

AMY GALLATIN & STILLWATERS



Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters are one of the top acts that seamlessly blend country music and bluegrass into an acoustic style that is refreshing and entertaining. The core of the band is the powerhouse duo of Amy Gallatin and renowned resophonic guitarist Roger Williams. The two joined forces a few years ago to explore their mutual love of country standards, served up with an acoustic treatment in the bluegrass vein. Stillwaters includes veteran bassist Eric Levenson, formerly with Joe Val and the New England Bluegrass Boys and later with Boston City Limits and the recent addition of Roger's son JD, who—in the time-honoured tradition of musical consanguinity—complements his father's style perfectly. They are joined on their first UK tour by National Fiddle Champion Kimber Ludiker, founder of the bluegrass 'girl group' Della Mae.

The result is a toe-tapping blend of heartfelt vocals, soaring harmonies and red-hot picking.

Amy Gallatin was born in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, lived in several states before settling in the West, where she was raised. During her ten years in Idaho and Montana, she had had the good fortune of being able to work at two of her loves in life: horses and music; Amy helped to organise the horseback riding programmes and was the featured entertainer at various guest ranches. Her performing background had been as a solo artist out West prior to her meeting some Connecticut musicians while wintering in New England in 1992. With that Connecticut connection came the opportunity to tour as a working unit, so Amy packed her guitar and moved east in the fall of 1993 to pursue her music. Four albums later (including a live album and a project recorded in Nashville with ace producer Rich Adler), Amy Gallatin and her band Stillwaters have taken the stage at some of the most prestigious venues in the US, Canada, Mexico, and Europe.

Amy is at home singing various musical styles—country, folk, bluegrass or western swing—branding each song with soulful sincerity. Her influences are diverse, ranging from old and contemporary cowboy tunes learned out West, to great country artists like Emmylou Harris, Merle Haggard, Loretta Lynn, and the Everly Brothers, with even a dash of blues influence thrown in—Koko Taylor, Katie Wilson, BB King, and Shemekiah Copeland.

Roger Williams started playing the resophonic, Dobro style guitar in 1963, when he was just a young teenager. Within the first year, he had already debuted with the Lilly Bros. and Don Stover at the Hillbilly Ranch in Boston, Massachusetts where they had performed for nearly two decades. Since then he has gone on to perform and/or record with many well respected bluegrass and folk acts on the national and international circuit, including Don Stover, White Mountain Bluegrass, Hazel Dickens, Joe Val, Bill Harrell, Wyatt Rice, Delia Bell & Bill Grant, Southern Rail, Ray Legere, Mark Schatz, Mac Wiseman, the New England Bluegrass Band, Salamander Crossing, Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters, Slavek Hanzlik, Mark Erelli,

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Hiro Arita and others. Career highlights include eleven overseas tours with various artists, including a performance at the prestigious Dobro Festival in Slovakia, and teaching workshops during Bluegrass Week at the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, West Virginia. Roger has recorded three solo projects: *Fireball, Rt. 2 To Amherst*, and *River Of No Return*, a collaboration with long-time friend and musical associate Ray Legere. Most recently, Roger has been involved in CMH label's *Pickin' On* series, where different musical genres are interpreted in the bluegrass vein.

JD Williams who plays mandolin and guitar grew up steeped in the Williams family tradition, learning multiple instruments at a very early age thanks to his dad's influence. Today he exhibits a youthful style all his own with jazz and blues influences, and the family on-stage chemistry is magic!

Bassist Eric Levenson's bluegrass pedigree is road-tested and solid, having

played bass for the estimable Joe Val and the New England Boys for 8 years, during which they toured extensively overseas and in the US, including numerous appearances on *Prairie Home Companion* on National Public Radio. A recipient of the Boston Bluegrass Union's Heritage award, he has toured and/or recorded with Bill Grant and Delia Bell, Hazel Dickens, Jack Tottle, Jim and Jennie and the Pinetops, Orrin Starr, and Boston City Limits, as well as a previous stint with Stillwaters back in the 1990s. As if playing with Stillwaters is not enough, he keeps busy near his home base in the Boston area by playing in numerous area bands (Boston City Limits and the Charles River Boys) and by anchoring the hugely popular weekly Bluegrass Picking Party at the Cantab Lounge in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In his alternate life, Eric has pursued an award-winning career as a theatrical set and lighting designer for theatre and a scenic artist for motion pictures, and is a

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recipient of the prestigious Elliot Norton Design Award given annually by Boston theatre critics. In addition to having served as a member of the theatre staffs of the Boston Conservatory, New England Conservatory, Wellesley College, Harvard and MIT, he has designed close to 500 shows, including plays and operas (and one circus!), including the WGBH Celtic Sojourn Christmas and St. Patrick's Day shows and 20 years of Revels, a national arts organisation with production arms in nine cities across the country, producing community and seasonal celebrations. He has contributed to such movies as *Gone Baby Gone*, *Twenty-One*, *Underdog*, *The Departed*, *Mystic River*, *The Perfect Storm*, *Amistad*, and *Good Will Hunting*, among others.

Kimber Ludiker is a Grand National Fiddle Champion. Born of fiddle-playing parents—who met competing with each other at a fiddle contest!—this Washington state native excelled from an early age at Texas-style fiddling and went on to win multiple fiddle championships including the Washington State Championship, Colorado State Championship and the aforementioned Grand National Fiddle Championship in Weiser, Idaho. She has performed with Mark O'Connor, Mike Marshall, Darol Anger, Hanneke Cassel, and her brother Dennis, a well-known fiddle/mandolin player from Austin, Texas. As a founding member of the all-girl group *Della Mae*, she is widely regarded as a pillar of the new-generation fiddle scene. **Adrian Cooke**