

# Live Music

## Colorado Music Hall of Famer Yonder Mountain String Band to Perform in Western Colorado

By Sharon Sullivan

The Yonder Mountain String Band was founded in Nederland, Colorado in 1998, and inducted into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame in 2021 at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival – joining musical legends John Denver, Judy Collins, Glen Miller, and Joe Walsh.

“They’re the first bluegrass band to take it to rock ‘n’ roll,” said Telluride Bluegrass Festival Director Craig Ferguson, the *Telluride Daily Planet* reported at the time.

The progressive bluegrass Yonder Mountain band will perform a show Friday, March 8 at the Mesa Theater in downtown Grand Junction.

With its roots in bluegrass, Yonder Mountain blends elements of rock, alternative, and improvisational music, while performing at clubs, theaters, performing arts centers and outdoor festivals throughout the United States.

Yonder Mountain founding members include Ben Kaufmann on bass and vocals; Dave Johnston performing



banjo and vocals; and Adam Aijala on guitar and vocals. Nick Piccininni, who joined the band in 2020, performs banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, as well as vocals.

Joining the band on this year’s tour is “fiddle shredder” Coleman Smith, co-founder of the Colorado-based band Rapidgrass, where he played fiddle for more than a decade. Currently Smith plays regularly with Yonder Mountain String Band, David Lawrence and the Spoonful, and The Bluegrass Journeymen.

Yonder Mountain’s most recent release was the Grammy-nominated *Get Yourself Outside*, an album born

during the pandemic. The album title is a lyric from the album’s final song *Suburban Girl*. The band is currently finishing up a studio album planned for release in the fall of 2024.

While concertgoers might hear a couple of new songs from the upcoming album, after 26 years of performing the band has a huge repertoire that includes hundreds of songs, said Kaufmann. The band chooses not to have a set play list that it uses throughout a tour, instead, the band waits until they arrive to a town before compiling a playlist for a particular concert.

“We’ll write the set list that day from what inspires us to perform in that moment,” Kaufmann says. Oftentimes bands will create a set playlist that they repeat over and over, from town to town – “that’s not how we do it.”

General admission tickets are \$34.50 in advance, or \$39.50 day of show. For more information visit: [mesatheater.com/event](http://mesatheater.com/event) or call: 970-773-1775. And make sure to mention you read about it in *Moab Happenings*. Mesa Theater is located at 538 Main St. in Grand Junction, Colorado.



## Moab Backyard Theater Celebrates 11 Years in 2024

The Moab Backyard Theater returns for its eleventh season of bringing open air live music and magic to locals and visitors alike. The Theater, located at 56 W 100 South, just behind Zax, opens for business this year on March 16th

Magician Rick Boretti will be returning his internationally acclaimed magic show back to the Theater Stage every Saturday starting on March 16. Rick’s hilarious and mystifying show is one of the “don’t miss” selections on Trip Advisor and Yelp. A member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Rick blends lots of humor with great illusions in a one of a kind family-friendly show. Admission is 10 dollars for adults and 5 dollars for kids 3 and up.



The Backyard Theater Free Bluegrass Wednesdays starting March 20th brings their tradition of live bluegrass music for the 8th straight year with local “legends”, Quicksand Soup, a five piece high energy band with lots of traditional and contemporary influences and tons of original songs and favorites. The band consists of David Steward on lead guitar, Eric Jones on mandolin, Alan Snow on bass, Tamara Freida on fiddle and songwriter Sand Sheff, All five band members sing. They play old time style in front of a couple of old time microphones. The shows start at 7pm sharp, and seating for the popular show is first-come, first serve. The show is free.

On Thursdays, honky tonk fusion band Juniper Drive brings its unique mix of American standards and classics back for its sixth year. Admission is free.

Also onsite this year is the beloved local family food truck, El Local, with southwestern and Mexican taste sensation specialties all made fresh to order.



So if you want a trip to yesteryear, when live entertainment outdoors was part of the American experience, come on down and join the one-of-a-kind Moab Backyard Theater celebrate their 11th birthday. See you There! Located at 56 west 100 South, behind Zax.

**For more Live Music. See events calendar on page 4A-7A.**

**THE BYR**  
RED CLIFFS LODGE  
MOAB

**MARCH SCHEDULE 6-9 PM**

03.01	ALAN & VALERIE
03.02	ALAN & VALERIE
03.03	THE BUTCH CASSIDIES
03.07	NEAL MIDDLETON
03.08	NEAL MIDDLETON
03.09	DAVE STEWARD
03.10	CLAYTON YEAZLE
03.14	DUSTIN BURLEY
03.15	DOWN IN THE ROOTS
03.16	DOWN IN THE ROOTS
03.17	DONNIE JOHNSON
03.21	DONNIE JOHNSON
03.22	DULCE
03.23	DULCE
03.24	CLAYTON YEAZLE
03.28	DAVE MENSCH
03.29	DAVE MENSCH
03.30	DAVE MENSCH
03.31	DUSTIN BURLEY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, FEEDBACK, AND SUGGESTIONS  
PLEASE EMAIL [jzanzieg@redcliffsloodge.com](mailto:jzanzieg@redcliffsloodge.com) OR CALL 970-259-2002



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check online schedule  
★ visit website for exact times and more info! ★

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56 W. 100 S. (1/2 Block off Main next to Zax)

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