



2016 IBMA Momentum Band of the Year Nominee

“Carrying the torch of interesting, rootsy music.”

- Sirius XM

“This quartet isn’t afraid to take roots music to new places but always with an eye on tradition.”

- Washington Post

From dance inducing Old Time rhythms and foot stomping Irish melodies to hard-driving Bluegrass, Baltimore-based acoustic roots quartet **Charm City Junction** creates a fresh soundscape that keeps listeners on the edge of their seats wondering where they'll go next. Featuring fiddle, clawhammer banjo, button accordion and upright bass, this quartet isn't afraid to take roots music to new places — but always with an eye on tradition.

Formed in 2014, Charm City Junction has taken the acoustic music scene by storm performing around the country gaining high praise along the way for their high-energy, captivating and dynamic performances. **Patrick McAvinue**, 2017 IBMA Fiddle Player of the Year, takes charge with his virtuosic, powerful and musical approach to the fiddle. Clawhammer banjo wizard **Brad Kolodner** adds his playful, driving, melodic and groovy Old-Time touch. **Sean McComiskey**, soars through the tunes and fills the gaps with his soulful button accordion playing. The versatile bassist **Alex Lacquement** drives the train, locking everything together with his commanding and tasteful choices. Drawing from separate musical backgrounds, the four members have found a common ground on which to develop their unique approach. Since releasing their highly anticipated debut album *Charm City Junction* on Patuxent Music in the fall of 2015, they have performed prestigious festivals including Grey Fox, Old Songs, Bristol Rhythm & Roots, Delaware Valley Bluegrass Festival and an appearance at the Kennedy Center. They released their second full-length album, *Duckpin*, in the summer of 2018. The record debuted at #6 on the Billboard Bluegrass charts.





Patrick McAvinue, the 2017 International Bluegrass Music Association Fiddle Player of the Year, is regarded as one of the most innovative fiddlers in the industry, able to translate the traditions of Bluegrass into a fresh, eclectic, forward-thinking language of his own. He currently tours with acclaimed bluegrass band Dailey & Vincent. A highly in-demand sideman, he has performed and recorded with Bluegrass music icons Bobby Osborne, Del McCoury, Marty Stuart, Paul Williams and J.D. Crowe, to name a few. He and his fiddle have appeared at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, The Birchmere, The Country Ren-dez vous Festival in Crappone, FR, and The U.S. Embassy in Quito, EC. Patrick toured with the acclaimed Bluegrass super-group Audie Blaylock & Redline and is a featured recording artist for the Patuxent Music and Mountain Home record labels.

www.patrickmcavinue.com



Rooted in the traditions of Old-Time music, **Brad Kolodner** represents the next generation of old-time musicians pushing the boundaries of the tradition into uncharted territory. Son of Ken Kolodner, a world-renowned hammered dulcimer player and old-time fiddler, Brad is regarded for his delicate touch, expressive style, and original compositions, Kolodner has rapidly gained national attention for his unique approach to the banjo at just 28 years of age. Clawhammer banjo is experiencing a rebirth in American folk music and Kolodner is helping to lead the charge as a performer, teacher, Strathmore Artist in Resident, radio DJ for Bluegrass Country Radio, jam leader, community builder and ambassador for Old-Time folk music.

www.bradkolodner.com



Alex Lacquement swears that it was beautiful sirens who lead him to the upright bass at the impressionable age of seventeen. His first music love which lead him to the upright bass was jazz music, something he studied vigorously at Eastman (MM) and James Madison University (BA). Years later he found himself chasing every opportunity to play some happy thumping lines with bluegrass and old-time string bands. Alex also plays with Bumper Jacksons, Brad and Ken Kolodner, Tom Cunningham Orchestra, pick-up groups, and Leah Shaw.

