

Introducing the 65 North Pickers, a high-energy bluegrass quartet that fuses the drive of traditional bluegrass with the exploratory spirit of jam band improvisation. Fronted by mandolin player Jake, banjoist Nate, guitarist Quinton, and bassist Taliana, this quartet is renowned for their lightning-fast picking and impressive improvisation. Their high-energy performances feature incredible original compositions that merge bluegrass with the nostalgic vibes of classic festival music, where the essence of the Grateful Dead meets the psychedelic flair of Jimi Hendrix. With listeners dancing out of their chairs and captivated by the music, 65 North Pickers create an unforgettable experience that keeps fans coming back for more.

65 NORTH PICKERS

*** JAMGRASS FROM KENTUCKY ***



LATEST RELEASES



NEW EP Green Lights Volume 1

“Pretty Daughter.”

“It’s Only Real Till It Falls Down”

“Minefield”

Testimonials

~ Trent from Bridge Up Brewing Company

“65 North Pickers is a new generation of young musicians carrying the legacy of traditional bluegrass music with a unique twist of sound and style”.

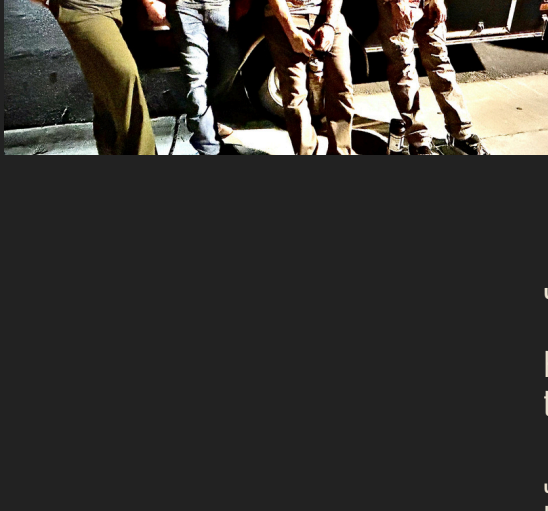
~ Kayla Griffen from Renfro Valley Entertainment Center

“65 North Pickers have brought nothing but high-energy, boot-stompin’ bluegrass to our taproom and patio each time they’ve played our venue. They’re truly professional musicians at the top of their game”.

~ Staff/Crew from Riverlands Brewing Company

“Bourbon Jam Music Festival was so excited to see local favorites 65 North Pickers win the the ultimate Bourbon Jam Talent Showdown Series to open up the festival in 2024. Great turnout and local crowd following”.

~ Diane Turner, Festival Owner/Promoter



Members



Jake McNulty – Vocalist & Mandolin Player for 65 North Pickers

Hailing originally from Chicago, Illinois and now based in Richmond, Kentucky, Jake McNulty is the vibrant vocalist and mandolinist powering the sound of 65 North Pickers.

Jake describes the band's sound and style as a mix of fast-driving bluegrass and extended, no-limits psychedelic jams. Their music embraces the raw energy of traditional picking while pushing boundaries with improvisation, creating an electrifying and ever-evolving live experience.

Jake's musical journey began early, sparked by a family deeply rooted in music. When sports didn't resonate, he found purpose and passion in playing—and never looked back. The Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix, and Stevie Ray Vaughan were early influences that fueled his expressive intensity, while mandolin legends like David Grisman, Jeff Austin, Paul Hoffman, Tim O'Brien, and modern trailblazer Billy Strings shaped his unique sound and a fearless approach to the instrument.

65 North Pickers was born in a college dorm room after Jake met future bandmate Nate through a roommate-finder app. A night of partying and picking turned into a musical revelation—and the decision to chase the dream. The band's name came soon after, thanks to a suggestion from Jake's dad, just in time for their first radio performance.

Since then, Jake and the band have built an impressive resume:

- Winners of the Bourbon Jam Trials, landing a spot on the festival bill
- Opened for Mountain Grass Unit in Memphis, TN
- Shared the stage with The Infamous Stringdusters in Mount Vernon, KY
- Performed at First City Music Festival in Vincennes, IN
- Played the Mockingbird Theater in Franklin, TN alongside Wharf Grass and Tennessee Woodpile

Jake's songwriting blends personal experiences with narrative storytelling—often written from the perspective of an observer, much like the lyrical style of the Dead. His creative process typically begins with experimenting on mandolin or guitar, discovering a riff or lick, then building chords and lyrics from there.

