

Blue Sage - Biographies

Mike Iverson:

The heart and soul of the Blue Sage lies within the repertoire of folk singer and multi-instrumentalist Mike Iverson.

Mike purchased his first guitar and began playing music during his first year of High School (1975). By the time he had graduated, he was learning to play the banjo and had formed his first folk/rock trio. While still in high school, Mike began researching and performing old time cowboy and pioneer songs. This obsession with songs "native" to the west soon made Mike a popular performer at events such as the Festival of the American West where he has entertained for the past twenty four years.

Over the years, Mike has taught private lessons, recorded as a studio musician, competed in (and won) music competitions, been part owner in a music store, and has performed throughout the western states; his music has been featured in movies, television series, and a PBS documentary.

Although he considers himself to be a "western folk singer", Mike is widely regarded as one of the finest clawhammer style banjo players anywhere and has conducted instrumental workshops on guitar, mandolin, banjo, and improvisation (music theory). Mike is interested in many styles of music and has now been performing professionally for over twenty five years.

Shauna Iverson:

Shauna has been playing the bass fiddle for about ten years. After transferring her cello technique over to this much larger instrument, Shauna began getting invitations to play in other bands. She began her stage career as part of an all women folk band known as the "Ripe Tomatoes". Mike eventually talked her into joining Blue Sage. Shauna's bass technique is powerful. It's Shauna's strong, driving bass lines that enable the trio to achieve a fullness of sound comparable with much larger ensembles.

Mike feels himself to be very lucky to have Shauna in the band: "What more could a folk singer dream of than to share his music with someone who, for the past quarter century, has been his dearest friend and constant companion."

Heather Iverson:

Heather Iverson began playing the violin at the age of five. At the age of fifteen, after studying classical violin technique for ten years, Heather began working on the fiddle music of America and the British Isles. She has since become the principle fiddler for the monthly Ogden Contra Dance.

Although Heather has dedicated herself to traditional fiddle styles, she also grew up listening to the fiddling of Ryan Shupe and Rob Ricks as they played in the trio. Ryan and Rob are two of the best improvising fiddlers anywhere and some of their influence couldn't help but rub off on Heather. This combination of fiddle influences has given Heather the perfect set of skills to bring to the Blue Sage sound.