www.alexlacquement.com



Sean McComiskey is among the most innovative young performers on the button accordion, with a unique harmonic style that has earned him a spot in the pantheon of Irish accordionists far beyond his native Baltimore. As the son of legendary button accordion player Billy McComiskey, Sean has been surrounded by Irish Traditional music his entire life and has developed a deep appreciation for the rich tradition of which he is a part. This has helped Sean establish a reputation as a highly regarded teacher and promulgator of Irish music and earned him teaching positions with the Catskills Irish Arts Week, the Augusta Heritage Center's Irish Arts Week, the Chris Langan Weekend in Toronto, the CCE Musical Arts and Dance Week in Washington, DC, the Baltimore Irish Arts Center, and the Spanish Peaks Celtic Festival

Video Links

Boozy Suzy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVydNMztwkU>

New River Train: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Utc_JpPWFpO

Hop High: <https://youtu.be/KbZRGi41FdI>

Torn Jacket Set: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLN49DHscIq>

Turkey Trot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrmG6fGK7J0>

Jaybird: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbSALIRWE4g>

Notable Performances

Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival - Oak Hill, NY

Delaware Valley Bluegrass Festival - Woodstown, NJ

The Kennedy Center - Washington, DC

Charm City Folk and Bluegrass Festival - Baltimore, MD

Watermelon Park Festival - Berryville, VA

Bristol Rhythm & Roots – Bristol, TN

Old Songs Festival - Altamont, NY

IBMA Official Showcase Band (2015) - Raleigh, NC

Indiana Fiddlers' Gathering – Lafayette, IN

Bluegrass in the Grass – Carlisle, PA

The Hamilton Live - Washington, DC

Strathmore Hall - Bethesda, MD

Berlin Fiddlers' Convention - Berlin, MD

DC Bluegrass Union Festival - Tysons Corner, VA

Gordon Center for Performing Arts - Owings Mills, MD

Creative Alliance - Baltimore, MD

Barns of Rose Hill – Berryville, VA

Southern Maryland Celtic Festival – Prince Frederick MD

Deane Center for the Performing Arts – Wellsboro, PA

Susquehanna Folk Music Society – Lancaster, PA

Pinecone Concerts – Raleigh, NC

Press Quotes

"Baltimore-based roots group Charm City Junction puts a new spin on old-timey music, carrying the torch of fast-picking bluegrass and toe-tapping Celtic music. Featuring fiddle, clawhammer banjo, the button accordion and upright bass, this quartet isn't afraid to take roots music to new places — but always with an eye on tradition." - *Washington Post*

"Together they create an energetic amalgam that demonstrates their pure love of all these venerable musical idioms, but with a twist likely to satisfy anyone who appreciates traditional string music,

expertly played...Charm City Junction is a marvelous recording from an exciting new band. Don't let this one slip by you." - *Bluegrass Today*

"The group has an accomplished sound that's well beyond the players' years. At times, the songs are pure backwoods Americana, straight-up Appalachian mountain music, or the kind of boot-scootin' stomp heard at a country dance. At others, they're old-timey and Irish, evoking the plucky ditties of a cozy pub or some seaside ballad from the shores of Galway Bay." - *Baltimore Magazine*

"Some musical locations are so fertile that, like in a garden where varietals are planted side by side, cross pollination results in a hybrid displaying the best characteristics of each genome. That is exactly what this band is – a hybrid...this quartet easily glides through a rare Bill Monroe tune, "Frog on a Lily Pad," and old time and Celtic tunes, paying due respect to each style but never compromising the high level of musicianship that marks their standard." – *Fiddler Magazine*

"Charm City Junction" is a refreshing, smartly done album. These kinds of projects don't always work, but there's a novelty to the mixing of styles here that is compelling and successful. It helps that the band's members all play at a high level, but it's easy to hear how each one is not just listening to the others' music but listening through their own boundaries into the stylistic traditions of the others. This is what I think has illuminated the path to the fertile creative ground the group's found here. If you love Irish music and have any interest at all in the sounds of bluegrass or old time music, you will definitely want to check this out, it's a roots collaboration done right." - *Irish Echo*

