

Rigney Family Bluegrass Press Information

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Rigney Family Bluegrass hails from just outside of Nashville, Tennessee. They are quickly gaining attention on the bluegrass scene with their unique, appealing blend of family vocal harmonies and innovative bluegrass instrumentation. This tight group of four exhibits the true spirit of family music captivating audiences in live performances with heart-warming young talent. Dad plays banjo and Mom plays bass while the two sons create the center of attention switching between mandolin, guitar and fiddle with double-barrel talents.

They play over 50 dates a year ranging from local restaurants to private parties, river boat cruises, festivals and radio/TV shows. Their music is a great balance of the traditional and fresh new sounds. Their debut CD, *Stone County*, released in 2008 features 10 classic bluegrass favorites and two originals.

Mark Rigney began playing banjo as a teenager. He gave up his beloved Gibson to buy Melissa's engagement ring in college. He didn't play again for 17 years. Then she surprised him one Christmas with a banjo under the tree and that is the beginning of their story. Mark also sings lead and harmony vocals for the band.

Melissa Rigney studied music at an early age on piano. When the guys in the family started rolling, they wanted her to join in and she decided they needed a bass player. Now she is the bands solid back beat.

Andrew Rigney (age 16) has been playing since age 10. He started on the guitar and also plays the mandolin, banjo and bass. His hard-drivin' smooth sound gives the band its tight drive. Andrew sings lead vocals and harmony and contributes much to the band with his original songs and natural ear for music. Two originals on their new cd "Stone County" were crafted by Andrew at the age of 14. He recently added to his many accomplishments by placing 1st in flat-pick guitar and 3rd in mandolin at the Tennessee State Fiddle Championships.

Grant Rigney (age 12) has been playing since age 7. He started on the mandolin and also plays the fiddle, tenor guitar, and dobro. His accomplishments include National Championship Youth Entertainer of the Year at the Smithville Fiddler's Jamboree in 2007, 2008 and 2009 and Alabama State Fiddle Champion for his age category. He also has numerous other awards across his instruments from many contests. He also sings harmony for the band.