

RUNAWAY HOME

Runaway Home is a homecoming of sorts. It was founded by three powerhouse performers looking for a road back to the music they grew up on and loved! If there's one thing this world will always need, it's to keep smiling. And that's what one of Nashville's most beloved bands, Runaway Home, brings to the table—smiles.

They are simply easy on the soul. It's not that their songs are devoid of longing, loss and sadness, but it's that those emotions exist in a larger vibe that is unmistakably joyful. Gary Culley, Mark Elliott and Malinda Fields are an onslaught of divine three-part harmonies that speak to you gently until you become fully wrapped in the warmth. This all takes place alongside exquisite guitar playing and a haunting mountain fiddle.

It's no accident that the ultimate Americana soundtrack for the road is consummated by folks who spend a ton of time on the road. The three effervescent vagabonds have been delivering their infectious messages with careless brilliance, sincerity and glee since 2011. The band's early mantra has been "it's the music that makes us smile." True that and doubly true for audiences they have made happy in venues like Dosey Doe outside of Houston, the Clayton Opera House in upstate New York or the Bluebird Café in Nashville.

Their good-for-the-soul, rootsy-Americana vibe caught the attention of Marcia Campbell of Nashville's WSM Radio, who said, "Runaway Home delivers a gem with their timeless collection of music that takes you to another place. Great songs, strong vocals and sweet harmonies!"

Mark Elliott is known for his powerful rich tenor voice, once trained as an opera-singer before embracing his troubadour roots and logging countless miles as a solo folk and bluegrass artist. The *Oklahoma* native was a protégé of the legendary singer-songwriter *Tom Paxton*. After recording his debut album "Common Ground" in 1987, he opened for Paxton.

After studying songwriting under the wing of a master craftsman, Mark found himself relocating to Nashville and signing as a writer with *Cherry Lane Music* - the first of many Publishing houses. As a commercial country songwriter for *Bluewater Music*, *Maypop Music* and *Sony Music Publishing*, Mark found Top 40 success with artists such as *Chris LeDoux* and *Neal McCoy*. Mark also released seven albums on his own. Mark has just finished his first book, a memoir based on 1977, called *Starmount*.

When Mark isn't on the road with *Runaway Home* or writing songs, blogs and books, you'll find him in a Cessna 172 buzzing his friends west of Nashville, in a kayak on a wild river or hiking down a backcountry mountain trail in East Tennessee. He never leaves home without his Go Pro camera at the ready, so don't be surprised if he adds filmmaker to his list of passions soon.

Gary Culley is known for his songwriting, but especially for his exceptional guitar playing. Initially, Gary cut his teeth on guitar and songwriting as a student at the acclaimed *Berklee College of Music*. The *Chicago* native moved to Nashville in 1991 finding success as a staff writer for *Sony-Edisto Music* recorded his own CD and became an integral part of the *Country Music Hall of Fame's Words & Music Program*.

Gary and Mark connected early on in Nashville and have been playing together so long that they are considered musical "twin sons from different mothers." That kinship led to a successful album called "Flight of Dreams" and a touring career playing clubs and festivals from coast to coast. The duo went on to win the coveted *Kerrville New Folk Award* along with many other awards.

A sought after studio and live musician, Gary has played for countless singers, and has opened up for legendary Country and Americana artists Emmy Lou Harris, Trisha Yearwood, Garth Brooks, Buddy Miller and Sam Bush. When Gary isn't running the roads with *Runaway Home*, he is often woodshedding in his Nashville studio, surrounded by more guitars than one man should have.

He is an avid outdoorsman, kayaking, hiking and mountain climbing. He is also becoming an aficionado of the Big Green Egg and Bar-B-Quing in the back yard with his wife and two teenage boys.

Malinda Fields was born in Ohio, but was predestined to be a Tennessean. She first heard the country classics *Faded Love* and *The Tennessee Waltz* while holding her grandfather's hand at old time dances, fiddle competitions and bluegrass festivals. He bought her a full-sized fiddle at a pawnshop when Malinda was only five, and she never looked back. Malinda went on to be a student of famed fiddler Kenny Sears, even performing with him as a teenager on the much-respected *Ralph Emory Morning Show*.

Malinda has played countless recording sessions, concerts and old time jams in her thirty-plus years on the instrument. She studied classical violin, but was born to be a mountain fiddler. Malinda's love for old time music, music from the Appalachians and a keen awareness of the itinerant troubadours and dreamers was exemplified in her college thesis about the famed Oklahoma balladeer and humanitarian, Woody Guthrie. Malinda has shared her love of fiddle and music culture as an educator for over a decade. When not playing live, she has a client base of nearly fifty students, ranging in age from four to sixty-five.

Malinda has recorded one album of original songs and fiddle tunes with her string band “Good Medicine” and continues to be an enthusiastic student of roots music and old time traditions. When not on the road or in the rehearsal halls, Malinda spends her time with her husband Adam on their small hobby farm north of Nashville. They raise chickens, plant gardens and sit around the fire ring playing fiddle and claw hammer banjo.

Runaway Home is currently rounded out by great musicians, drummer/percussionist Chip Chipoletti and bassists Ron de la Vega and Tom Good.

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