

## STEVE SMITH, CHRIS SANDERS & HARD ROAD

Steve Smith, Chris Sanders and Hard Road evolved into a full working group as a result of the success and chemistry of the musicians who came together to work on Steve's original live studio recording *Hard Road* (dn444) released in 2004. This chemistry in the studio has led to an excellent rapport onstage, on the road and in the songwriting and harmonies that have become the signature Hard Road sound.

The band has been featured at the Bighorn Mountain Festival, the Durango Bluegrass Meltdown, Pickin' in the Pines, the Outpost Performance Space and the Swallow Hill and High Street Concert Series. The Hard Road line-up for 2010 brings Aaron McCloskey's exciting guitar stylings - he's featured in the May/June 2010 issue of *Flatpicking Guitar Magazine*. Also appearing on selected dates are Bill Evans on 5-string banjo, Bill Amatneek on bass and national champion fiddler Megan Lynch. McCloskey's guitar prowess, Evans' timeless style, Amatneek's distinctive groove and Lynch's ribbons of shimmering sound all contribute to the success of the latest Hard Road project *Signs Along the Road*.

Aaron McCloskey ([www.aaronmccloskeymusic.com](http://www.aaronmccloskeymusic.com))

Lexington, MA native Aaron McCloskey picked up the guitar in college and since then has rarely put it down. He's a graduate of 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. Aaron is currently on staff at the Swallow Hill Music Association in Denver CO teaching both guitar and banjo. Along with Hard Road, he currently appears with Colorado band Bonnie and the Clydes.

Bill Evans ([www.nativeandfine.com](http://www.nativeandfine.com))

San Francisco Bay Area musician and Virginia native 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 Reichman. In the 1980s Bill was the founder/leader of the progressive

bluegrass band Cloud Valley that included Steve Smith and bass player Missy Raines. 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*. Each year he hosts the NashCamp Fall Banjo Retreat with Sonny Osborne west of Nashville, Tennessee.

Megan Lynch ([www.fiddlestar.com](http://www.fiddlestar.com))

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 won her first of 4 National Championships at age 8. In 2003 Megan made a return to serious competition and captured two more National titles in 2003 and 2004 followed by 6 California State titles. Megan frequently tours with country star Pam Tillis and 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.

Bill Amatneek ([www.amatneek.com](http://www.amatneek.com))

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. A sought after storyteller and writer, his book *Acoustic Stories* gives a great firsthand view of the acoustic music world, a perspective he shares in his live performances. He has been published in *Rolling Stone*, *Down Beat*, *Bluegrass Unlimited*, *Pacific Sun*, and the *Yoga Journal*.

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