

Hey San Diego Music Awards Academy Members

We wanted to give you a little background on our San Diego group, MohaviSoul and new CD Hometown Blues. First, we thank you for your nomination for best album for 2017 in the Country or Americana category and your support for all the great music that has come out of San Diego as well as the charity work that this supports for music in our schools. Since we mainly play festivals, we wanted to give some background that could help as you make informed choices for best album about MohaviSoul & our new CD, Hometown Blues, that is making a splash nationally & internationally.



Hometown Blues, our new and third CD was recorded here in San Diego at Singing Serpent Studios, under the technical direction of Ben Moore and mixed by grammy award winning Gavin Lurssen (Oh Brother Where Art Thou, and many more!). All songs on Hometown Blues are original compositions by Randy Hanson and Mark Miller, published through MohaviSoul Music with BMI. MohaviSoul has an eclectic approach to songwriting, with stories of love gone right to love gone wrong, nostalgia for vinyl records, road songs, and songs about drinking, homesickness, politics, and the wild West. Hometown Blues is a soulful American journey of storytelling hallmarked by great melodies, instrumental prowess woven with great harmonies, and blended into original Contemporary Bluegrass & Americana music. Here's some background for each of our 12 original songs on Hometown Blues:



Gettie Up: Randy had a little help from his cousin, (grammy award winning Laurie Lewis), paying tribute to their Great Great Grandmother that came across the Oregon Trail with her parents after the Civil War to settle in Glendale area of Los Angeles next to the Verdugo Spanish Land Grant family to start a dairy. She had a saying for everything and when she didn't want you to give up she'd always say "Don't say whoa in a mud hole, just say Gettie Up."

Hometown Blues: Mark Miller is originally from Wheeling & Martin's Ferry, West Virginia area but now calls San Diego his home. He still goes back to visit family and friends and wrote this song Hometown Blues to reflect on his West Virginia roots after one of his family reunions back in West Virginia.

On My Way: Randy was inspired by walking his dog and his determined pace to climb our hill near his home along the Pacific Ocean. His dog Bear is a puller on his leash and never went to "doggie school" but he has a heart of gold and reminds me what it means to be on my way back home to the one I love.

Lay Your Needle Down: Mark paints a colorful reminiscence for his nostalgia for

the days and sound of vinyl records that takes us back with this country classic so sit back and let us take you there with the sounds we used to know.

Stay Tuned: Randy spins the story of eternal hope on the edge of love gone wrong that takes you through the flashback of the starts and stops of a maybe lover that remains unrequited love wrapped in hope for more.

Drinker's Lament: Mark confesses our love of a good IPA that is humorously told in this light-hearted drinking song that should stir up your thirst.

Ferguson Fight: Randy laments about the strange political winds of our time and the distrust that has erupted between so many groups as was seen in Ferguson, Missouri that has led to the psychological term "the Ferguson Effect" and makes us ask if we can ever come together and express ourselves peacefully and "take back the night."

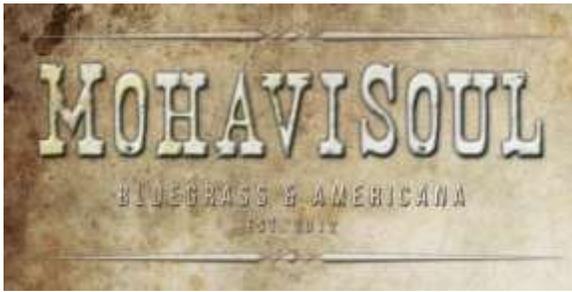
Until I Go: Mark wants to show the many facets of rising above the dilemmas of modern-day life before his final day and make the most of this moment.

Same As Loving You: Mark spins a love ballad about lovers and friends, hand in hand partners in everything with souls connected as unconditional soulmates, friends, and lovers. This song also features a great bass solo by Orion Boucher!

Contrary Lovers: We all know a couple that is hopelessly in love but just can't find harmony or walk away from their relationship. Randy built the lyrics on parapsadokian phrases (contrary phrases), taking a humorous and lamenting look at dysfunctional but everlasting and contrary lovers that just can't quit each other or quite get along.

Dirty Shame: Mark's mom had some favorite sayings that he heard regularly growing up. Did your mother have a saying that was her "go to" when she disapproved of something that happened...well it's a dirty shame!

Dozen Roses: Mark builds a powerfully rhythmic love song of proclamation of the depth and width of true love...the dozen roses are just the vehicle for this message of devotion and inspiration.