Currently balancing college, construction work, and a growing musical career, Jake is laser-focused on building 65 North Pickers' following and refining their sound. As for the future? Jake sees a big stage, bright lights, and a crowd singing back the songs he helped bring to life. And judging by the momentum, he's well on his way.

Nate Farmer – Vocalist & Banjo Player for 65 North Pickers

Based in Richmond, Kentucky, Nate Farmer is the high-energy banjo player and vocalist at the core of 65 North Pickers, a progressive bluegrass band rapidly gaining attention for their genre-bending sound and intense live performances. Nate's explosive playing style and emotionally driven songwriting help shape the band's signature identity: raw, improvisational, and relentlessly fresh.

Nate describes the band's sound and style as Jam Grass—a fast-paced, high-intensity approach to bluegrass that flows seamlessly into psychedelic, spacey jams. With frequent tempo changes and improvised sections, their music is never played the same way twice. This sense of spontaneity, combined with technical skill and deep emotion, keeps audiences engaged and always guessing what's next.

Originally from Mettawa, Illinois, Nate's journey into music began in an unexpected way. After a devastating football injury in high school, he picked up a guitar during recovery and found a new path. A couple of years later, a conversation with his college bluegrass ensemble instructor, Pam Perry, inspired him to take the banjo seriously. From that moment on, he committed to the instrument and hasn't looked back.

Nate's banjo playing draws influence from icons like J.D. Crowe, Billy Felling, Andy Thorn, Torrin Daniels, and Billy Strings, players known for pushing the limits of the genre. From Crowe's traditional licks to Daniels' pedal-heavy, single-string style, Nate blends elements of classic and modern bluegrass into a sound that's entirely his own. On the songwriting side, he looks to Tyler Childers for lyrical inspiration, striving to inject raw emotion and honest storytelling into every verse.

For Nate, live shows are all about intensity and emotional connection. Whether it's a hard-driving banjo tune or a spacey jam that stretches the boundaries of form, the goal is always the same: to take listeners somewhere unexpected. That passion became undeniable at their first major performance at the Mockingbird Theater in Tennessee, a moment when the band realized just how much they loved playing for live audiences. Since then, their journey has included opening for the Mountain Grass Unit in Memphis, performing at their first major bluegrass event, the First City Music Festival, and sharing the stage with the Infamous Stringdusters at Renfro Valley—marking Quinton Miller's debut show with the band and a major leap forward in their sound.

One of Nate's proudest accomplishments is stepping into his role as full-time banjo player for the band, something he worked toward with relentless dedication. His songwriting process is careful and particular, rooted in meaning and emotion. While that means songs may take time to finish, they always land with real impact.

Currently, Nate balances construction work with a life of touring and recording. The band is in the early stages of a new tour and preparing to release their next EP this summer. Looking ahead, Nate sees the 65 North Pickers on stages across the country, carving out their name as one of the next big forces in modern bluegrass.

With passionate vocals, a blazing banjo style, and a drive to evolve the genre, Nate Farmer is helping lead a bluegrass renaissance—one show, one jam, and one heartfelt song at a time.

Quinton Miller – Vocalist & Guitarist for 65 North Pickers

Based in Richmond, Kentucky, Quinton Miller is the guitarist and vocalist driving the creative core of 65 North Pickers.

Quinton describes the band's sound and style as jam-grass...a melting pot of genres that's not strictly traditional bluegrass and not any one thing entirely. Instead, it's a dynamic, evolving fusion built from each member's personal influences and musical tastes. The result is tight, loud, intricate, and unpredictable...a high-energy experience that stands apart from the conventional.

Originally from Owenton, Kentucky, Quinton now lives in Richmond with his bandmates, Jake McNulty and Nate Farmer. He grew up surrounded by music, playing piano, guitar, and singing from a young age. After exploring several musical paths, it was bluegrass, with its complexity, intensity, and momentum, that fully captured his attention. Still, his playing continues to reflect a wide range of musical influences, from rock and blues to jam and soul.

