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Bluegrass Express

JACK DWYER

And the Bluegrass Family that Built his Musical Home

by Cecelia Thomas

Have you ever wished you had been born into a family that played bluegrass music as a bond that sang in harmony and traveled together in a van stuffed with music gear? Can you imagine the fun adventures, the pleasure meeting and playing with new and old friends, the beautiful places you would see, spend with plenty of logistical adversity to keep it real, and that you became a musical musician by your mid-twenties because you had actually spent those formative teen years practicing hard, breaking gigs, performing on stage and collecting money at the end of the night?

Jack Dwyer will tell you that he's happy to have learned all the practical skills needed to front and hold together a family band, along with sleeping in, driving school, and making road trips. This includes the joys of finding good food, good camping places, lucrative booking spots, but also in Jack's case, it provided incredible opportunities to study and play with musical heroes and legends all along the way—some famous, all of them generous.

To appreciate Jack's music is to see his incredible talent and ability as a steadfast talent and reasonable player in multiple genres, and to understand it

from the dance of adventurous parents, dedicated to shaping the lives and talents of their children, but so Jack's upcoming parents fell and closely related, the inspiration and driving force of The Dwyer Family Band was always Jack. They say the band grew from Jack's love of his close musical family and his drive to lead that self-identified family into the greater world. The Dwyer Family Band had a lot of fun, they worked really hard, they played a lot and they inspired many with their love during those years.

While home-packing gear in Portland for his second Alaskan teaching and performance tour, Jack expressed gratitude for the generosity and inspiration of many influential older musicians he encountered on his path, not only as teachers and artists, but also for their friendship and goodwill. These enduring connections have continued to provide this 23-year-old multi-instrumentalist with opportuni-

ties and experiences a musician never fully appreciated every. Jack would be the first to credit his skill to his teachers. As a dedicated musician, Jack has been



in the context of this theme of growing within a musical family deeply rooted in bluegrass. One might assume that a family bluegrass band would develop

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