

# THE SONS OF RALPH

## The Band

**The Sons of Ralph**, based in Asheville, North Carolina, cannot be defined by a single genre, as they play a wide variety of music, including many original songs. Their unique sound, which has been described as “Americana”, incorporates traditional mountain music, bluegrass, country and western, folk, and classic rock. The Sons of Ralph guarantee an enjoyable and memorable show appropriate for campus and corporate events, private parties, pubs, festivals, and weddings.

Audiences enjoy Sons of Ralph shows, because beyond their musical talents, the band engages and involves the crowd in each performance. For over ten years, Sons of Ralph have played at least once a month at Jack of the Wood, a pub in downtown Asheville. They also perform for standing room only crowds during holiday parties at Jack of the Wood, including Halloween, July Fourth, New Year’s Eve, and Bele Chere, one of the largest street festivals in the Southeast.

As a testament to the band’s popularity, readers of *The Mountain Xpress*, journal of independent Asheville news, arts, and events, have voted



The Sons of Ralph “Best Local Band” for eight of the last ten years, including 2007 and 2008. Fans respond to the band’s obvious love of performing music and their commitment to provide quality entertainment.

The Sons of Ralph are dedicated professionals who work hard and set high standards for themselves. Unlike many bands that cannot survive the pressures of performing and traveling together, their membership has remained stable and their work relationships are strong. The band members who are not blood relatives are treated like members of the Lewis family and are referred to as “cousin” or “brother”. Their friendship and respect for each other as musicians is genuine, both on and off-stage.

In addition to paid performances, the Sons of Ralph frequently share their talents and gift of music to charitable causes. They have performed free shows to benefit Our Voice Women’s Shelter, United Way, Relay for Life, Madison County Arts, The Wolf Foundation, and the Asheville Buncombe County Christian Ministries Veterans’ Center. The Sons of Ralph perform regularly for Davidson Homes, an agency that assists people with developmental disabilities.

## The People Behind the Music



**Ralph Lewis**, the heart and soul of Sons of Ralph, turned 80 in April 2008, and has been playing and singing his unique style of bluegrass music since his childhood in Madison County, NC. In the 1970s, he was invited by [Bill Monroe](#) to join the Bluegrass Boys on national and international tours and at the [Grand Ole Opry](#). Sons Martin and Don have also performed with Bill Monroe at the Grand Ole Opry when they were kids traveling with their father during school breaks.

In 2001, Ralph received the [Bascom Lamar Lunsford Award](#) which is given annually to "individuals who have made significant contributions to the folk traditions in the southern mountains."



**Martin Lewis** is a musician, singer and prolific songwriter whose music has been recorded by Sons of Ralph, Open Road, Norfolk Southern Lawmen, 40 West, and The Lids. He has performed with Chubby Wise and Kenny Baker (former "Bluegrass Boys"), Vassar Clements, and Hank Thompson. Martin has recorded with numerous other groups and has a solo CD, "Olde Towne Lullabies".



**Don Lewis**, is a musician and singer who has performed with Rhonda Vincent at the Grand Ole Opry, appeared on Hee Haw, and has recorded with Warren Haynes, Doc Watson, the Red Clay Ramblers, the Shady Grove Band, Roy Clark, and Ronnie Milsap. In addition to performing with brother Martin at venues throughout the Southeast, Don toured Europe with the Shady Grove Band and played with the Red Clay Ramblers on Broadway.



**Steve Moseley** is a gifted musician and singer who easily establishes rapport with the audience and encourages their interaction and requests. He was bassist with Social Funkshen, and a staff musician for the [Hogs Breath Saloons](#) in Key West and Destin, Florida. In addition to his musical talents, Steve is a nurse caring for people with developmental disabilities. He also volunteers his time and musical talents to [Bugles Across America](#).



**Ozzie Orengo Jr.** began playing professionally at age 15 with local and regional bands including [Con Clave](#) and Eta Carina, and he currently plays with a nine piece salsa band [Nuevo Montuno](#). His various styles of drumming allow him to play with Motown recording artist Sidney Barns and singer-songwriter Kellin Watson in addition to his performances with Sons of Ralph.

## Sons of Ralph

The Sons of Ralph have three CDs, “Grab a Root and Growl”, “Mountain Boys” and “Tune to This”, which have enjoyed local and regional airplay. The band is currently recording their next project, and they are available to assist other musicians with writing and recording needs.

### The Shows

**Theater** – music and discussion with the audience. Ralph and the band members perform and talk about music and life on the road from the 1970’s to the present. They discuss instruments and artifacts from the early days of Bluegrass, such as the mandolin that Bill Monroe gave young Don Lewis at the Grand Ole Opry.

**Stadiums and Festivals** – outdoor and large venues. Ralph and the band keep large crowds engaged and entertained with great music, stories and enthusiasm. They always leave the audience wanting more!

**Pubs and local venues** – a high energy show with lots of music and audience interaction. The band plays cover songs, original songs, and audience requests. This show offers lots of dancing music, and the band loves to get the crowd up on their feet and moving!

**Private Parties and Weddings** – a more intimate performance with music tailored to the event. The band will work with event organizers and wedding planners to assure that guests enjoy music appropriate for the occasion.

The band would enjoy the opportunity to work with you to plan a memorable private party, wedding ceremony and/or reception, campus event or corporate function. Please contact us for information and references from former clients. We have full sound and lighting if needed for your event. Our song list is diverse and can accommodate most musical tastes.

### Sons of Ralph

P.O. Box 277

Enka, NC 28728

Phone: 828-667-0041 or 828-779-2624

Email: [sonsofralph@earthlink.net](mailto:sonsofralph@earthlink.net)

Web: [www.sonsofralph.com](http://www.sonsofralph.com)