Artists like Slash, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jimi Hendrix, Tony Rice, Gary Moore, Albert King, Billy Strings, Doc Watson, and Jerry Garcia all left their mark on Quinton's playing. That blend of tradition and rebellion shows up in both his vocals and guitar work—soulful, bold, and unafraid to take risks.

One of Quinton's defining career moments was his very first show with 65 North Pickers, opening for The Infamous Stringdusters at Renfro Valley. That night not only set the tone for the band's future—it lit the fire that keeps them pushing forward. Quinton's songwriting process is intuitive and honest. There's no formula—he writes when inspiration hits, striving to be as emotionally truthful as possible. His songs reflect lived experiences and imagined stories alike, all wrapped in a sound that's as expressive as it is intense.

Right now, 65 North Pickers are living together in Richmond, gigging on weekends, building their following, and creating new music. Quinton sees the future clearly: full-time touring, bigger crowds, and a growing community of fans connecting deeply with the songs he and the band bring to life.

With powerful vocals, inventive guitar work, and a vision that stretches far beyond the traditional, Quinton Miller is helping redefine what modern bluegrass and jam-grass can be: bold, boundaryless, and unforgettable.

Taliana Jones – Bass Player for 65 North Pickers

Hailing from Kernersville, North Carolina, Taliana Jones is the rhythmic backbone of 65 North Pickers, building down the groove with her traditional bluegrass bass playing while weaving in unexpected influences from funk, reggae rock, and beyond. Known for her energy, drive, and commanding stage presence, Taliana brings a dynamic pulse to the band's progressive string sound.

Taliana describes her style as rooted in traditional bluegrass, but with a twist, drawing from genres like funk and reggae rock to create a rhythm that feels both grounded and fresh. Her approach keeps the band's tempo tight and the energy high, especially during their improvisational jamgrass segments that rely on instinctive, real-time interplay among bandmates.

Raised in a musical family, Taliana has been surrounded by bluegrass her entire life. For her, playing this genre isn't just a choice, it's an expression of Appalachian heritage. She credits her father as her greatest inspiration and musical partner. Together, they've played at churches, festivals, gigs, and in living rooms for over a decade.

Joining 65 North Pickers marked a new chapter in Taliana's musical journey. One of her most memorable moments was her very first show with the band, opening for the Infamous Stringdusters in Renfro Valley, Kentucky. That experience solidified her connection to the group and helped spark the musical chemistry that continues to drive their performances.

In 2021, Taliana earned first place in the bass competition at the Maury River Fiddler's Convention in Buena Vista, Virginia, a testament to her skill, discipline and deep musical intuition.

Though new to songwriting, Taliana is finding her voice as a composer by focusing on rhythm and dynamics, the foundation of any great piece of music. She thrives when collaborating with her bandmates, building ideas collectively to ensure each song reflects the soul of the whole group.

Musically, Taliana draws from a wide spectrum of influences. Within bluegrass, she finds inspiration in the Del McCoury Band, the Bluegrass Album Band, and her father's playing. Outside the genre, her musical tastes span from The Police and Steely Dan to Blink-182 and Pierce the Veil, adding a unique flavor to her rhythmic sensibilities.

On stage, Taliana is all about energy. She brings a powerful presence to every show, feeding off the crowd and her bandmates as they dive into high-octane bluegrass and exploratory jams.

Currently, Taliana is soaking up every opportunity to play, whether it's a festival stage or a backyard jam. Looking ahead, she envisions a future filled with music, whether that means touring full-time across the world or creating meaningful moments in more intimate spaces. Either way, she'll be doing what she loves most: laying down the low end, driving the rhythm and bringing people together through the power of live music.

With deep roots, bold ideas, and a passion for pushing the genre forward, Taliana Jones is helping shape the future of bluegrass—one note, one jam, and one unforgettable performance at a time.

