

Steve Smith & Hard Road Members of the Band

Steve Smith,

Mandolin, mandola, mandocello, guitar, vocalist, composer

Steve Smith has been performing for nearly thirty years in about as many types of musical situations as one can imagine. He has appeared as a solo artist, bandleader, in-demand sideman, session player and producer in traditional bluegrass (his first love), old-time, Celtic, new acoustic, jazz and chamber music. His solo shows incorporate original vocal and instrumental works and unique arrangements of traditional and modern tunes, delicate fingerstyle to hard driving rhythms on mandolin, guitar and mandola.

Steve's most recent recording projects include appearances on the latest release by guitarist extraordinaire Jim Hurst, "A Box of Chocolates" and on the CD "Bungalow" by singer songwriter Bob Einweck which he also produced. The long awaited CD from his group Steve Smith and Hard Road "Only So Fast" was released in April of 2008. Smith is also a member of the Alan Munde Gazette; their latest CD is "Made to Last" (October 2008).

Smith has been involved in a number of theatrical productions including composing the score for the Sam Sheppard play "Curse of the Starving Class". He honed his skills with a stint in music school studying 20th century composition and theory. His music was used in the PBS film "The Bataan Death March, a New Mexico Story" and "Portraits of the Southwest". Smith also spent seven years in public radio presenting various folk, jazz and new age recordings.

In addition to a regular solo touring schedule which has taken him from Florida to Alaska, the Caribbean to Europe, Smith tours with his group Steve Smith and Hard Road, the Alan Munde Gazette, Jim Hurst and Bill Evans. He maintains a busy teaching and workshop schedule including ten years as mandolin instructor at Camp Bluegrass (www.campbluegrass.com), the Puget Sound Guitar Workshop, Zoukfest in Santa Fe, NM and the California Coast Music Camp.

Chris Sanders

Vocalist, composer, guitar, piano

Chris Sanders has been working with singers for over 30 years as a voice teacher, coach and choral director. Whether working on a singer's original tune, art song or aria, jazz standard or gospel favorite, Chris focuses on the unique gifts of each individual singer. Healthy vocal production and a positive and productive attitude top the list of goals in lessons and workshops. Vocal exercises develop stronger and more dynamic singing. New approaches to harmony singing help build confidence and take singers to a higher level. Every singer has a personal story to tell and favorite stories to share, and through improvisation, movement and alignment exercises, we can let the story out!

Chris has been a life-long musician, singing with her family and at school growing up, playing the piano and now, guitar. She received a B.A. in music education from Concordia College in Moorhead MN and a masters in vocal performance from Cal State Hayward. While in the San Francisco Bay Area, she was one of the founders of the Actors' Training Project. Currently she teaches at the University of Texas at El Paso, working with singers in the commercial music area and directing the UTEP Jazz Singers. For 10 years she was on the voice faculty at New Mexico State University and early on she directed middle school choirs in Durango CO. She counts Dr. Martha Rowe, Neil Semer and Dede Wyland as major influences. In recent years Chris has become a successful songwriter, teaming up with Hard Road partner Steve Smith and with Justin Raines and Bradford Hodgson on the musical *We are Enron*.

Chris is available for:

- Private lessons
- Coaching for singing and song writing
- "Build the Band", vocal and performance coaching for groups
- "Healthy Singing, Happy Harmonizing", vocal workshop
- Workshops that address unique needs of individual groups

She can be reached at 575.571.5298 or ccsanders@utep.edu.

Aaron McCloskey
Guitar, vocalist

Lexington, MA native Aaron McCloskey picked up the guitar in college and since then has rarely put it down. He began studying jazz early in his guitar career but has fallen in love with a number of different styles, particularly bluegrass. Aaron's playing connects those two genres, and his love of progressive acoustic music is evident in both his compositions and his solos.

Aaron recently graduated from the unique commercial music program at South Plains College in Levelland, TX. While there he focused much of his energy learning bluegrass from the banjo legend Alan Munde and guitarist/mandolinist Joe Carr, also studying jazz, western swing, Celtic, blues, rock, classical guitar styles, bluegrass banjo (both Scruggs and melodic styles), guitar pedagogy, music theory, songwriting, audio engineering, and ear training.

Aaron is currently on staff at the Swallow Hill Music Association in Denver CO teaching both guitar and banjo. His lessons emphasize technique, theory, repertoire, reading (both standard and tab), ear-training, improvisation, interactive playing, and most of all, fun! Along with Hard Road, he currently appears with jazz singer Heather Marie Phillip.

