



Vintage Wildflowers members Melissa Schiavone, Dana Fitzgerald Maher and Abby Bozarth.

## MUSIC

# Musical Potpourri

Vintage Wildflowers connects the Old World with the new.

There's nothing quite like a refreshing Celtic tune – where harp, bodhran, whistle and Irish flute mix and mingle with banjo, fiddle, mandolin and guitar.

Throw in the three-part harmonies of multi-talented female voices and what you get is a fragrant rush of whimsical energy that combines the old world with the new.

For Dana Fitzgerald Maher, Melissa Schiavone and Abby Bozarth of Tulsa's Vintage Wildflowers, the creative freedom that Celtic music provides makes for an ideal way to pay homage both to heritage and to the art form they love.

Drawing songs and tunes from traditional repertoire, the classically trained trio puts a modern spin on priceless Celtic and Appalachian antiquities without losing touch with the ever-present heart of the music: a reflection of language, landscape and way of life of the people.

"With this particular style, musicians are usually split between two ways of playing a song – either treating it as a museum piece and preserving it the way it's always been or updating it completely. We try to find a balance between the two," explains Maher.

"There's a lot of room for creative exploration and many ways to find your voice even though these songs have been around for such a long time, sometimes even as

long as hundreds of years. We'll find a song or tune in its bare bones form and put our personal stamp on it, to make it our own."

Following their debut CD, *The Upstairs Sessions*, Vintage Wildflowers released their second CD, *Lovely Madness*, in March.

Highlighting their first tour this summer, the trio has been invited to play at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage Concert Series in Washington D.C. in June.

A true melting pot of musical styles and genres, The Millennium Series features artists and groups from around the country and world.

Maher emphasizes the strong sense of connectedness their genre promotes – covering both universal struggle and joy through music – making the diverse concert series an ideal environment in which the Wildflowers may flourish.

"Celtic music is meant to be played for people to get together and feel a sense of community with, to celebrate and socialize and be with one another and interact," she says.

"People really respond to it and enjoy it – it makes them smile and makes them want to dance and have fun. We really love being at the center of all of that."

■ MEIKA YATES HINES

## FRESH MUSIC



**Arctic Monkeys, *Suck It And See*** – This British rock band's 2006 debut, *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*, still ranks as the fastest selling debut in

British music history, owing a huge debt to an enthusiastic fan base who made the band an internet phenomenon. Arctic Monkeys did it again with their sophomore effort, but most would say their hot streak ended with their third album, *Humbug*. Early vibes for their latest effort suggest the mojo is back. June 7.



**Ronnie Dunn, *Ronnie Dunn*** – This former Tulsan, and half of the superstar country act Brooks & Dunn, is ready to spread his wings on his own. After 12 al-

bums, 26 No. 1 singles and 30 million records sold, Ronnie Dunn is releasing his first solo effort. Dunn shares writing credit on nine of the album's 12 tracks, and the first single, "Bleed Red," is already a hit. June 7



**Bon Iver, *Bon Iver*** – The Eau Claire, Wis., folk quartet's origin story is screenplay ready. Founder Justin Vernon fled to a remote cabin in Wisconsin to regroup

after a series of personal setbacks – he got mono and ended up recording a critically acclaimed debut album (in the cabin). Vernon brought in a number of new collaborators for the band's second offering and he promises a very different album. June 21.



**David Cook, *This Loud Morning*** – Former Tulsan and *American Idol* winner David Cook is set to unleash his second major label release, following up

his self-titled 2008 certified platinum debut. Cook began working on the album after his first major tour, collaborating with a cast of heavyweight songwriters, including David Hodges and Tulsa-native and One Republic frontman Ryan Tedder. Cook also shares songwriting credits with two other Tulsans, former Midwest Kings bandmates Andy Skib and Neil Tiemann. Skib and Tiemann are also members of Cook's band, The Anthemic. June 28.



CRITICAL STATE

# Travel Like An Okie

If done the right way, locals will know you're an Okie before you even tell 'em.

**W**ith the summer quickly approaching, thousands of Oklahomans will soon embark on their annual summer vacations. When you travel, instead of being boring and just wearing an Oklahoma, Oklahoma State or Thunder shirt to show your Oklahoma pride, I've got some other ideas to let people know you're a proud Oklahoman.

## **Put ranch dressing on everything.**

I'm convinced that Hidden Valley is located somewhere in Oklahoma because that's the only logical explanation as to why we put ranch dressing on everything. We put it on salads, dip our fries in it and slop it on our burgers. The thing, though, that really gets me is when we put it on pizza. Seriously, one time some friends and I went to Mazzio's only because we liked their ranch dressing. When you start basing pizza decisions on the quality of the ranch dressing at an establishment, something is wrong with you.

## **Wear your Bush-Cheney t-shirt.**

There are only three states where it's still socially acceptable to wear a Bush-Cheney t-shirt in a non-ironic fashion: Texas, Oklahoma and Arizona. Since the general populations of those states seem to act (and vote) the same, if somebody asks you where you're from, just say Texhomazona. They won't know the difference.

## **Drive slowly and act confused.**

This is a staple of the Oklahoma driver. Or at least the Oklahoma drivers I always seem to get behind when I'm in a hurry. Seriously, grandma! Drive like you've driven before.

## **Talk college football with everyone.**

Listen, I'm an OU football fan. They've been my favorite team for as long as I can remember, and season tickets have been in my family for many years, but some people in this state are a little too obsessed with college football. So if you want to give away the fact that you're an Oklahoman, just turn every conversation into one about football.

Example:

"Can I take your order?"

"Where are ya' from?"

"Cleveland?"

"Boy, that Tressel's got himself into some hot water, huh?"

## **Act like Sonic is no big deal.**

Last summer I was doing some business in the New York/New Jersey area. The town I was staying in was going nuts because they finally got a Sonic. No lie, there was a line into the street for people to get Route 44 cherry limeades, greasy burgers and tater tots.

You should have seen the jealousy and envy in my colleagues' eyes when I told them that in Oklahoma we had a Sonic on every corner and that the company's headquarters is in Bricktown. In fact, after I told them all of that I felt kind of cool, but then I realized that some ranch dressing from my pizza dripped onto my Bush-Cheney t-shirt. To distract them, I turned the conversation to OU football.

■ PATRICK NELSON

*For more innovative ways to utilize ranch dressing, visit [www.thelostogle.com](http://www.thelostogle.com)*