Current Tour

GREEN LIGHTS TOUR

65 NORTH PICKERS SUMMER 25' TOUR

4/23 RICHMOND AREA ARTS CENTER, KY +
4/25 NOBLE SMOKE, NC
4/25 THOMAS STREET TAVERN, NC
4/26 NOBLE SMOKE, NC
5/3 PRIVATE PARTY
5/24 THE CHERRY HUT, WI
6/5 RIVERLANDS BREWING COMPANY, IL
6/13 BONUS PINTS, IN
6/14 THE COTERIE, IN
6/27 DIVINE BARREL BREWING COMPANY, NC
6/28 BETSY'S BARN, NC
7/3 NORTHSIDE ROCK N ROLL FESTIVAL, OH
7/26 HOP LOT BREWING COMPANY, MI
8/1 UNION STREET BREWING COMPANY, MD
8/2 DON'T KNOW TAVERN, MD
8/3 PICKETT BREWING COMPANY, PA
8/8 JAMEY'S HOUSE OF MUSIC, MD
8/9 DRIFTWOOD POINT, OH
8/15 HANSIE FLIP, KY
8/17 THE BREAK ROOM, KY
8/21 SOUTHLAND JAMBOREE, KY +
8/22 CROWE FESTIVAL, KY +
8/30 RAMBLING HOUSE MUSIC BAR, OH
9/4 DRIFTWOOD POINT, OH
9/5 DRIFTWOOD POINT, OH
9/6 THE BREW BRIDGE, KY (BILLY STRINGS AFTER PARTY)
9/12 THE COTERIE, IN
9/13 15th ANNUAL BOURBON AND BEER FEST, IL
9/27 FIRST CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL, IN

Previous Tours

65 NORTH PICKERS WINTER RUN

4/4 BLUEGRASS BARREL HOUSE, KY
4/12 HAIR OF THE DOG HOUSE, KY
4/19 HILARY'S BEER TAVERN, WOODSTOCK, IL
4/24 CARRIUS BREWING COMPANY, IN
4/24 ECU BLUEGRASS ENSEMBLE, IL
4/24 LIGHT THE LAMP BREWING COMPANY, IL
4/24 REDUCER, SUPPER CLUB & B&E, IL
5/24 WEEZ FORCE BREWING COMPANY, IL
6/15 THE CHERRY HUT, WI
6/14 THURMANS 23, WI
6/15 HOUSEKEEP & B&E, WI

65 NORTH PICKERS SUMMER 2023

MAY
5/26 TIGHTHEAD BREWERY MUNDELEIN, IL
5/27 SHORTSTOPS BAR CHICAGO RIDGE, IL
JUNE
6/4 SIDERAC UPPER BLUE BATAVIA, IL
6/7 MURPHY'S PUB ROCKFORD, IL
6/10 HART'S SALOON EVERGREEN PARK, IL
6/11 HOLZLAGER BREWING CO. WOODSTOCK, IL
6/18 HIPPOS BAR CHICAGO, IL
JULY
7/8 HARBOR BREWING CO. LAKE VILLA, IL
7/9 HARBOR BREWING CO. WOODSTOCK, IL
7/15 MACKAY'S HIDEOUT, IL
7/22 HART'S SALOON EVERGREEN PARK, IL
7/29 TIGHTHEAD BREWING CO. MUNDELEIN, IL
7/30 HOLZLAGER BREWING CO. WOODSTOCK, IL
AUGUST
8/4 HARBOR BREWING CO. LAKE VILLA, IL
8/10 HERNER'S HIDEAWAY GENOA CITY, WI

BLUEGRASS MOTION TOUR

4/4 BLUEGRASS BARREL HOUSE, KY
4/12 HAIR OF THE DOG HOUSE, KY
4/19 HILARY'S BEER TAVERN, WOODSTOCK, IL
4/24 CARRIUS BREWING COMPANY, IN
4/24 ECU BLUEGRASS ENSEMBLE, IL
4/24 LIGHT THE LAMP BREWING COMPANY, IL
4/24 REDUCER, SUPPER CLUB & B&E, IL
5/24 WEEZ FORCE BREWING COMPANY, IL
6/15 THE CHERRY HUT, WI
6/14 THURMANS 23, WI
6/15 HOUSEKEEP & B&E, WI

BLUEGRASS MOTION TOUR

6/24 HIPPOS BAR, IL
6/22 HART'S SALOON, IL
6/28 UNRULY BREWING COMPANY, MI
7/10 RIVERLANDS BREWING COMPANY, IL
7/10 THE BROCK FESTIVAL, IN
7/10 HART'S SALOON EVERGREEN PARK, KY
7/10 KEG GROVE BREWING COMPANY, IL
8/10 CROWE FESTIVAL, KY
9/13 SUFFY'S PLACE, IN
9/13 FIRST CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL, IN
WINTER ECU BLUEGRASS ENSEMBLES

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