Monroe Crossing - Band Bio

Named in honor of Bill Monroe, "The Father of Bluegrass Music," Monroe Crossing dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, original bluegrass and even selections outside the bluegrass genre. Their superb musicianship and on-stage rapport have entertained audiences across the United States, Canada and Europe.

For nearly 20 years this Minnesota based band has averaged over 100 shows a year performing in intimate rooms, community theaters, major venues and outdoor festivals. They are favorites among bluegrass connoisseurs and non-bluegrass audiences alike. They love introducing newcomers to bluegrass music!

Monroe Crossing is made up of five very distinct personalities with differing musical backgrounds. When combined, their individual histories make for a unique sound. The three original members are: Mark Anderson (bass), Lisa Fuglie (fiddle & lead vocals) and Matt Thompson (mandolin & harmony vocals). Derek Johnson (guitar & lead vocals) joined in 2011. David Robinson (banjo, dobro & backing vocals) joined in 2012 and now performs with the band on a part-time basis.

In 2007, Monroe Crossing was inducted into the *Minnesota Music Hall of Fame*. They have twice been selected to showcase at the annual *World of Bluegrass* convention hosted by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) and they have appeared twice at *Carnegie Hall* in New York City. In 2016, Monroe Crossing had the honor of being the first Minnesota bluegrass band to perform in *South Korea*.

Monroe Crossing has recorded 17 CDs to date. The band's discography consists of: traditional & original bluegrass, three bluegrass gospel recordings, a tribute to Bill Monroe, a collection of Classic Country, two Christmas recordings, and two collaborations with the award winning choir *Vocal Essence*.

Whether playing traditional bluegrass, original bluegrass or some surprising songs outside the bluegrass genre, Monroe Crossing is one of the most entertaining acts in bluegrass today!