



Appalatin Bio

Appalatin's foot-stomping, hip-swinging sounds organically unite Appalachian folk and high-energy Latin music. The name, Appalatin, reflects the unexpected meeting in Louisville, KY of Kentucky-raised musicians and masterful Latin émigrés from Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. Their all-acoustic performances of traditional stings of guitar, mandolin, upright bass, and charango, indigenous Andean flutes, hand percussion, harmonica and vocal harmonies have brought joy and happiness to listeners of all ages.

In May of 2013, the band released its second studio album, *Waterside*. The album features original music and interpretations of traditional songs from their native regions of Kentucky, Central America, and the Andes. On the new album, Appalatin follows their instincts with a bilingual shift between languages, styles, and vibes. From the seriously Americana-inflected title track "Down by the Waterside" and "Danville Breakdown", to upbeat acoustic Latin "La Linea", to the outright Andean traditional tune "Alpa Mayo" and Fernando Moya's Quechua contribution, "Ñuka Shungo," Appalatin's infectiously danceable tunes spring from the band's shared love of roots music.

After starting out playing a weekly show at a local coffee shop for free coffee in 2006, the band has since performed at some of their region's most prestigious stages and venues. Since the release of their first album in 2011, the band has shared the stage with Red Baraat, Sam Bush, Claire Lynch, The Black Lilies, Dubtonic Kru, Ben Sollee, and Andrea Davidson. They have performed at the RiverRoots Music and Folk Arts Festival (IN), CityFolk Festival (OH), Worldfest (KY), Culturefest (WV), and in May of 2013, they had the honor of performing before 10,000+ people in Louisville's Yum! Center at the Dalai Lama's Public Talk. They have also appeared on radio shows such as Michael Jonathon's Woodsongs Old-Time Radio Hour, Red Barn Radio, 91.9 FM WFPK's "Live Lunch", Kentucky Homefront and were featured on West Virginia Public Radio's "Inside Appalachia." In addition, the track "Alpa Mayo" from their *Waterside* album has appeared on PRI's "The World."

In the last half of 2013, the band is expanding their reach beyond Louisville with regional shows and festivals, preparing for upcoming showcases, and filming a new official music video. They are also in the process of working with producer Tom Thurman for the PBS affiliate Kentucky Educational Television documentary film on the band.

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/bio/#sthash.e3qbcjmN.dpuf>

Fernando Moya - Indigenous Flutes and Charango

Fernando is a native of Quito, Ecuador, and master musician of indigenous instruments from the Andean Mountains in South America. He has performed with the highly acclaimed music ensemble Andes Manta and toured throughout Ecuador and parts of the U.S., including a performance in Carnegie Hall.

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/bio/#sthash.e3qbcjmN.dpuf>



Yani Vozos - Guitar, Mandolin, Vocals

Yani, born to a Greek father and Kentucky mother grew up on a farm in Estill County and later Richmond, KY. He brings to the group his guitar talents honed early as a student of blues phenom Kelly Richey and later during his university studies in Pittsburgh and eventually with travels throughout the world including a Peace Corp experience in Honduras.

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/bio/#sthash.e3qbcjmN.dpuf>



Marlon Obando - Guitar, Vocals

Marlon, a native of Nicaragua, brings his Central American and Caribbean influence to the group through his songwriting. Marlon learned to play traditional Nicaraguan folk music with his brothers, fine tuned his skills as a protest singer, and founded the group Ocarina in Nicaragua.

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/bio/#sthash.e3qbcjmN.dpuf>



Luis De Leon - Harmonica, Güiro, Timbales, Maracas, Percussion

Luis is originally from Mexico and Guatemala. A professional journalist, Luis got started with music in Guatemala City with flamenco, rock, blues and folk bands. He has participated in dance and theatre performances in festivals in Mexico, Berlin and Guatemala.

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/bio/#sthash.e3qbcjmN.dpuf>



Steve Sizemore - Congas, Bongos, Cajón

Steve was born in Hazard, Kentucky where he began his musical journey at an early age playing the piano. He has studied and performed in various ensemble styles of percussion, including West African and Brazilian samba. Through his study and living abroad in Chile and Argentina, he expanded his knowledge of Andean and other Latin American styles. Steve is also a professional urban planner and adjunct instructor at the University of Louisville.

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/bio/#sthash.e3qbcjmN.dpuf>



José Oreta - Bass

José is a native of Appalachia. He began playing bass at the age of 13, and his passion for music has remained steadfast. His musical background includes extensive study of jazz, bluegrass, and Brazilian music.

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/bio/#sthash.e3qbcjmN.dpuf>



PRESS AND REVIEWS

CD Review: Waterside by Appalatin (Self-produced 2013)

Review by Bill Tilford, all rights reserved

(This review was originally prepared for our Nuestros Primos Musicales section, which covers music of interest to our readers that may not always fall under a strict definition of Cuban music)



When people who have never experienced Kentucky think about music from there, more often than not, Bluegrass and Country music will be the first things that come to mind, but there are some fine Jazz musicians there, at least three very good Salsa bands and a growing Latin American community (especially in the Louisville-Lexington corridor) that is giving birth to some interesting bands including Appalatin. This group fuses Andean instruments (charango, a member of the lute family, and sapañas, a form of Andean flutes) with harmonicas, guitars and Caribbean percussion and cajón in a mix of Andean music, Appalachian and "roots" music and cumbia among other things.

