

Mp3 Two High String Band - Hot Texas Bluegrass Burrito



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have is genuine bluegrass banjo legend Alan Munde. And as fate would have it, the former Country Gazette founder and Jimmy Martin band member had just recently retired to a ranch right down the road from Billy. Responding to a friendly email inquiry, Alan noted that after retiring from teaching banjo 20 years at South Plains College, he had plenty of time now to come pick. Presented with the THSBs original tunes and well-chosen classic numbers, it wasnt too long before he signed on as a full time member. Giddy and somewhat shocked to have their favorite banjo man in the band, they then hopefully reached out to their favorite fiddler. Fiddler/composer/force of nature Erik Hokkanen has long been a local legend on the Austin music scene, known for his incendiary playing and being the finest musician youve never heard of. What few people know is that he cut his teeth playing bluegrass as a young man in his native Florida, placing him squarely in the tradition of the great bluegrass fiddlers of that state like Chubby Wise and Vassar Clements. Besides some recording stints with alternative bluegrass pioneers the Bad Livers, Erik hadnt played much bluegrass. But when approached by the boys, he jumped at the opportunity to revisit the music of his upbringing. That left only the bass spot open. Bluegrass bass is an oft-misunderstood craft. Deceptively simple to the casual listener, but vitally important to the drive traditional bluegrass is known for. And few bassists playing today have the drive of Mark Rubin. Billy had been playing pick up gigs around Austin and frequently found himself onstage with the Bad Livers bassist-founder. Now semi-retired, Rubin runs a violin shop, plays locally with ethnic dance bands and tours frequently on the international Jewish klezmer music scene. But recent performances with mandolin legend Andy Statman had reawakened his bluegrass roots. Nobody plays old school bluegrass bass like Mark, says Bright. A chance to play with one of his heroes sealed his involvement; When I was 13 years old back in Oklahoma, Alan Munde gave me my first banjo lesson. He doesnt remember it, but Ill never forget it. Rubin is a fine singer as well, bringing a trio vocal sound to the band. These six musicians found themselves together for the first time in a studio in the Texas Hill Country. In a single magical evening they recorded the lions share of Hot Texas Bluegrass Burrito playing live with no overdubs. A new Two High String Band is born. In a world filled with every kind of imaginable -grass derivatives working today, please file THSB under Bluegrass. Billy Bright and Brian Smith both sing ably without ever sounding like slaves to Bill Monroe -Austin Chronicle The playing and singing are impeccable -Bluegrass Unlimited The common thread is the spectacular picking throughout -SingOut! It was an abiding love for ole good bluegrass music that brought Two High String Band together. It kept them going. It tore them apart. And

now it has put them back together again. Its been a twelve year long journey, marked by hard work, luck and a little serendipity, that has culminated in their most impressive lineup yet. Mandolinist Billy Bright (Peter Rowan/Tony Rice) and guitarists/singers Brian Smith and Geoff Union are joined by the legendary Alan Munde (Country Gazette, Jimmy Martin, Flying Burrito Brothers) on banjo, Erik Hokkanen (Junior Brown) on fiddle, and Mark Rubin (Bad Livers) on Upright Bass.

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