

# BILL AND THE BELLES



“A 78 RPM shellac record come to life. What a wonderful and authentically American sound...”  
- *Music City Roots*

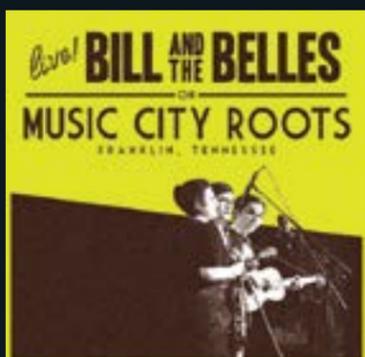
“[Bill and the Belles] is committed to helping early country music remain appreciated – not just replicated.”  
- *Rolling Stone*

“They’re a joy to watch live, and we bet you can’t make it through their set without smiling.”  
- *The Bluegrass Situation*

“...You [Kris Truelsen] have a great voice! Play another one!”  
- 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush

What began as a project to explore the space created between hillbilly and urban, between vaudeville and down home, has arrived somewhere entirely new. **Bill and the Belles** offers a contemporary reimagining of a bygone era, a vocal-centric performance that breathes new life into the sounds of early country music. At the foothills of the Blue Ridge and the forefront of old-time music, Bill and the Belles continue to further the music traditions of their region. From sentimental Southern ballads to the popular songs of Tin Pan Alley to regional fiddle breakdowns, a Bill and the Belles show is a celebration of the diversity country music once represented.

Bill and the Belles play alongside America’s top country and roots music artists as the house band for the historic radio program Farm and Fun Time presented by Radio Bristol and the Birthplace of Country Music. Lifelong musicians **Kris Truelsen**, **Grace Van’t Hof**, **Kalia Yeagle**, and **Karl Zerfas** bring to the stage an uplifting show unlike any other, full of humor, high spirits, and all-around revelry. It’s clear this group shares a rare musical connection and deep love for the music, and their excitement is contagious.



#### Bill and the Belles: Live on Music City Roots

1. I Told Them All About You
2. Work Don't Bother Me
3. Old Lonesome Blues
4. Magnolia One-Step
5. Sit at Home
6. Swaller Tail Coat
7. Pal of Mine

#### Bill and the Belles: Live on Music City Roots (2016)

Music City Roots, acclaimed roots and Americana variety show, began producing albums of select live shows, and they hand-picked Bill and the Belles to be their very first release! Associate Producer Ashlee-Jean Trott says, “When [Bill and the Belles] played at the show, it was one of those moments that I’ll never forget. It was just so good and the audience gave them a standing ovation. Those are the kind of bands we want to do a live album on, some kind of special moment we had on the show.”



#### Swallowtail Coat: the Cylinder Recordings

1. He Went in Like a Lion
2. Old Lonesome Blues
3. Swallowtail Coat
4. Settin' By the Fire
5. Hannah
6. I Once Loved a Sailor
7. Arkansas Traveler
8. Evalina
9. Work Don't Bother Me

#### Swallowtail Coat: the Cylinder Recordings! (2017)

Take home some old familiar melodies presented in a less-familiar way, the way they were first encountered by turn-of-the-century audiences!



[www.billandthebelles.com](http://www.billandthebelles.com)

# BILL AND THE BELLES

*pleased to  
meet you!*

## Get to Know Us Better!

**KALIA YEAGLE** (fiddle) grew up in Alaska, where long winters and strong, diverse communities produce a music scene unlike any other. Her music is undeniably of the mountains, both the Chugach and the Blue Ridge. As a scholar of Appalachian Studies, she has the privilege of studying the rich musical heritage of the region with special interest in early country music's pioneering female artists.

**KRIS TRUELSEN** (guitar) was raised in the mountains of Colorado. As the first to earn his master's degree in Appalachian Studies from East Tennessee State University, he continues to expand and share his knowledge of traditional American music. Kris is the producer of WBCM Radio Bristol and host of Farm and Fun Time, allowing his music, philosophy, and enthusiasm to touch audiences internationally.

**GRACE VAN'T HOF** (banjos) from Western Michigan, discovered the banjo in high school when she built a 5-string prototype that won 2nd place in a statewide Science Olympiad. A founding member of the Grammy-nominated band Della Mae and longtime touring musician, Grace's career has taken her around the world and continues to do so.

**KARL ZERFAS** (bass) of Manhattan, Kansas, grew up listening to his father sing Kansas cowboy and prairie songs of the early 20th century. His early American music repertoire is vast, drawing influence from classic country, early jazz, and hillbilly music. His unique perspective and solid groove shape the rhythmic backbone of Bill and the Belles.

## NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

2016 and 2017 Bluegrass Underground and Music City Roots artists. Official Showcase artists at the Americana Music Association's (AMA) AmericanaFest 2016 (see Rolling Stone's AmericanaFest 2016: 20 Best Things We Saw), International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) World of Bluegrass 2016 (see Bluegrass Situation: 7 Artists We're Stoked to See), and Folk Alliance 2017. 2016 First Place Band category at the Great Southern Old Time Fiddlers' Convention. Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour w/John McEuen. Festivals include: Brooklyn Folk Festival, Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion, Grey Fox, Tennessee Fall Homecoming, Joe Val Bluegrass Festival, Ossipee Valley Music Festival.

## RECORDINGS

**Introducing: Bill and the Belles (2015)** Recorded live around Tennessee Ernie Ford's own RCA 44 microphone, "Introducing: Bill and the Belles" is a well-crafted collection of music that celebrates long-forgotten sentimental song.

**Bill and the Belles: Live on Music City Roots (2016)** Music City Roots, acclaimed roots and Americana variety show, began producing albums of select live shows, and they hand-picked Bill and the Belles to be their very first release! Associate Producer Ashlee-Jean Trott says, "When [Bill and the Belles] played at the show, it was one of those moments that I'll never forget. It was just so good and the audience gave them a standing ovation. Those are the kind of bands we want to do a live album on, some kind of special moment we had on the show." (See Bluegrass Situation: Music City Roots Launches Live Album Series).

**Swallowtail Coat: the Cylinder Recordings! (2017)** Take home some old familiar melodies presented in a less-familiar way, the way they were first encountered by turn-of-the-century audiences!

## PRESS

[Rolling Stone: 20 Best Things We Saw](#)

[Bluegrass Situation: 7 Artists We're Stoked to See](#)

[Bluegrass Today: Bill and the Belles' Pal of Mine Video](#)

[The Voice Magazine: Cover Story](#)

[Bluegrass Situation: Music City Roots Launches Live Album Series](#)

[Music City Roots: Smokin' Section](#)

## VIDEO

[When You Wore a Tulip:](#)  
<https://youtu.be/wzcjgCM8euc>

[Live on Music City Roots:](#)  
[https://youtu.be/BxIAKDF\\_H2M](https://youtu.be/BxIAKDF_H2M)

[Santa's Hula Holiday:](#)  
<https://youtu.be/9Mp4xftLu0M>