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Bluegrass Express

Fiddling Around The Globe

By Gabe Lurie

Ellie Hakanson has left her hometown to tour with Jeff Scroggins and Colorado

When the time is or not, a large number of Portland Bluegrass fans will always remember Ellie Hakanson as a confident, charming fiddler just playing the fiddle on a hill in her family forest. While still in her teens, she developed a rich singing voice, and she would soon be with her interpretation of Patsy Cline's "Walking After Midnight."

But we also knew her as level-headed and practical, as it was no surprise when she accepted a full scholarship and completed a rigorous academic college degree. And when she came back to Portland, she had a very practical job: assisting orthopedists for compliance with education research practices.

But then, we also weren't surprised when one of the most exciting bluegrass bands to come along in a while picked Ellie up and invited her to tour with them.

So today, Ellie is fresh out of the

recording studio and on her way to our fiddler and fiddle sessions and fiddle as a fiddler and singer with Jeff Scroggins and Colorado.

They meet – and trial by fire

Ellie's history has been recorded well on these pages, so we'll skip to her first

meeting with the Scroggins crew.

Ellie attended Wintergreen in 2014 and spent time with her old fiddling friend Sam Wilson, who had performed with Brian Scroggins. Ellie joined with Brian and his fellow band members in Jeff Scroggins and Colorado and found

they were on the same musical wavelength.

When the band needed a fiddler for the Cascade Bluegrass Festival in British Columbia, they invited Ellie to join them. Ellie remembers two highlights. First, guitar on the road. Cascade is noted for a state with growing guitar on stage.

Second, although Ellie had some time to prepare with the band, she didn't have a lot of time to prepare. So when they were on stage and pulled out one of Jeff's original instruments



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