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Casey and Chris and the Two-Stringers, the sibling-fronted young traditional bluegrass band out of Nashville, Tenn., play hard-driving original material, fast and furious instrumentals, and display a joy in performing that audiences love. In the bluegrass community today, many bands sound so similar as to be indistinguishable. Casey and Chris's music is distinct and instantly recognizable and they are gaining fans at every show they play. Casey (banjo) and Chris (mandolin) are joined by Tyler Grant on guitar and Jon Weieberger on bass.

Although young in years, sister and brother **Casey and Chris Henry** have already played professionally for thirteen years in their family band, Red and Murphy and their Excellent Children. The Two-Stringers represent the first time they have stepped out as band leaders to develop their own brand of bluegrass music. **Casey** has studied Earl Scruggs extensively and her playing reflects his influence, as well as that of J.D. Crowe and Ralph Stanley, along with some twists and turns of her own. **Chris** is the best Monroe-style interpreter of his generation. His playing embodies the fire and grit with which Monroe played, with heavy doses of Frank Wakefield, Red Henry, and David McLaughlin. Chris is also a prolific songwriter and composes instrumentals with enviable ease. Two-Stringers feature many of his originals.

Casey and Chris appeal to a wide variety of people. Young folks and casual new-to-bluegrass fans identify with their age and catchy self-penned songs; die-hard traditionalists appreciate their deep knowledge of, and love for, bluegrass and its roots. Fans of the band consistently comment on Casey and Chris's close sibling harmonies. Brother duets have peppered the history of bluegrass and country music; sister-brother duets are more rare, but they seek to change that. Chris's athletic instrumental feats always attract attention and crowds respond enthusiastically to their choice of material and easy interaction with the audience.

The Two-Stringers' first album, *Get Along Girl* (Arrandem Records, AR-170), was released in May 2006. The summer touring season will see them travel from Pennsylvania to Florida, and on the Delta Queen riverboat. If audiences have half as much fun watching Casey and Chris as they have playing together, they're sure to be a hit.

www.twostringers.com

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Casey Henry, born in Gainesville, Fla., relocated to Winchester, Va., with her family when she was eight. She joined her parents' band playing bass at fourteen. A year later she took up the banjo and never looked back. Throughout high school and college Casey played with several local Virginia bands and taught banjo in Charlottesville. Upon graduating from the University of Virginia in May 2000 with a BA in English and Women's Studies, Casey put out her first banjo CD, *Real Women Drive Trucks*, which was greeted with much critical praise.

Since relocating to Nashville, Tenn., in early 2001 Casey has played with Uncle Earl, the Jim Hurst Band, June Carter Cash, and Tennessee Heartstrings. She teaches one Murphy Method instructional video called *Melodic Banjo*. Casey also writes for *Bluegrass Unlimited*, *Banjo Newsletter*, and *Bluegrass Now*, and gives banjo lessons in Nashville.

Chris Henry started playing mandolin when he was nine and added the guitar a couple of years later. At age twelve he joined Casey in their parents' band. They recorded two projects as a family and he also played on Casey's *Real Women Drive Trucks* CD. In high school Chris took up drums and put together a rock band called the Bends. They played loud, fast, and wrote all their own material.

Chris moved to Nashville in late 2003 where he has worked with Dave Peterson and 1946, and Audie Blaylock and Redline. Chris concurrently worked on his own musical projects, including a solo CD entitled *Monroe Approved*, which will be released on Arrandem Records in mid-2006. Much of Chris's time is spent composing and writing songs, and he has produced several rap CDs for himself and others in his home studio. He has recorded one instructional video for the Murphy Method, *Bill Monroe Style Mandolin*. He also gives lessons on mandolin and guitar in Nashville.

Tyler Grant graduated from California Institute of the Arts in 2000 with a degree in instrumental music performance. There he studied with such luminaries as Miroslav Tadic, Stuart Fox, Larry Koonse, Wadada Leo Smith, and Charlie Haden. A tasteful and versatile guitarist, Tyler's musical expertise covers such styles as bluegrass, old-time country, rock, folk, jazz, r&b, and reggae. A native of San Diego, Calif., Tyler now lives in Nashville, Tenn., where he has toured with international acts Adrienne Young and Little Sadie, April Verch, and Abigail Washburn. In addition to playing with the Two-Stringers, Tyler plays with the Drew Emmitt Band. A solo CD titled *Into the Light* is scheduled for a June 2006 release.

Country and bluegrass journalist **Jon Weisberger** has earned two IBMA awards (Print Media Person of the Year in 2000 and Best Liner Notes for John Duffey's *Always In Style*) for his writing, but he's also spent more than a decade as a bluegrass performer. Born in Ohio, he earned a music degree in California and lived in New York before returning to the midwest in the early 1980s. Together with Dwight McCall he formed Union Springs in 1992, releasing three well-received CDs, including *Next Train Headed South* (Copper Creek). In 1999, he joined The Wildwood Valley Boys, touring extensively and appearing on their *I'm A Believer* CD, and as the Cincinnati area's first-call bass player, he recorded and/or performed with a host of area groups, as well as bluegrass legends Jimmy Martin and Hazel Dickens. He moved to Nashville at the beginning of 2003 where he regularly appears with Chris Jones and the Nightdrivers, the April Verch Band, and Casey and Chris and the Two-Stringers.



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DJ Comments--on "Two Hands On The Wheel":

"Excellent, excellent, excellent." Phil Hodgen, KBOO/KWHT

"This band is loaded with talent. The instrumentation belies their age and the vocals show great potential. Listeners definitely need to keep an eye out for this band." Wayne Bledsoe, KUMR

"This cut falls into the 'pleasant surprise' category. Not only because it's a neat song, but because it's performed by neat people. Casey and Chris, of course, have tremendous musical heritage. Wonderfully talented musicians representing the new breed (like Nickel Creek)." Rich Baker, WOSU

DJ Comments--on the EP:

"I first heard of this band when their cover of Nancy Pate's "Two Hands on the Wheel" was included on Prime Cuts of Bluegrass Volume 75. The members of this young Nashville-based quartet may only be in their twenties, but their splashy music is indicative of their many years of bluegrass involvement. Chris and Casey Henry are brother and sister; their parents are Red and Murphy Henry. For years, they played as a family band (Red and Murphy and their Excellent Children) and recorded a couple albums together. Now, Casey (banjo) and Chris (mandolin) have teamed with Amanda Kowalski (bass) and Tyler Grant (guitar). Casey sings "Sound I Hear" with an old-timey flair in her voice, while Chris's lead vocals have a softer edge on a song like his original "Boxcar Door." He also composed the feisty instrumental closer, "Gallatin," which moves lickety-split to this 15-minute album's early conclusion. A full-length CD is expected by the end of 2005.

"Casey and Chris and the Two-Stringers serve up an enterprising and energetic performance. These kids are full of grassy gumption, and this 5-song project is a great showcase of their high potential and a clear indication of their bright future as bluegrass musicians. Expect to see them at a festival near you after they hit the road full time." Joe Ross