



“Don’t let the down-home sincerity fool you. There’s wit and soul in this modern jug-band equivalent.” Marcus Crowder (*Sacramento Bee*)

“This is just simply delightful music by a band that has learned its lessons well and knows how to bring a smile to a jaded listener’s face.” Matt Zimmerman (“The Spit-Shine Squeeze-Box Variety Hour”, WJSC 90.7 FM - Johnson, VT)

The Loose Acoustic Trio (www.looseacoustictrio.com) is an American original. Since the turn of the 21st century, they have deftly blended Folk, Cajun, Old-Time Country, Blues, Jug Band, and Ragtime music to create an appealing sound they call “Good Time Music.” Their latest release, *Sorrow Be Gone* (Big Book Records 2008), is no exception. The songs range from simply sublime to sublimely ridiculous, each wrapped up in an infectious rhythm that’s guaranteed to make you smile. Lyrics address such topics as the fury of Mother Nature, bad hair, flying fish, love, and pizza. The combination of accordion, 6-string banjo, bedpandolin (a mandolin forged from a metal bedpan), upright string bass and three part vocal harmonies, sets them apart from any other musical group on the face of planet Earth. It’s a traditional roots style with a contemporary twist.

So who exactly makes up The Loose Acoustic Trio?

Richie Lawrence (accordion, vocals) began playing music in his home state of Oklahoma. Moving to Los Angeles, California, he joined the 7-piece polka band, Rotondi, with songwriting partner, Paul Lacques. They enjoyed worldwide acclaim with two CDs (still available) to their credit. After relocation to Sacramento, Richie formed The Loose Acoustic Trio to explore his creativity in a smaller group setting. Additionally, Richie runs Big Book Records, an independent music label, whose releases include both CDs from The Loose Acoustic Trio and new CD from I See Hawks in L.A., *Hallowed Ground* (Big Book Records 2008).

Ken Cooper (guit-jo, bedpandolin, vocals) was born and raised in the great state of New York, but quickly headed west to sunny California. In Los Angeles, he performed with too many unknown bands, but wrote songs for movies and other artists (the Dillards recorded his song “Out On A Limb”). After heading north to Sacramento, he met Richie and The Loose Acoustic Trio was born. Their first CD, titled *Brand New Mind* (Big Book Records 2005), brought them international radio airplay, TV appearances, and many high profile performances. Ken has also recorded a CD of songs for kids and their grown-ups called *Mister Cooper* (Hot Biscuits Music 2006) and continues educating children on the joys of singing.

Steve O’Neill (upright bass, vocals) is the California native. He toured the continent for four years as bassist with California Zephyr, the seminal electric-bluegrass band, and appears on their single, “Lulu.” Steve joined The Loose Acoustic Trio in the summer of 2006 and ever since has made the group what it is today, a 3-piece band. He owns and operates Foxtail Sound, a professional recording studio in Dixon, California, where the Loose Acoustic Trio recorded their debut CD, *Brand New Mind*.

Together, these three traveling troubadours perform as the Loose Acoustic Trio. *Sorrow Be Gone* is filled with the same “Good Time Music” that the discerning music listener has come to know and love from The Loose Acoustic Trio. From a grin inducing cover version of The Who’s classic rock cornerstone “Pinball Wizard” reconfigured as a Central California hoedown to the touching “We All Need More Kindness,” it’s easy to see The Loose Acoustic Trio as out of this world or down to earth.

##

For more information, please contact Josh Mills at It’s Alive! Media, 323-464-6314, Josh@itsalivemedia.com or www.itsalivemedia.com