



Press Kit and Booking Information

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Contains:

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Available during the calendar year 2007-2008 for booking for concerts, festivals, conventions, schools, museums, dances and other events throughout the Southeast.

PERFORMERS

Tammy Murray: fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, vocals

Cathy DeWitt: guitar, piano, vocals

Janet Rucker: guitar, banjo, vocals

Jolene Jones: mandolin, percussion, vocals

Annie McPherson: acoustic bass

Blending the old with the new, Patchwork uses an acoustic string band format to play original Florida folk, old-time traditional music, bluegrass, forties swing, and rhythm & blues, all with extraordinary vocal harmonies. Featuring national award-winning banjoist and fiddler Tammy Murray, this talented group of women hails from Gainesville, and has been performing around Florida for eighteen years. Each member plays professionally in a variety of musical settings and genres, bringing her own unique talent and flavor to the mix. Janet Rucker, leader of a country band during the 80's, is an excellent singer and songwriter, whose song "Florida Home" was a winner in the Will McLean Foundation's Best New Florida Song several years ago. Cathy DeWitt has written two award-winning Florida songs — "Gamble's Song: the Waves Roll In" for the Gamble Rogers Festival, and "My Heart Belongs to Florida," for the 2005 Best New Florida Song contest, while her song "Everybody's Somebody's Child" was a Jazz category winner in Unisong's 2006 International Songwriting Contest. Music teacher Jolene Jones, who hits all the high notes, can sing anything from an operatic aria to a rockin' rhythm & blues tune. Bassist Annie McPherson, the newest member, is also an award-winning instrumentalist.

Emboldened by this variety of talent, Patchwork crosses many musical boundaries — broadening listeners' horizons, enlarging musical communities, and expanding audience awareness and appreciation of a variety of folklore genres. Combining entertainment with education, they demonstrate the difference between old-time and bluegrass style banjo, explain the significance of the oral tradition, and sing about Florida's cultural heritage and environmental treasures. The group's forte is their incredible vocal blend, along with creative arrangements and unique treatments of an eclectic assortment of songs, from Duke Ellington to the Dixie Chicks! They also cover tunes by Florida legends Will McLean, Don and Sue Grooms, and Frank Thomas, as well as their own original compositions.

With the intricate harmonies and sisterly rapport that can only come from years of singing together, Patchwork's performances are a delight to see and hear. They bring a spirit of camaraderie and fun to all their music, often inviting audience members to sing along, and children to join them onstage. Patchwork epitomizes the idea that "Girls just want to have fun"-- and they want to make sure everyone else does, too! For music that makes people feel like kickin' up their heels while managing to impart a bit of history and education at the same time, Patchwork is an unbeatable combination!



About the Girls

Tammy Murray

With several musical awards on her mantle, Tammy is the most versatile instrumentalist in the group. Among her many accomplishments are: Florida Rustic Fiddle and Twin Fiddle Champion, Florida Hammered Dulcimer Champion, National Old-Time Banjo Champion, and Florida Old-Time Female Solo Vocalist. She has performed in festivals and contests all over the country, as well as schools, museums, radio and television shows, theatrical productions, clubs and restaurants. In addition to releasing her own album, "Six White Horses," she also plays on several other Florida folk's albums, including Mark Johnson, Anna Moo (with Bo Diddley) and Fay Baird (of the Short Sisters). Carrying on the legacy of traditional music, she holds old-time jams for children, teaches music privately and is the music teacher at Gainesville Country Day School.

Janet Rucker

A multi-instrumentalist who plays guitar, piano, bass, and banjo, Janet is best-known for her distinctive voice, described by one producer as "fragile, yet powerful; vulnerable, yet confident." A veteran of countless bands, she is in high demand as a session singer at local recording studios. Her original songs compose a large part of Patchwork's repertoire, and her "Florida Home" was one of the winners in the Will McLean Best New Florida Song songwriting contest. She performed in the Hippodrome State Theatre's 1987 production of "Hair," and before forming Patchwork she toured the festival circuit from Colorado to Atlanta to Florida with her band, Country Love. Janet is a member of many bands, including Antidote.

