

Monroe Crossing
www.monroecrossing.com

MUSICAL DESCRIPTION

Celebrating their 10th year together in 2010, **Monroe Crossing** dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and heartfelt originals. Their airtight harmonies, razor sharp arrangements, and on-stage rapport make them audience favorites across the United States and Canada.

SHORT BIO (275 words)

Named in honor of Bill Monroe, “The Father of Bluegrass Music,” **Monroe Crossing** dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and heartfelt originals. Their airtight harmonies, razor sharp arrangements, and on-stage rapport make them audience favorites across the United States and Canada.

Based in Minnesota, the group plays an average of 125 shows a year at major venues and festivals, frequently for non-bluegrass audiences — and people often comment that they’d never really liked bluegrass music until they attended a Monroe Crossing concert!

Monroe Crossing is made up of five very distinct personalities with differing musical backgrounds and tastes, combining for a very unique ensemble sound. They are Art Blackburn: guitar, lead & harmony vocals; Lisa Fuglie: fiddle, mandolin, lead & harmony vocals; Matt Thompson: mandolin, fiddle, baritone vocals; Mark Anderson: bass & bass vocals; and Benji Flaming: banjo. Their paths crossed through the music of Bill Monroe so they like to say they had a “Monroe Crossing.”

Among their many honors, Monroe Crossing was selected to showcase at the 2007 International Bluegrass Music Association Convention and they were inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in 2007. The only bluegrass band ever nominated as “Artist of the Year” by the Minnesota Music Academy (MMA), Monroe Crossing won the 2003 MMA “Bluegrass Album of the Year” award. The group also took home four awards — for Female Vocalist, Guitar, Mandolin and Banjo — at the Minnesota Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Association’s 25th Anniversary Awards Banquet.

Monroe Crossing has recorded 10 CDs to date, their latest being the well-reviewed album “Heartache and Stone,” showcasing the band’s originality and reverence for the bluegrass tradition.

“This band understands and respects the musical principles laid down by Bill Monroe... ‘Heartache & Stone’ represents their best effort to date. Arrangements are fresh and creative... An enjoyable project loaded with satisfaction.” — *Louisville Music News*

“Great tune, great album, fine group! The expressiveness of the vocals and the arrangement are terrific, not to mention the flawless instrumental work!” — *Joe Steiner, Bluegrass DJ, WLFC, Findlay, Ohio*