



Media Kit

What would make a 6-year old boy from Michigan want to start a band? Perhaps it was his prodigy talent that called his heart to a musical destiny. Perhaps it was the musical enthusiasm he sensed from his twin brother and first cousin of his same impressionable age. Whatever sparked the idea, Cats and the Fiddler was breathed into existence and ten years later, their hard work has paid off distinguishing Cats and the Fiddler as an acoustic wonder.

This amazing trio featuring Carmen Gibes, James Richardson, and Shaun Richardson each now 16 years old, consistently amazes audiences throughout Michigan and beyond with their unique style of acoustic music with influences from multiple genres including country, bluegrass, blues, and jazz. Since their debut Cats and the Fiddler have appeared at hundreds of venues alongside nationally renown country and bluegrass artists.

For the hundreds of audiences who have heard the music of Cats and the Fiddler, it is no surprise that they have been recognized for their outstanding musicianship as winners of the Meijer Kid Talent Quest in 2005, Elderly Instruments Battle of the High School Bands in 2008, Huron Valley's Got Talent and IBMA Songwriters Showcase in 2009, and nominated for Best Acoustic CD for the Detroit Music Awards in 2011. This CD entitled "Come Back to Me" was also featured in the nationally recognized magazine Bluegrass Unlimited with this comment: "Although its members are just in their early teens, Cats & the Fiddler has already achieved a remarkable skill level and should definitely look forward to a promising career in music ". Rachel May, entertainment columnist for the Detroit Free Press remarked, "I had a chance to catch the band when it performed during the Detroit Music Awards at the Fillmore Detroit, and the performance was breathtaking. Every note was played with precision, and the songs were rich with perfect harmonies."

This Media Kit includes a comprehensive description of Cats and the Fiddler accomplishments and awards as well as their newest CD "**Come Back to Me**" for your listening pleasure. We look forward to bringing Cats and the Fiddler to your venue. Please contact me for more information.

Sincerely,
Debra Gibes, Promotions

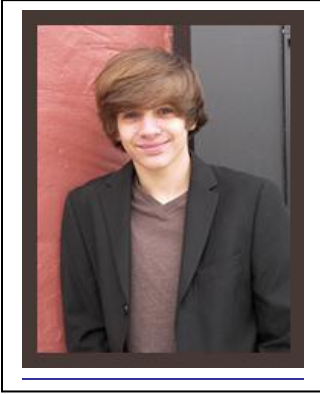
E-Mail: Catsandthefiddlermedia@comcast.net

Website: www.catsandthefiddler.com

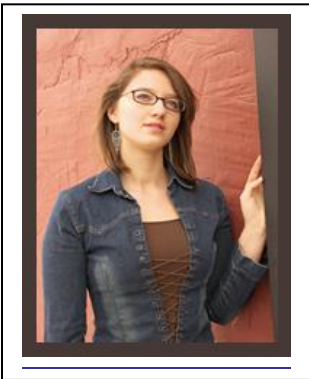
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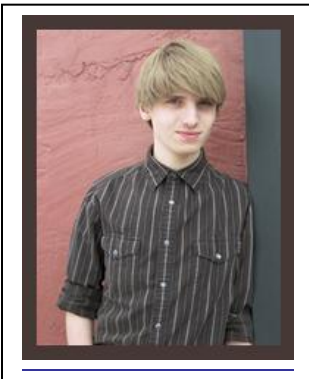
Biographies



Shaun Richardson: Shaun Richardson was born a prodigy. While still a toddler, Shaun began listening to country tunes played on the fiddle and pedal steel guitar by his musically talented uncle. Shaun was instantly drawn to the powerful sounds of country and bluegrass music. Too small to handle a fiddle at the young age of 2, he pretended to play along on a fiddle he made out of Tinker-Toys. Finally, at the age of 4 his parents bought him his first fiddle. It wasn't long before Shaun learned just about any instrument with strings adding the mandolin, guitar, and banjo to his talents. His prodigy-style playing leaves audiences awestruck and his flat-picking runs, inspired by the legendary Tony Rice, reveals a depth and style of playing rare indeed for a youth his age.



