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Highlands Ranch Herald > Lifestyles

Money Don't Make the Man

By Rhonda Moore

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The couple at the heart of the country group Jones & Raine didn't start out with plans to make music together. Brian Raine is a songwriter/musician who left Nashville with no plans to look back. His wife Julie Jones is a tomboy-turned-beauty queen whose most pressing challenge is to learn how to walk the stage in high heels.

Together the Highlands Ranch couple makes country music their record label calls the freshest sound to come out in years.

The two are in their "young 40s," as Jones said, and met in church in 2005, a year before they married and formed Jones & Raine.



Jones & Raine performs live March 13 at the Stagecoach in Franktown. Courtesy photo

Raine was fresh from five years of writing songs in Nashville while Jones was singing with the church choir following a lifetime of musical pursuits.

It wasn't music that brought them together, however, as Raine was determined music would have no part in any future relationship.

"Ironically we never spent much time making music together until after we were married because I was dedicated to not marrying a musician," he said. "I think she heard me harp enough about how temperamental those people are and Lord knows you don't want two in a house."

His resolve lasted until after their nuptials, when the two were invited to sing at a relative's wedding. One invitation led to another until they woke up one day figuring this was something they could actually do, Raine said.

The duo began looking for other musicians to complete their band, which today includes Evergreen's Chris Edmonds on guitar and background vocals, Parker residents Kevin Dillman on drums, Dana Vernon on bass and Neal McCracken on mandolin and dobro, with Aurora sound engineer Matt McDaugale rounding out the cast. Jones and Raine provide the lead vocals, with Raine on lead guitar and Jones on acoustic guitar.

Their first performance was in 2007 at a coffee house in downtown Denver. This month they play at the Stagecoach in Franktown, the venue where they caught the ear of producer Terry Peacock.

Peacock is a Douglas County resident who formed Graystone Records in 2008, after years of playing with the cover group, Reasonable Doubt. With former band mates Dorothy Stone, an Elbert County attorney and municipal judge, Gordon Close of Denver and Bill Greer of Franktown, Graystone Records has high hopes for Jones & Raine.

"I was just overwhelmed by their sound," Peacock said. "It's unique, crisp, new sounding, very tight. Their original music and lyrics are just right down to the point of where country's being written today."

Raine describes their sound as country rock, likening the music to that of 1970s bands that include the Eagles, Crosby, Stills and Nash and Buffalo Springfield. Jones & Raine appropriately leaves no stone unturned, Raine said.

"We do our best to offend everyone equally," he said. "It's fun. We're very laid back and it's modern country — basically 1970s rock. We stay away from the twang sound and we generally get accused of being a rock band."

The couple's time is split between their musical demands and a new venture for Jones, who, as Mrs. Highlands Ranch 2009, will compete later this year in the Mrs. Colorado pageant. A self described "boot-wearing, jean-wearing, guitar-swinging tom girl," Jones sees their musical pursuits as a blessing.

"It's been a blast, it really is fun," she said. "To have a spouse that can relate to your passion with music, who can share the experience with you and understand what you're going through and just be a teammate through the whole process."

Under the guidance of head engineer Bill Hunt, Jones & Raine recorded their original songs in late 2008 at Graystone Records, which is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Their tracks include "Money Don't Make The Man," the same name of their newly-released album.

Listen to Jones & Raine on their Web site at www.jonesandraine.com or hear them live at 8 p.m., March 13 at the Stagecoach, 2077 North Highway 83 in Franktown.