MOHAVISOUL (<http://www.mohavisoul.com>) is Contemporary Bluegrass from our soul, rooted in Folk and Americana & reflected in our original music and choice of covers that come from Mark's West Virginia roots and Randy's 5th-generation California heritage. We're a 6-piece talented and award-winning group of musicians formed in 2012 by singer-songwriters Mark Miller and Randy Hanson.

MohaviSoul is a working band composed of Mark Miller (guitar, lead vocals), Randy Hanson (mandolin, lead vocals), Jason Weiss (banjo, vocals), Orion Boucher (bass, lead vocals), and Dan Sankey (fiddle,

vocals), with special guests Will Jaffe (Dobro) and John Mailander (fiddle). MohaviSoul is a Mannequin Vanity Records artist (<http://www.mannequinvanityrecords.com>) with three CD's, Every Second (January, 2013), Blue Diesel (December, 2013), and Hometown Blues (August, 2017) plus film appearance in "Banjos, Bluegrass & Squirrel Barkers." All CD's have received rave reviews locally and nationally. Prescription Bluegrass wrote about our first CD, Every Second, "with their soulful style, MohaviSoul achieves a certain identifiable likeability that is hard to find." Our second CD, Blue Diesel, was Best Bluegrass EP by The Akademia that wrote 'With the right combination of musicianship, heartfelt lyrics, and impeccable melodies, MohaviSoul has crafted an impressive collection of Bluegrass gems.'

(http://www.theakademia.com/february2015_bestep_bluegrass.html). Our third CD, Hometown Blues receives national and international airplay as well as NPR interviews (<http://www.flashpointarts.org/interviews/mohavisoul/>), The San Diego Troubadour said "MohaviSoul's music is swiftly seductive, full of foot tapping, shoulder moving tempos, simple music accomplishing profound emotional effects. Hometown Blues is a genuinely moving contribution to the new roots music." The Bluegrass Standard said "The band is able to blend all types of bluegrass, that include traditional, newgrass, and original material. It's bluegrass from the soul that harkens back to the origins of bluegrass music blended explicitly in a contemporary sound. Their outstanding playing on all tracks tell they love what they do. "On My Way" best exemplifies each player solo instrumentation and ability to blend their unique sound."

(<https://issuu.com/bluegrassnow/docs/tbs0218-3-press?e=26565535%2F57901699>)

MohaviSoul features three Berklee Alum, Orion Boucher (bass/vocals) along with classmate and nationally up-and-coming John Mailander (IBMA Momentum Award Winner, 2016) on fiddle on our award winning Blue Diesel CD and again on Hometown Blues, and fellow Berklee Alum Will Jaffe on dobro on Hometown Blues.



There is so much great new music these days, but few know what a rich Bluegrass history is centered in San Diego and SoCal that includes Chris Thile, Sara and Sean Watkins of Nickle Creek, Chris Hillman, Bernie Leadon, Wayne Rice, Deering Banjos, Stuart Duncan, Ron Block, John Moore, Dennis Caplinger, Alison Brown, Byron Berline, and many more, as documented by Rick Bowman in his history of San Diego Bluegrass Documentary "Banjos, Bluegrass & Squirrel Barkers" (<https://youtu.be/TJmi8j7-8>). MohaviSoul is the new sound in SoCal, helping write the next chapter of Contemporary Bluegrass & Americana from San Diego. MohaviSoul mainly plays festivals such as the Great 48 Jam, Route 66 Bluegrass, Adams Avenue Unplugged, Sea World's Seven Seas, Del Mar Fair, Ocean Beach Street Fair, Temecula Bluegrass, Ramona Bluegrass, Santee Bluegrass, & Las VeGrass Bluegrass

Festivals plus **National Festivals**: Millpond & SummerGrass Festivals; & **Festival Songwriting WorkShops**: MillPond & Viva Las VeGrass Festivals. MohaviSoul opens for national acts such as SoulGrass, NuBlu, Sideline, Special Consensus, Iron Horse, Barefoot Movement, & Hot Buttered Rum, etc. Here's our performance from our second time headlining the sold-out (>4,000 people) Santee Bluegrass Festival in San Diego playing the Steal Driver's "Blue Side of the Mountain" (<https://youtu.be/4MPWWjimmy8>) & our CD title track "Hometown Blues," (<https://youtu.be/G76D3TrwUzY>).

Well that's our story and we ain't done writing it. Thanks for your vote for MohaviSoul for best album in the Country or Americana category and thanks for all you do to support local music and get music into our schools here in San Diego.