Carmen Gibes: Coming from a musical family it was only natural that Carmen began playing the piano in the tradition of her mother at the age of 4 but when her cousin, Shaun, introduced her to bluegrass music, at the age of 6, she grew to love the guitar and picked it up quickly. After being inspired by the bluegrass artist Cia Cherryholmes, Carmen added the banjo to her repertoire. Whether playing the guitar or banjo, her hard driving instrumentation brings power and energy to every Cats and the Fiddler performance. She is also a devoted songwriter with impassioned and insightful lyrics that speak volumes through her honey smooth alto tones as both lead and harmony singer



James Richardson: James like his twin brother Shaun began his musical career at the age of 4 when he took up the piano. By the age of 6, James was doing his own piano improvisations. He too he grew to love country and bluegrass music. Watching country and bluegrass artists perform inspired him to learn the upright bass which he plays with both precision and style as the heartbeat for the music he loves. James' avid songwriting abilities provides the sustenance for a unique blend of styles in acoustic music and his passionate lead and harmony vocals add the final touch making the Cats and the Fiddler a superbly talented trio.



Commentaries

REMARKS

"I hope these kids don't put us into early retirement." ~Jamie Dailey of Dailey and Vincent
<http://daileyvincent.musiccitynetworks.com/>

"Cats and the Fiddler, although only teenagers, perform and play like seasoned veterans. They are truly mind blowing pickers, playing original songs and harmonizing beautifully. If they keep it up at this pace, they will be a band to be reckoned with in the Bluegrass World!!!"
~Michael Hearne (Nashville TN, Taos NM) <http://www.michaelhearne.com/>

"Certainly a group to watch. Their unique material and well-crafted singing and playing sets them apart from many of the other talented bluegrass youth bands today." ~Pete Wernick, (aka Dr. Banjo), Author, Songwriter and Premier Banjo Player; former president of IBMA
<http://www.drbanjo.com/>

"Amazing skill and performance maturity. The audience at the Oakland Community College bluegrass concert gave them rousing applause throughout their showcase." ~ Tom Laing of Oakland Community College Bluegrass Concert Series
<http://www.oaklandcc.edu/entertainment/BluegrassSeries0910.pdf>

"Outstanding! They made a big hit." Ted Kopp, IBMA Bluegrass in the Schools
<http://www.ibma.org/events/programs/schools/teacher.workshop.asp>

"Great Picking!" Rhonda Vincent, IBMA award-winning artist <http://www.rhondavincents.com/>

REVIEWS

"I had a chance to catch the band when it performed during the Detroit Music Awards in April at the Fillmore Detroit, and the performance was breathtaking. Every note was played with precision, and the songs were rich with perfect harmonies "
~Rachel May, Detroit Free Press, December, 2009

"Although its members are just in their early teens, Cats & the Fiddler has already achieved a remarkable skill level and should definitely look forward to a promising career in music ".
~Bluegrass Unlimited, August 2009

"Fresh Sounds in the World of Bluegrass" ~ IBMA Vol. 24, No. 1,
January/February 2009

RECOGNITION

2009 IBMA Songwriters Showcase Selection- "Old Noah"

2009 First Place Winners: Huron Valley's Got Talent

2008 First Place Winners: Elderly Instruments Battle of the High School Bands.

2005 First Place Winners: Meijer Kid Talent Quest



On-Line

Media

CONCERTS REFERENCES

Trinity Church Concert Series – February 13, 2011

<http://trinitychurchoflivonia.org/files/concert1.pdf>

Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra – February 20, 2011 <http://ypsilantisymphony.org/>

Celtic Kettle Coffee House – May 21, 2011

<http://www.celtickettlecoffeehouse.org/concerts.html>

West Branch Concert Series- July 21, 2011

http://www.wbacc.com/html/community_calendar.html

REVIEWS

Elm Street Recording <http://lansingrecording.com/?p=554>

Detroit Free Press <http://www.freep.com/article/20091203/COL19/912030303/1035/rss04>

Wordpress <http://fromdowntownbluestocountrylane.wordpress.com/2009/04/09/cats-the-fiddler-road-to-nashville-cd-review/#more-95>

Blogspot http://handfulofnotesa2.blogspot.com/2010_08_01_archive.html

VIDEOS

“River of Tears” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ry0eG2LucU8>

“Breakaway” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4_oAZaua5w

“Lonesome Road Blues” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pf_c2gfJB1s

“Shoveling Coal” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvUSroeGiss>

“Frankie Bell” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fWjbmivkJU>

“Come Back to Me” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9qt7HsuPTg&feature=related>