Don't run - this is actually very pleasant. The group has been around for seven years. After seeing it live, this writer suspects the sapañas artist, Mr. Moya, of owning a nice Jazz collection, and if artists like Bob Dylan, a good roots band, a good Cumbia band and a good Andean folkloric group had been locked away in a room with instructions to jam until they came up with something that worked, the results might not have been all that far away from this.

This studio album is a little more genre-focused within individual tracks than the live performances, which sometimes veer off in pleasantly-surprising directions without notice (more of that would have been perfectly welcome here), but it is still both fused and different enough to be worth mentioning, especially if you like Andean folk music, Appalachian folk music, "regular" American folk or country music or Cumbia, in which case we would also say that it is worth a listen - it is spirited and fun, and the mix actually elevates some of its source material at times. Their take on My Old Kentucky Home really is unique, and bachateros would dig Mañana Un Sol Dirá. Audiences in the United States will be hearing more from this group as the future unfolds.

February 15, 2013

Melissa Chipman - Insider Louisville

Appalatin 'guarantees happiness' and turns to Kickstarter to support their second album

"Louisville doesn't dance" was the topic of discussion this morning at the Insider Louisville World Headquarters.

And it's kind of true, isn't it?

Granted, I come to Louisville from the dancing-est city in America, New Orleans, but it is pretty striking how rooted people are at live shows.

Sure you have your random hula hoopers at every Waterfront Wednesday and there's always "that guy" at Headliners who is busting a move (whom, we discovered today, may or may not be contributor Michael Tierney at any given concert), but for the most part people are pretty stoney.

Not so at your average Appalatin show. At an Appalatin show, the band "guarantees happiness," and at least some of that happiness comes in the form of shaking your groove thing.

You kind of can't not dance to this Appalachian-Latin fusion band.

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/pressreviews/#sthash.BvJlQ7NZ.dpuf>

May 29, 2013

Lara Kinne - LEO Weekly

Appalatin spreads the love around

Mountains are the common link between the six members of Appalatin, who each took a different path to arrive in Louisville before the turn of the aughts.

Yani Vozos, Kentucky-born, picked up Spanish while living in Honduras on a Peace Corps trip. His lingual education wasn't far off from Marlon Obando's upbringing in Nicaragua. On this common ground, they wrote songs containing both Spanish and English lyrics.

Fernando Moya was already engrossed in performance with the traditional Andean group Andes Manta before extending his skills on wooden flutes and charango in Appalatin.

Steve Sizemore perhaps described it best when he said, "It just entered my soul," about his experience living in South America from '99-01. Now he bangs out on the bongos, conga and cajón drums, which are a heavy hip-shaking enticer of their African percussion selection.

Louis de Leon is the one you hear wailing on harmonica, something he picked up living in Guatemala. He also plays additional percussion, which he pulls out of a sticker-plastered suitcase filled with African instruments.

They all crossed paths in 2009, individually led by a connection with Latin culture and their destination of Louisville. Sharing a love for the rich Afro-Cuban allure of Buena Vista Social Club, the band merged their colorful backgrounds into a spread of Andean-inspired blues, using indigenous flutes as counterparts to harmonica and acoustic folk flairs. They are a fusion band of both language and style, proving that, when it comes to the roots, Latin America is a doppelganger.

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/pressreviews/#sthash.tzahnWLH.dpuf>

December 21, 2010

Alexander Campbell - Louisville Music News

"There is a band a bit hidden in the shadows here locally, in Louisville, but also not yet visible in what ought to be its spot on the national scene, here in the United States. Nesting in Louisville since 2006, slowly taking its time to form and blossom, Appalatin is comprised of six working professionals who haven't quit their day jobs — two native Kentuckians and four immigrant Kentuckians from Latin America, who do a lot of professional-quality music in their spare time."

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/pressreviews/#sthash.tzahnWLH.dpuf>

July 13, 2011

Damien McPherson - LEO Weekly

"Appalatin is an accidental band that, in all likelihood, never should have become a reality, at least not in Louisville. How six guys found their way from all over the world to meet here with a shared love of Latin music and mountain folk is serendipitous, indeed."

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/pressreviews/#sthash.tzahnWLH.dpuf>

December 28, 2011

Sean Bailey and Peter Berkowitz - LEO Weekly

"Exactly what you may or may not expect from a group of guys hailing from geographic locations such as Ecuador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Guatemala ... not to mention Hazard, Richmond and Louisville, Ky. Appalatin fluently combine the sounds and styles indigenous to Latin music with that of Appalachian folk music, transcending into its own unique amalgamation of truly global music."

- See more at: <http://www.appalatin.com/pressreviews/#sthash.tzahnWLH.dpuf>