



**"A sound that breaks rules, bends genres, and blends contrasts into harmonies."**

Alaska is a land of contradictions – mountains and oceans, hippies and rednecks, cities amid wilderness, auroras in the darkness – this is the land of the midnight sun. Hailing from Fairbanks, at the heart of the biggest state in the union, Fiddlehead Red is an acoustic band that seems to thrive on this contrast and to translate it effectively into great music.

In their two short years together, Fiddlehead Red has developed a sound that breaks rules, bends genres, and blends contrast into harmony. With innovative takes on old roots, the band's solid base in folk and bluegrass is made fresh with notes of jazz, rockabilly, pop, blues, country, classical, old time, swing, and on occasion even gangsta rap and grunge. This is a sound that is hard to classify, harder to resist, and a shame to pigeonhole into just one genre. This may be a kind of music that requires a genre of its own. Roots fusion? Far North Americana? Outlaw folk? Blue-ass? The Last Frontier of acoustic music? Whatever it is, it's a whole lot of fun.

The band's sound is a result of the broad range of musical backgrounds and styles that each player has brought to it. It's the result of years of classical training, bluegrass jams, the acoustic traditions of Alaska, and a steady listening diet of every kind of music from Bach to Cypress Hill. There is no front man here – this is a group of musicians that takes collaboration seriously and revels in the diversity of its influences.

Shiloh Parkerson-Gray's soulful, rich, and

unflinching vocals allow the band a vast array of colors and moods. Mandy Booth's punchy, rock-solid bass playing, on both electric and stand-up is the band's rollicking, steadfast engine. Andrew Parkerson-Gray's lively and nimble guitar playing drives the band in its bright melodies and unique, delightfully unexpected rhythms. Rachel DeTemple's alternately complex and achingly sweet fiddle riffs dart among and between the melodic lines, stitching the songs together. The result is a polished blend of styles and sound that is raucous, witty, and emotionally genuine.

Fiddlehead Red has a musical span as wide as the swing of Northern seasons, yet they

bring a unity and precision to their sound that make listening to them as satisfying as a down comforter at 40 below. They are just as comfortable playing a feisty rendition of "You Are My Sunshine" as they are a banjo cover of Rage Against the Machine's "Killing in the Name," or an original tune commemorating the life and sudden death in 2008 of Dan Ison, their beloved and virtuosic mandolin player. Their original tunes, whether they be about whiskey, travel, or snow, cover the emotional range and musical tastes of any audience. There's something here for everyone.

With their deft playing, tight harmonies, infectious song-writing, and highly original covers, Fiddlehead Red is a band to catch on their way up. Look for their forthcoming album, "When Snow Becomes Sun" in mid-June 2009.

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