Cathy DeWitt

An eclectic musician whose roots branch out from classical and folk music to jazz, Cathy plays piano and guitar and sings. Several of her original compositions are on the Patchwork songlist, including "The Waves Roll In," a winner in the 1999 Gamble Rogers Song Contest. She has played at clubs and festivals throughout the state for over twenty years, including the Florida Folk Festival. She performed with Florida legends Will McLean and Don Grooms, and has sung with Tom Paxton, Dave Frishberg, Garrison Keillor, and others. In addition to hosting "Across the Prairie," a popular folk music program on WUFT, Cathy is the Music Director/musician in residence for the Arts-in-Medicine program at Shands Hospital, and presents national workshops on music and healing. She won the National League of American Penwomen (Gainesville branch) Award for Music in 2000.

Jolene Stone Jones

A graduate of the University of Florida's music program, Jolene is in demand for her wide vocal range. Her soaring harmonies and rhythmic mandolin playing are a distinctive part of Patchwork's sound. She has performed in several local bands, as well as in the University of Florida production of "Madame Butterfly." A music teacher, she has presented various workshops at festivals and schools throughout the area, and her high harmony vocals have graced many a studio project.

Annie McPherson

Annie grew up playing music and singing, influenced by her mother who was a trained vocalist and piano player. An eclectic musician, she won 2nd place in mandolin and 2nd place in beginning banjo at the Old Time Music Championships in 2001, and started playing acoustic bass with Patchwork in 2006! She also sings, plays piano, and loves to play bluegrass and old time, swing standards and country music with her husband David Cook.



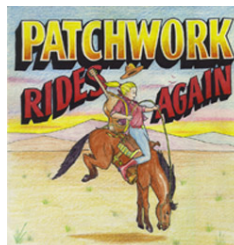
Performance History

Patchwork has added their original Florida feel to special events at the Appleton Museum in Ocala, the Cummer Museum in Jacksonville, and the Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. They are regulars at the Sunday Sampler in Dunnellon, the Will McLean Festival in Dade City, the Gamble Rogers Festival in St. Augustine, and the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs, the longest continuously running folk festival in the country. The group has been broadcast live several times on PBS television, NPR and Florida Public Radio. Their professional ease onstage, instrumental prowess, and beautifully blended voices have made them a favorite at festivals and other special events throughout the state, from Tallahassee to Tampa to Titusville.

During their fifteen year touring history, the band has played in the following Florida counties: Alachua, Marion, Gilchrist, Levy, Columbia, Suwannee, Hillsborough, Clay, Putnam, Volusia, St. Johns, Duval, Brevard, Broward, Bradford, Union, Pasco, Flagler, Polk, Orange, Lake, and Pinellas. They have opened for Rosalie Sorrels and shared the stage with John McEwan and John Hall. They have donated their talent to benefit environmental causes, arts organizations, and healthcare programs like Stop Children's Cancer and Shands Arts in Medicine.

Discography

Patchwork Rides Again! (2006)



Patchwork Live! In Concert (1996)



Available at www.patchwork.us and www.CDbaby.com



PATCHWORK RECEIVES RAVE REVIEWS!

"Stunning, soaring vocals—This group is a crowd pleaser every time!"
Bill Hutchinson, Cultural Affairs Entertainment Director, City of Gainesville.

"Patchwork is a Florida treasure of no small magnitude." Scott Barnes, concert reviewer, *Moon* magazine.

"I've been to all the major Florida folk and bluegrass festivals, and nobody in the state can sing like these women." Rob Rothschild, RSD Studios.

"Patchwork has it all going on: impeccable musicianship, great songs, creative arrangements and the sterling harmonies of women who have shared life, music and friendship for over two decades. Their high spirits and passion for life effervesces and flows through their music, infusing their audience. These charismatic women leave you humming along and tapping your feet long after the last note has been strummed. We'd book 'em in a Minnesota minute."

Greg and Kiki Webb, hosts
Saturday Cafe Concert Series
Longville, Minnesota

*"Great harmonies--and lots of good old-fashioned musical energy!
Loved having them on the show."*
Bill Dudley, host, Community Radio WMNF, Tampa
Live Music Showcase

"Acoustic musician Tammy Murray is playing her part in a small-scale war, helping to defend endangered music like folk, bluegrass and old-time country. Armed with 10 different instruments and five live bands, this very busy performer is taking a stand, and making a name for herself both in and out of Gainesville..." Steve Nix, *Gainesville Sun* correspondent.

"YOU GUYS WERE THE BEST THING I HEARD ALL WEEKEND!"
UNKNOWN LISTENER AT THE FLORIDA FOLK FESTIVAL, 2004.

"A rousing and thoughtful experience!"
Donna Green-Townsend, Features Producer, WUFT-FM