

Bluegrass Jam Session

Every Sunday Evening at the Queen City Creamery

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Left to right: Jeff Munson, guitar, Kevin Mallow, banjo, and Dr. Bill Becker, stand-up base.

Sunday night is jam night at Terry and Rick Michels' 1940's style, Queen City Creamery and Deli in Downtown Cumberland. Bluegrass musicians gather for the open jam session beginning at 4:00 pm and they stay until 8:00 pm, or even later when the music is hot. Organized by Dr. Bill Becker as a way for bluegrass musicians to share musical experiences, it has been going strong for over a year. The rich, mellow acoustical sounds blend beautifully with the wood decorum provided on the second floor of the Creamery. Regular "jammers" include: fiddle players, Kevin Mallow and Bernard Wentling; guitarists, Jeff Munson and Arthur Mallow; mandolin player, Tom Wilson, and stand-up bass players, Dr. Bill Becker and Bob Boyce. According to Dr. Becker, "our community is privileged to have a world class bluegrass musician, Kevin Mallow, who is equally skilled on the fiddle, mandolin, and banjo." All musicians at this jam session are known to mix their repertoire with rich milk shakes, flavor of the day ice cream cones, and hot fudge sundaes.

Bluegrass musicians are passionate about their style of playing, and they sometimes travel long distances to play

at the Creamery. Kevin Mallow noted, "A lot of our players come from outside the immediate area. And, we also have quite a few people who travel just to listen." Folks come to request tunes, sing along, and generally enjoy the unique bluegrass sound.

Bluegrass music is rich in history and is widely known as an American art form. Traditional music enthusiast, Lance Bell, points out, "Several American art forms, including bluegrass music, didn't actually start here but were refined in the United States, over a period of time." And, traditional country music has enjoyed a renewed energy due to the phenomenal success of Grammy winner, "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" (a sound track featuring performers that were true to their roots).

Don't miss this jam session; it's open to everyone without charge, and no reservations are necessary. Queen City Creamery and Deli is located at 108 Harrison Street, within a short walking distance of Canal Place. For specific information about location and events, check out the Creamery's website at www.queencitycreamery.com.

