

Raising the bar - Southern Raised

Area group gets second in national single mic competition



Above, Southern Raised takes the stage. Lindsay, Sarah, Emma Grace and Matthew Reith took second place in this year's Silver Dollar City National Single Mic Competition.

It's only been a little more than two years and Southern Raised has raised the bar in Bluegrass to new heights.

With instruments in hand and a song in their heart, Southern Raised, took the stage at this year's Silver Dollar City National Single Mic Competition, and left with second place.

That's a huge achievement for a group that began playing Bluegrass on June 2, 2007.

They easily out-distanced many other acts and narrowly missed capturing first place, and this was only their second year at the competiion.

So, what is it about this group that sets them apart?

First and foremost is their God-given talent, that they quickly point out comes from "the Lord."

"Our music might best be described as bluegrass music that is rooted in the value of family, fellowship of friends, hard work, taking care of one another and the need for the Savior Jesus Christ and the love and forgiveness that is found in Him.

“Each song is chosen to reflect these rich values, which are still alive in the Ozark Hills. We enjoy playing a driving bluegrass sound as well as beautiful waltzes on double fiddles,” they said.

Southern Raised is a family band from the Hurley, Missouri area nestled in the Ozark Hills. Their increasing interest in bluegrass led to the genesis of “Southern Raised” in May 2007. Lindsay, 22 years old, is the heartbeat on the upright bass, and brings a rich full sound with her lead and baritone vocals. Her genuine warmth makes her a downright neighborly spokesperson.

Sarah, 20, plays banjo and adds an energetic drive and bluegrass twang that follows the style of Greg Bailey and Earl Scruggs.

Sarah is naturally drawn to the high tenor parts, although will sometimes sing lead. Emma Grace, 14, is a natural fiddle player, ranging from hot fiddle tunes to graceful waltzes. She is also just as comfortable on the mandolin, which gives that essential bluegrass sound. She sings lead and baritone vocals. Matthew, 11, plays rhythm guitar and flat picks. He is also beginning to sing lead and harmony vocals.

Even their fans aren’t considered “fans”, rather extended family members.

“There are so many blessings we have experienced since beginning this journey,” they said. “We meet the nicest people everywhere we go.

“That is a common thread that we have found to be true. We are so thankful to so many people that have given of their time to invest in our lives. We would be leaving out a huge part of the story if we didn’t mention all the wonderful people we have met.

“We really don’t look at them as fans, we consider them family!”

While they play great Bluegrass, the group has a background in classical, and all three girls play the violin and Matthew plays the cello.

Asked about their recent placing at the Silver Dollar City competition, the group responded, “We are honored to have placed 2nd in the Silver Dollar City 2009 Third Annual National Single Mic Championship and give thanks to the Lord for the talents given to us by Him and for giving us a reason to play.”

If you haven’t had the opportunity to see Southern Raised take the stage, you have missed a great show. But, all is not lost. The group performs throughout the area and they will be appearing in this weekend’s Wilderness Road Festival, being held at the Reeds Spring Saddle Club. Southern Raised will be appearing both Friday and Saturday.

You can discover more information about this talented group, and check out their schedule online at www.southernraisedbluegrass.com