“I’ll Fly Away” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feCDDySOPNE>

“Jezebel” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxPPIwyL3gk>



Performance References

Bluegrass Festivals

IBMA World of Bluegrass, Nashville, TN; ROMP sponsored by the International Bluegrass Music Museum-Owensboro, KY; Wakarusa Bluegrass Festival, Wakarusa, IN; Fallfest: West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association-Lowell, MI; Mayfest: West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association, Lowell, MI; Leslie Bluegrass Festival- Leslie MI; Charlotte Bluegrass Festival-Charlotte, MI; Oakland Community College Bluegrass Concert Series-Farmington and Highland, MI; Whispering Winds Bluegrass Festival-Nirvana, MI; Parade of Stars Annual Bluegrass Festival-Auburn Hills, MI Milan Bluegrass Festival- Milan, MI;

Community Events and Concert Series:

Music in the Park, Plymouth,-MI; Detroit Music Awards, Detroit, MI; Arts Beats & Eats:-Pontiac, MI; Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad-Flint, MI; Taste of Clarkston-Clarkston, MI Farmington Founders Festival-Farmington, MI; Great Lakes Folk Fest- Lansing, MI Milford Memories-Milford, MI; Livonia Spree-Livonia, MI; Milford Home Tours-Milford, MI Hartland Heritage Days-Hartland, MI; Ortonville Septemberfest-Ortonville, MI; Milford Market Days & First Fridays-Milford, MI; St. Mary's Fair- Milford, MI; Horsin' Around in Highland-Highland, MI; Community Music Series of Community Presbyterian Church-Waterford, MI; Waterford Concerts in the Park-Waterford MI; Huron Valley Council of the Arts Music Series- Milford, MI; Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation-Fenton, MI; City of South Lyon Parks and Recreation-South Lyon, MI; PIX Theater-Lapeer, MI; Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra-Ypsilanti, MI

Acoustic Music Clubs:

The Ark-Ann Arbor, MI; Celtic Kettle Coffeehouse-Milford, MI; Mama's Coffeehouse-Birmingham, MI; Unity Acoustic Coffeehouse-Livonia, MI; The Ten Pound Fiddle-East Lansing, MI; Flat Rock Eagles Club-Flat Rock, MI; Off-The-Wall Coffeehouse-Walled lake, MI Tin Whistle Coffeehouse, Pontiac, MI; Trinity Coffee House, Livonia, MI; Sippin' Lizard Coffeehouse, Flint, MI

Radio and Television Stations:

The Mitch Albom Show on WJR-Detroit, MI; Overeasy Show on WCSX-Southfield, MI WCXI-Flint, MI; Channel 7 Action News WXYZ-Southfield, MI; Channel 4 News WDIV-Detroit, MI

Folks Like Us and Detroit Today Show on WDET- Detroit, MI; Acoustic Alternatives on WHFR – Dearborn, MI

Fundraiser Events:

Community Sharing-Highland, MI; Food Bank of Oakland County-Pontiac, MI; Michigan Cancer Foundation-Farmington, MI; Michigan Parkinson Foundation-Northville, MI; West Highland Academy Auction-Highland, MI; Right to Life Dinner: Livingston Chapter-Hartland, MI; Flint Banjo Club Banjorama-Flint, MI; Angela Hospice-Livonia, MI; A Loud Voice for Silent Hands-Highland, MI

Schools & Libraries:

Franklin Road Christian School-Farmington Hills, MI; Milford Township Library-Milford, MI; Hickory Woods Elementary School-Walled Lake, MI; Cornerstone Christian School-Brighton, MI; Plymouth Christian School-Ann Arbor, MI; St. Regis Catholic School-Birmingham, MI; Cromain Public Library- Hartland, MI; Cooper Upper Elementary School- Westland, MI; Redner Elementary School-Ypsilanti, MI; Ypsilanti District Library-Ypsilanti, MI; Salem-South Lyon District Library-South Lyon, MI; Northfield Public Library-Northfield MI; Plymouth Public Library-Plymouth, MI

Church Concert Series:

Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church-Brighton, MI; Fellowship Bible Church-Hartland, MI; Tyrone Presbyterian Church-Fenton, MI; West Highland Baptist Church-Highland, MI; Countryside Trinity Church-Saginaw, MI; Walled lake Missionary Church-Walled Lake, MI; Hazel Park Lutheran Church-Hazel Park, MI; All Saints Episcopal Church-Pontiac, MI; Ward Presbyterian Church-Northville, MI; First Presbyterian Church-Howell, MI; Bear Lake Christian Church-Kalkaska, MI; Milford United Methodist Church- Milford, MI; Central United Methodist Church- Waterford, MI; Faith Presbyterian Church- Novi, MI; Bethany Baptist Church,-Waterford, MI; Highland United Methodist Church-Highland, MI; Trinity Church-Livonia, MI

