

# 5 on a String Bio

5 on a String has been picking and singing bluegrass music all around the Pacific Northwest for over twenty-five years. We have a family friendly show with plenty of hot picking and fiddle tunes to entertain just about any audience. Seniors love the old time theme and harmony singing, and the kids are attracted to the staccato sounds of the banjo and fiddle. Over the years we have collected a large volume of songs and instrumentals in the bluegrass style so we'll get their toes tapping and hands clapping...Guaranteed.

We began playing as 5 on a String back in 1989, when Gordie, Garry, and Dan got together with other musicians to share songs and jam informally. One thing lead to another and before long the band was invited to play at some of the regions most prominent Bluegrass Festivals including; Darrington, Wintergrass, and Chilliwack. Then after 16 years with the band, founding member Carrol Oldenburg (mandolin) left the band and we were pleased to add multi-instrumentalist and lead singer Tim Eccles in his spot. Another year later Vancouver fiddle player Hugh Ellenwood agreed to enlist after the retirement of our original fiddler, Val Dean. It's been wonderful to perform all across B.C., Alberta, and Washington over the years and the friends, fans, and relationships we have shared are priceless to us. We hope that we can bring our brand of mountain music to your venue someday soon.

## **Garry Stevenson** - Guitar, lead + baritone vocals

Garry's talents on the guitar have earned him the Western Canada Flat-picking Championship title three times! He has conducted numerous guitar workshops and always has time to answer other pickers enquiries. Garry looks after most of the musical and vocal arrangements for the band, and always has a good laugh up his sleeve.

## **Gordie Sadler** - Banjo, lead + tenor vocals

Playing a major role in the lead singing for 5 on a String, Gordie lays down a traditional Scruggs style of banjo playing that is so inherent to traditional bluegrass. He also writes songs and has recorded two with the group, "Don't go to Heaven", Blue Mountain, and most recently, "Easy to Forget".

## **Dan Mornar** - Bass, lead + tenor vocals

Hard worker, singer, songwriter all rolled into one - what do you have? Well its Dan the swinging swaying Bass man for 5 on a String. Dan grew up in the American Midwest and his playing and singing has taken him to the stage of Bill Monroe's Bean Blossom Festival in Indiana, and the Grand ol' Opry. Dan contributed two of his original songs to the groups repertoire, "The Road to the Mine" and "My Woman's Gone".

## **Hugh Ellenwood** - Fiddle,

Hugh joined the band in 2007 and has settled in to the fiddle position quite nicely. Prior to 5 on a String, Hugh played with the Mountain Bluebirds band. You are sure to get a thrill from Hugh's soulful long bows and signature Kenny Baker style blue grass licks.

## **Tim Eccles** - Mandolin, lead + tenor vocals

Tim is no stranger to the British Columbia Bluegrass scene. An accomplished player on guitar, mandolin and banjo, Tim headed up the band Great Northern before joining us in 2006. Tim's strong vocals are a great asset to the band and, yes girls ..... he can yodel!