PHILLYGRASS

PRESS KIT



Phillygrass is a Philadelphia bluegrass band built on hard-driving rhythm, precision picking, and tight three-part harmony, playing traditional and contemporary bluegrass, burning instrumentals, and a few jazz-flavored surprises.

The band

Pat Farrell	Guitar	**Ben Krakauer**	Banjo
Jeff Westerinen	Fiddle & Mandolin	**Chris Coyle**	Upright Bass

Watch

- Beating Around the Bush
- Blue Ridge Cabin Home
- Kentucky Waltz
- Girl from West Virginia

Where we've played

- Moorestown Bluegrass Festival
- Medford Street Fest
- Bonk's Bar Irish Fest
- Parks on Tap at Borski Park
- Farmtruck Brewing, Punchbuggy Brewing, Twelve78 Brewing, Bourbon & Branch

Booking

phillygrassmusic@gmail.com · 215-469-1940

Festivals, breweries and bars, weddings, and private events.



Bios

Pat Farrell

Guitar

Pat is a Philadelphia-based Bluegrass musician and bandleader dedicated to advancing the tradition through high level musicianship and modern energy. With formal training in Jazz Performance from Temple University, Farrell brings an improvisational approach, rhythmic precision, and deep ensemble awareness to Bluegrass music, grounding his work in tradition while allowing room for exploration. He is currently focusing his efforts on performing and leading his band, Phillygrass, a project rooted in Bluegrass tradition and shaped by the intensity of Philadelphia's music scene. Pat's broader musical background includes work in Post-Rock and underground Punk bands. He performed as part of a house band at Chris' Jazz Café from 2023 to 2024 and as the bassist/occasional guitarist for The Cheddar Boys, alongside whom he performed at the Windgap Bluegrass Festival and the Philadelphia Music Festival at Milkboy. Farrell is also a standby member of the Philadelphia Bluegrass and Oldtime group Noggin Hill.

Ben Krakauer

Banjo

Ben is a banjo player and composer rooted in bluegrass, jazz, and new acoustic music. He has toured with David Grisman, was a founding member of Old School Freight Train, and has recorded for Acoustic Disc, Adhyâropa Records, CMH Records, and the Fiddle Masters series. His solo albums, Heart Lake (2019) and Hidden Animals (2023), feature original compositions for banjo, fiddle, bass, drums, and cello. Ben is also an ethnomusicologist and Assistant Professor of Music and Chair of the music department at Warren Wilson College.

Jeff Westerinen

Fiddle & Mandolin

Jeff has played Bluegrass and Old Time music professionally for over 40 years. A native Marylander with an itinerant history, Jeff has played fiddle, mandolin and bass in regional bands from New York, Florida, South Carolina and Washington State before moving back to Maryland in September of 2014. He is a veteran of the five-time New York State champion Yankee Rebels and the year 2000 International Bluegrass Music (Pizza Hut) Champion Ohop Valley Boys. A true multi-instrumentalist, Jeff is also known to play a fiddle tune on a mandolin, flatpick a guitar or pick up a banjo to play a breakdown or two.

Chris Coyle

Upright Bass

Chris has performed with a wide array of other dynamic ensembles: Son Step, NotSoSilentCinema, Fish Harmonics, Noggin Hill, Oscuro Quintet, Conjunto Philadelphia, West Philadelphia Orchestra, and Rhinoceri Trio, among others. As a composer, Chris blends chamber writing with electro-acoustic sounds and uses harmony and form to explore musical ambiguity. He has been recognized by the American Composers Forum, the McKnight Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Chris has performed and done workshops all over the Midwest and Northeast US, in Canada, Germany, and South Korea.

Book Phillygrass: phillygrassmusic@gmail.com · 215-469-1940