cats & the fiddler

Discography

Come Back to Me

Released August 2010

TRACKS

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/catsfiddler3>

Give me A Reason (James Richardson/Cindy Richardson © 2009)
Through Your Eyes (Debra Gibes/Carmen Gibes/Shawn Richardson/
James Richardson © 2009)
Come Back To Me (James Richardson/Shawn Richardson © 2009)
Breakaway (James Richardson/Shawn Richardson © 2010)
Blue Trail of Sorrow (Jeff White © Shiroishian Music and Slocum Hollow Music)
Very Last Day (Paul Stookey/Peter Yarrow © Pepamar Music, ASCAP)
Shovelin' Coal (James Richardson/Cindy Richardson © 2008)
Don't Look Back (Debra Gibes/Carmen Gibes/Shawn Richardson/James Richardson © 2010)
Old Noah (James Richardson/Cindy Richardson © 2008)
Under the Double Eagle (Public Domain)
Eighteen Wheels and A Dozen Roses (Paul Norris Nelson Jr. © BMI)
The Distance Between Us (Cindy Richardson © 2010)
I Believe in Forever (Claire Lynch © Thrill Hill Music)



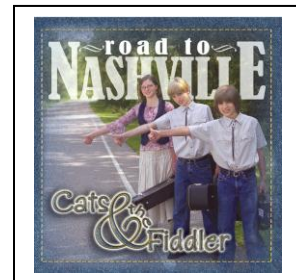
Road to Nashville

Released February, 2009

TRACKS

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/catsfiddler2>

Red Banjo (Carmen Gibes/James Richardson/Shawn Richardson © 2008)
River of Tears (Honi Deaton-Suwanee Hill Publishing BMI)
Road to Nashville (Cynthia Richardson/James Richardson © 2008)
Jezebel (Carmen Gibes/Debra Gibes © 2008)
Roses in the Snow (R. Franks-Winwood Music/Southern Melody BMI)
Orange Blossom Special (Ervin Rouse/Chubby Wise-Universal Music Corporation ASCAP)
Long Lonesome Road (David Marshall-Mountain Home Music © 2004)
Distractions (Cynthia Richardson © 2008)
Second Page (Carmen Gibes © 2008)
Ridin' the Red Line (Rhonda Vincent/Terry Herd/Audie Blaylock-Sally Mountian Publishing
Sparkinator Publishing BMI)
Dueling Banjos (Eric Weissburg-WanerTamerline Publishing, Corp. BMI)
Will the Circle Be Unbroken (Ada Habershon/Charles Gabriel-Public Domain)



Down the Fast Lane

Released September 2007

TRACKS

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/catsfiddler>

If Wishes Were Horses (Gretchen Peters, WB Music Corp, ASCAP)



Send the Angels Down (Jerry Salley, Sheila Stephens, EMI Blackwood Inc., BMI)
Bluegrass Special (Bill Monroe, Peer International Corp, BMI)
Orphan Train (Traditional)
I Will See You on the Other Side of Jordan (Bill Castle, Yonder Hills, BMI)
Fiddlin' Around (Traditional)
The Master's Hand (Dolly Parton, Velvet Apple Music, BMI)
Bury Me Beneath the Weeping Willow (AP Carter, Peer Int. Corp, BMI)
Theme Time (Jimmy Martin, Sony/ATV Acuff-Rose Music OBO Roadrun, BMI)
Engine 464 (Neil Woodward, All Rights Reserved)
Calling You (Hank Williams, Acuff-Rose Music, BMI)
Down the Fast Lane (Shaun Richardson, All Rights Reserved)

Just Warmin' Up

Released September 2005

TRACKS

Keep on the Sunny Side (A.P. Carter, APRS, BMI)
Tallahassee (Bill Monroe, Copyright Control)
I'll Fly Away (Elbert E. Brumley & Sons SESAC)
Old Joe Clark (Traditional)
Red Clay Halo (Gillian Welch, Irving Music, BMI)
Victory Rag (Public Domain)
I Can See (Sandra Lee Cherryholmes, Spirit High Music, BMI)
Cripple Creek (Public Domain)
Catfish John (Allen Reynolds, Universal Songs of Polygram, Inc., BMI)
Black Mountain Rag (Arr. By Doc Watson, Stormking Music, BMI)
I Saw the Light (Hank Williams (Sony/ATV Acuff Rose Music, BMI)

