

THE HALF MOON JUG BAND

www.halfmoonjugband.com - 207-650-7867

The Half Moon Jug Band is a three-man mob of musical desperadoes waging a daily battle against the humdrum forces of boredom and inaction. They fend off the blahs with banjos, kazoos, guitars saxophones and silliness. They want to make you dance and sing along at the top of your lungs.

Jug band music is homemade music. You won't hear it on the radio, you won't see it on MTV and you can't get it at Wal-Mart. It's a bubbling casserole of music as diverse as America itself. You're not sure exactly what's in there but boy, it sure sounds good. Labels don't work. If it sounds good, if the audience claps, if it feels honest, then it's jug band music.

The band thrives on interaction with their audiences. For the HMJB, it's not just about standing on stage playing songs. It's about singing, dancing and making people happy. They do whatever it takes to put on a show for all ages, studding every performance with jokes, stories and mandatory sing-alongs. No one gets out without singing. No one.

The Half Moon Jug Band started as a merry band of sidewalk subversives entertaining passersby and annoying shopkeepers on Exchange Street in Portland, Maine more than 15 years ago. Now, they can now be found on the road playing concerts and festivals all over the northeast like New Year's Portland, the Maine Festival, the Old Port Festival, the Prescott Park Folk Festival, the Oddfellow Theatre, the Winthrop Performing Arts Center, the Maine Lobster Festival, Burlington's strange 3rd of July Fireworks extravaganza, the Fryeburg, Deerfield and Cornish Fairs, and many town concerts too numerous to enumerate here.

The HMJB has made many live appearances on television and radio including WCSH's "207," WGME's "Daybreak," WPFO's "Good Day Maine," WMPG's "Local Motives" and WCTN's "Shine."

In 2015, the band released its fifth full-length album "Don't Bore Us Get to the Chorus," following 2013's "North Pond Hermit Sessions," 2009's "Get the Show on the Road," 2005's "Jug Band Army," 2003's "Christmas On Exchange Street" and 2001's "Space Man in a Jug Band."

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Michael Miclon - Artistic Director, The Oddfellow Theater

- "The Half Moon Jug Band is one of the most entertaining shows I have ever had the pleasure of experiencing! They mix incredible musical ability with side-splitting comedy into a one-of-a-kind stage show. This makes them a true triple threat of entertainment. They are a guaranteed hit!"

The Coastal Journal

- "These guys are tight; these guys are noisy; these guys are entertaining."

The Portland Phoenix

- "The Half Moon Jug Band: the most upbeat ambassadors we could ever hope to have. Playing a conglomeration of bluegrass, folk, rock and roll and circus music."

The Portland Press Herald

- "This is some seriously fun, toe-tapping, frantically paced music... I quickly became a believer."

The Bollard

- "The Half Moon Jug Band has come a long way from their early days busking as a three-piece on Exchange Street. But in the ways that matter most, they're the same goofy guys having a blast playing damn fine music."

The Casco Bay Weekly

- "While the term "acoustic music" is often a euphemism for folk music, the HMJB calls what it does "homemade music." The members certainly aren't folk purists, using drums and electric bass, and there's none of the sanctimony the folk scene has become famous for."

Russ Page, Executive Director, Saturday Night at the Center Theatre

- "Less than two minutes into the show the band had the audience in the palms of their hands and for the next 90 minutes or so they took us on a comedic and musical rollercoaster ride that went from the hilarious to the spiritual, including an emotional show-closing rendition of Silent Night that brought the audience to its feet for a three minute standing ovation."