

the HAZARDS



Hazards began as a duo featuring Matt Geiger on guitar and Eric Knowles on banjo, playing and singing the music they loved: traditional bluegrass and mountain music from the Appalachians. The partnership goes back some six years; both were prominently featured in two well-received bluegrass bands—first Clearspring, about which the Frederick News-Post wrote, “These men go beyond the town of capable and wind up somewhere near the city of exceptional”, then with The Lovesick Hillbillies, which won second place in DCBU’s Mid-Atlantic Bluegrass Band competition, and was hailed by well-known bluegrass critic Ed Henry as “a force to be reckoned with.”

Matt and Eric’s fiery vocals and picking have a compelling sound and feel that one rarely encounters these days, their vocals and instrumental work woven together like the those of the early classic brother duets.

Performing regularly as a duo at a small brewery in Brunswick, Maryland, Eric and Matt began to attract not only an enthusiastic following of fans, but also other like-minded and very talented musicians: Gregg Bowers came in on mandolin and vocals, followed shortly by Dave Repass on bass, and lastly, Mark Baker on dobro and vocals. Some of it was fate, but each new member possessed the same rare rhythmic “feel” and drive. The outcome was astonishing to experience... the same “magical” quality of the great bluegrass bands, an irresistible “force to be reckoned with”!

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ERIC KNOWLES, vocals, banjo, and guitar

Raised in Virginia but now a resident of Maryland, Eric Knowles is a powerful but primarily self-taught musician. After a year of piano lessons from his mother, his deep love of string music began to emerge. He began learning guitar, but soon shifted his focus to banjo at the age of sixteen. His early influences were Earl Scruggs and Ralph Stanley, and he began “sneaking in” (he was under age) to the famed Birchmere Restaurant on Thursday nights to see banjoist Ben Eldridge with the Seldom Scene. He began to develop a hard-driving style that, while retaining all of the spirit of his mentors, was also something uniquely his own. During this time he entered his first banjo competition and came in first place. Two years later, at the age of eighteen, he was hired as banjo player and vocalist for the Rush River Band, based in Arlington, Virginia. Since then, he has worked with groups including the American Bluegrass Band, Clearspring, and The Lovesick Hillbillies.



MATTHEW GEIGER, vocals and guitar

A talented bluegrass rhythm and lead guitarist, Matthew also brings his unique but very authentic and compelling “High Lonesome” voice to The Hazards. Raised in a family of musical talent, he was exposed to a variety of musical genres. Influential musicians include: Carter & Ralph Stanley, Don Reno, Eddie Adcock, James King, Tony Rice, and Red Allen.

Raised in Damascus, Maryland he now resides in Union Bridge, Maryland.

Matthew has been performing together with Eric for the past six years, and during that time they have developed a closely-knit rhythmic and vocal style that brings to mind some of the great brother duets of the past. Previous bands include the Lovesick Hillbillies, Clearspring, and the Lonesome Valley Mountaineers.

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GREGG BOWERS, vocals and mandolin

Gregg's mandolin work is a huge factor in creating the powerful rhythmic drive of The Hazards. He also contributes lead and background vocals, and has an outgoing stage personality. A well-known musician on the local bluegrass scene, he brings much experience from his work with well-established regional bluegrass bands. Starting with guitar at age fourteen, lately he has focused his impressive rhythmic and melodic techniques on the mandolin, with exciting results! Gregg's major inspirations are his wife of 40 years, and his family. He loves nature and good old traditional bluegrass music. Gregg makes his home in Inwood, West Virginia.



DAVID REPASS, bass

An unsurpassed bassist, Dave provides the bottom half of The Hazards' secret formula for creating an irresistible beat. His rhythmic feel and sense of timing is fundamental to our sound... you feel the beat in your heart and soul.

Dave has an impressive background in music, and has worked with a number of well-known bands, including Ernie Bradley and Grassy Ridge, Lost highway, and the Little Nashville Band.

He began playing bass at age ten, listening to the music of The Johnson Mountain Boys, as well as everything from 1980s rock to blues, Texas swing, and rockabilly.

Dave is a resident of Hagerstown, Maryland.



MARK BAKER, dobro

Mark was born in Washington D.C., but has lived in Maryland his entire life. He began playing the Dobro in 1975, studying under the Seldom Scene's legendary Dobro player, Mike Auldridge. Mark is one of the top dobroists in the area and is a well-seasoned bluegrass veteran, having played in some of the Washington, D.C. area's best regional bluegrass bands. In addition to his perfectly executed and masterful guitar work, Mark provides a wonderful voice to The Hazards.

Along with the Dobro, Mark is an accomplished player of the Great Highland Bagpipe.

He is married with two children and resides in Brookeville, Md.

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PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE VENUES



CACTUS FLATS

10026 Hansonville Rd, Frederick, MD 21702

Contact: Donna Palmer

Phone: (301) 898-3085



THIRD THURSDAY CONCERT SERIES

Shab Row Everedy Square, Frederick, MD 21702

Contact: Apple Reese

Phone: (240) 422-6120



SMOKETOWN BREWING STATION

223 W Potomac St, Brunswick, MD 21716

Contact: Kathy Martin

Phone: (301) 834-4828



BEANS IN THE BELFRY

122 W Potomac St, Brunswick, MD 21716

Contact: Hanna Politis

Phone: (301) 834-7178

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UPCOMING PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	VENUE	ADDRESS
Wednesday	Mar. 8	6:30-9:30	Smoketown Brewing Station	223 W Potomac St, Brunswick, MD 21716
Wednesday	Mar. 22	6:30-9:30	Smoketown Brewing Station	223 W Potomac St, Brunswick, MD 21716
Saturday	Apr. 1	1:00-3:00	1-year Anniversary Celebration of Smoketown	223 W Potomac St, Brunswick, MD 21716
Wednesday	Apr. 12	6:30-9:30	Smoketown Brewing Station	223 W Potomac St, Brunswick, MD 21716
Saturday	Apr. 15	5:30-8:30	Everedy Sq./Shab Row Outdoor Concert Series	Everedy Square and Shab Row, Frederick, MD
Saturday	Apr. 22	5:00-8:00	Milkhouse Brewery	8253 Dollyhyde Rd, Mt Airy, MD 21771
Sunday	May 21	12:00-3:00	Mad Science Brewing	Thanksgiving Farms 1619 Buckeystown Pike, Adamstown, MD 21710
Wednesday	June 21	9:00-1:00	The Blue Side	Frederick, MD
Wednesday	July 19	5:00-8:00	Barley and Hops	Riverview Plaza, 5473 Urbana Pike, Frederick, MD 21704
Saturday	Aug. 19	7:00-10:30	Rocky Ridge Carnival	13527 Motters Station Rd, Rocky Ridge, MD 21778