



Andy Coats and the Bank Walkers

What's a Bank Walker? Well, the name is meant to be humorous, something Andy picked up from local columnist A.C. Snow:

"The expression grew out of the sociology of the old swimming hole, in which boys swam, 'buck nekkid,' "Most of us stayed modestly submerged in the waters, but a few of the better-blessed liked to strut around on the banks. Hence, "bank walkers.' "

(Full story at: <http://www.newsobserver.com/lifestyles/snow/2007/story/564423.html>)

The Band has a wide array of influences and inspirations.

Andy Coats-guitar and vocals-is perhaps best known as a solo acoustic performer, having won the 2007 Triangle Blues Society Challenge (solo/duo category). So, naturally his influences include early blues legends such as Charley Patton, Robert Johnson, Son House, and Blind Boy Fuller. But Andy is equally comfortable with an electric guitar in-hand, and finds great inspiration from players such as Elmore James, Freddie King, and Muddy Waters.

"What I'd like to do with this band," says Andy, "is to bring the rawness and immediacy of the early acoustic blues players back into the band format. A lot of today's blues records, in my opinion, have been overly produced-where the engineer spends 3 days on mic-ing the drum kit ... that kind of thing. I'd like to get away from that and strive for a more organic sound ... something closer to the early Muddy Waters records, for example, where you just have the vocal, a couple of guitars, a harp and maybe a kick drum."

Another fresh element Andy brings to the scene is songwriting. "Writing a good blues song-the operative word being 'good'-is much harder than a lot of people would imagine

... you really have to find a topic you know, otherwise it comes off as dishonest or the same old tired theme." Andy has a long career of writing songs in the roots and blues genre, and he's thrilled that the other members of the band are contributing material as well.

Charlie Foote is manning the bass for the band. A highly skilled and versatile musician, Charlie spent his early years playing the heavy metal of the '80s, but since then has branched out in ways that surprise even himself. He has played in several lineups of worship band, a community theater production of the songs of Harry Chapin, Andy's solo CD release parties, and many more. Charlie also wrote the Bank Walkers' signature instrumental, "Farley's Chunk".

Dan Stahl is the drummer for the Bank Walkers. A veteran of the Triangle blues scene, Dan has played in such bands as the Soul Shakers, Mo Jones, and Bad Mojo. A true blues aficionado, Dan's playing is all about the feeling and interest of the song-always tasteful, never overpowering. Recently, Dan has also ventured into songwriting himself, contributing lyrics to songs that he and Andy are writing together.

Perhaps most importantly, these three guys love playing with each other and enjoy a great chemistry onstage. "We try to inject as much humor as possible, and always keep it fun," says Andy. "With a name like the 'Bank Walkers', how could we do anything else?"

You can find further details at any of the following:

www.andycoats.com

www.sonicbids.com/andycoats

www.myspace.com/andycoats

or by emailing your request to: andy-at-andycoats.com.