Bill Evans

Banjo, author, composer

San Francisco Bay Area musician and Virginia native Bill Evans has been involved with bluegrass music and the banjo for over thirty years as a player, teacher, writer and historian. He occupies a unique niche in the banjo world: celebrated worldwide for his traditional and progressive bluegrass banjo styles as well as his innovative original compositions, he also enjoys a reputation as an outstanding instructor as well as being an expert player of 19th century minstrel and classic/parlor banjo styles.

Bill Evans has toured and performed with the best musicians the acoustic music world has to offer: the David Grisman Bluegrass Experience, Due West, Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum, Robin and Linda Williams and their Fine Group, Peter Rowan, Suzanne Thomas, Don Rigsby and Friends, the Lynn Morris Band, and John Reischman. In the 1980s Bill was the founder/leader of the progressive bluegrass band Cloud Valley based out of Charlottesville, Virginia, that included bass player [Missy Raines](#) and mandolin player [Steve Smith](#).

For the last fifteen years, Bill has authored "Off the Record" for [Banjo Newsletter](#), one of the magazine's most popular monthly instructional columns. In addition to writing *Banjo for Dummies*, (the largest selling banjo book in the world since its release in 2007), Bill is also the co-author of Mel Bay's [Parking Lot Pickers Songbook: Banjo Edition](#), a collection of 250 jam session favorites with an accompanying two CD set. Each year he hosts the [NashCamp Fall Banjo Retreat](#) with Sonny Osborne west of Nashville, Tennessee. He has taught at virtually every important music camp including [Sore Fingers Bluegrass Week](#) in the United Kingdom, the [Midwest Banjo Camp](#) in Lansing, Michigan, Banjo Camp North in Groton, Massachusetts, the [Roanoke Bluegrass Weekend](#) in Roanoke, Virginia, South Plains College's [Camp Bluegrass](#) in Levelland, Texas and the [California Bluegrass Association's Bluegrass Jam Camp](#) in Grass Valley, California. He also teaches private lessons out of his home in Albany, California for students at all ability levels, including intensive sessions for out of town students.

A doctoral candidate in ethnomusicology from the University of California at Berkeley, Evans has taught courses in American music history at the University of San Francisco, the University of Virginia and Duke University. In 1994-95, he was

the Associate Director of the International Bluegrass Music Museum in Owensboro, Kentucky. In 1997 he was a artist-scholar in residence at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond as part of this university's New Perspectives in the Arts series and more recently has been a performer in residence at Carleton College, Northfield, MN and Morehead State University, Morehead, KY. Bill was also a recipient of a Brown Foreman-Al Smith Artist Fellowship in musical composition from the Kentucky Arts Council, the state's highest award for achievement in the arts.

Megan Lynch *Fiddler*

Megan Lynch was raised in Redding, California, often considered the hotbed of fiddle music west of the Rockies. She began taking lessons at the age of four and started competing shortly thereafter. Megan won her first National Championship at age 8 and followed that with three consecutive wins at ages 10, 11, and 12. In 2003 Megan made a return to serious competition and captured two more National titles in 2003 and 2004. During the last 24 years of on-and-off competition, Megan has also won 6 California State titles, as well as the Minnesota State Championships.

Megan is in high demand as a private and group teacher. She counts dozens of State and National Champions among her students, and has recently added several prestigious bluegrass camps to her list of teaching accomplishments. Her no-holds-barred workshops have drawn rave reviews across the country.

Bill Amatneek
Bass, storyteller, author

Bassist extraordinaire Bill Amatneek, the original bass player for the David Grisman Quartet, has performed worldwide and recorded with Grisman, Mark O'Connor, Kate Wolf, Tiny Moore and Eldin Shamblen, the Rowan Brothers and Frankie Armstrong. Along with these notable personalities, he has shared the stage with Jerry Garcia, Peter Rowan, Tony Rice, Frank Wakefield and Peter, Paul and Mary.

Besides Amatneek's skills and talents as one of the country's premier bassists, his abilities extend to writing and storytelling. His book *Acoustic Stories* gives a great inside view of the acoustic music world; he shares decades of experiences in stories in his live performances. His stories and essays have appeared in publications including *Rolling Stone*, *Down Beat*, *Bluegrass Unlimited*, *Pacific Sun*, and the *Yoga Journal*.