

STRINGIN' ALONG

By Emily Campbell
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The Two High String Band may have been around for 10 years, but it isn't slowing down anytime soon. The bluegrass-style trio recently released a new album, "Moonshine Boogie," and is touring the country with gigs in Texas, Kentucky, Virginia, Georgia and tonight, at Federal Hill's 8x10 Club.

Two High String Band consists of 31-year-old Billy Bright, on mandola and mandolin, 30-year-old Brian Smith on finger-style guitar and 34-year-old Geoff Union on flatpick-style guitar. All three members take turns singing, which Bright says makes the band unique. "For most of our sets we do half-instrumental and half-vocal, so it ends up that each of us sings two songs," he said. "It's nice to have that variation going on."

Two High String Band is known for its unique treatment of bluegrass. The band adds elements of Jam Band (music consisting highly of improvisation), string and funk.

Bright describes the band's music as "kind of like bluegrass, not really but sort of. We haven't ever attached a name to the sound. It's not like the new jam band bluegrass stuff, but not totally traditional, either. It's somewhere in between."

Brian Shupe, the owner of the 8x10, said the venue is excited to have Two High String Band perform.

"I am extremely pleased that bluegrass is having such a great revival lately. There is no sound that can replace the natural feel of picking up a banjo or strumming a mandolin."

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