it (or just music in general) whether it be as a vocation or simply a hobby."

Matt Wiltner started out playing the violin in his school orchestra at the age of nine. But with an aunt who was a multiple-year Oregon state fiddle champion, he was soon spending most of



Peter Blackwelder and Matt Wiltner

his time learning fiddle tunes. It wasn't until he was asked to join the Rainwater Bluegrass Band that he began to give serious attention to the mandolin. Then Matt heard Chris Thile play and he knew then that the mandolin was for him.

Like the other young men featured here, Matt was fortunate to find an inspiring teacher. In Matt's case it was the great mandolin virtuoso, Evan Marshall. Under Evan, Matt has developed excellent technical skills on the mandolin and a deep understanding of music in general. Evan also introduced Matt to classical works on the mandolin, with a special focus on Bach.

Other areas that Matt has explored, thanks largely to Phil Salazar and the Zoey's Cafe jam in Ventura, are jazz and swing. Matt also enjoys playing new acoustic music (especially with his friend, Patrick Gunning) and "even some

rock."

Matt currently plays in four bands, reflecting his diverse musical interests. He plays Bluegrass with Murphy's Flaw, "folk music for families" with The Hollow Trees, new acoustic music with The Absentees, and "acoustic rock/folk with Tar Novick and the Weeds, who are about to record their first CD.

Matt graduated from Delphi Academy of Los Angeles and in the Fall will be attending the Berklee School of Music in Boston. He already knows a number of Bluegrass musicians at the school so he is looking forward to a lot of jamming to go along with his studies. "Bluegrass music will always play an important role in my life. I feel like it's my home base that I can use as a starting point to go anywhere I want musically."

It's fair to say that BASC and the Southern California Bluegrass community can take pride in these four young men who have made Bluegrass a big part of their lives.

BASC Bluegrass Night at the Braemar

2010

July 20th

[The Brombies](#)

August 17th

[The Bladerunners](#)

September 21st

[Murphy's Flaw](#)

October 19th

[Border Radio](#)

November 16th

[Rocky Neck Bluegrass Band](#)

December 21st

[Scott Gates](#) and [Nathan](#)

[McEuen](#)

2011

January 18th

[Simon Pure](#)

February 15th

[Sometimes In Tune](#)

March 15th

[Susie Glaze and the Hilonesome](#)

[Band](#)

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Don't Miss the BASC Jam in the Park

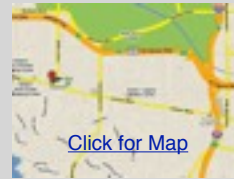
Sunday, July 25th 1:00 to 5:00 PM

On the fourth Sunday of every month pickers from far and wide are gathering at the [CTMS Folk Music Center](#) in Encino Park for what is becoming one of Southern California's premier Bluegrass events -- the BASC Jam in the Park. With plenty of room -- inside the Center or outside on the grass if the weather is nice -- this jam is for pickers of all skills and experience. Don't be surprised if you find three or four jams going on when you arrive. Just pick the one that fits you best and join in. The jam goes from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Snacks and drinks (and BASC tee shirts) will be on sale.

Here are the remaining dates in 2010.

July 25th * August 22nd *

September 26th * October 24th * November 28th * December 26th



[Click for Map](#)

Encino Park
16953 Ventura Blvd.
Encino, CA 91316

**Yes, I would like to join BASC and support Bluegrass
in Southern California.**

One-Year Membership

Individual \$20.00 - Family \$25.00 - Band \$30.00

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I would like to volunteer to _____

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