

### **BILL COOLEY- guitar**

A native of Santa Barbara, CA, Bill Cooley is a stalwart Nashville veteran, called “one of Nashville’s most respected sidemen” by Guitar Player magazine. After working with Merle Haggard in California in the early 80’s he moved to Nashville in 1985, and has toured and recorded with Reba McEntire, Alan Jackson, and Hal Ketchum. Bill has played guitar for Kathy Mattea on stage and in the studio for the past 20 years. As a songwriter he’s had his songs recorded by Kathy and Reba, among others.

Cooley’s first CD, titled “Unravel’d”, was released in 1997 and nominated for Instrumental Album of the Year at the Nashville Music Awards (he lost to Chet Atkins!). Music Row magazine called it “a magical gem of a guitar record”, and Wood & Steel magazine said it was “a terrific acoustic guitar album- Unravel’d is satisfying in the way good music should be”.

When Bill’s follow-up CD, “A Turn in the Road”, was released in 2004, Acoustic Guitar magazine wrote that “few guitarists cover as much musical ground as thoroughly as Bill Cooley does on his second solo disc”. According to Minor 7<sup>th</sup>.com, “Cooley’s forte is laying down any kind of groove with just his fingers and six steel strings”. Bill was part of the core band that recorded Kathy’s Grammy-nominated “Coal” album, and is now with her on tour in support of that project. In the spring of 2009 he released his third instrumental CD, “The Return Journey”.

### **EAMONN O’ROURKE- fiddle, mandolin, vocals**

Eamonn O’Rourke was born in County Donegal, Ireland. He grew up in a very musical family and took an interest to music at a very young age. Eamonn plays bass, guitar, violin, and mandolin, and he began his professional career in his late teens, playing with small, local Irish bands. In 1993, Eamonn moved to New York to further his musical career, and since moving to the United States he has had many wonderful opportunities: working with a wide variety of artists throughout the United States and Canada, being blessed with the chance to study with the great Mark O’Connor, cultivating a successful career as a session musician, and composing and producing numerous albums in his studio on Long Island. In 2002, Eamonn was given the wonderful opportunity to join Kathy Mattea, and is delighted to rejoin Kathy and her band, as a musician and friend, as she embarks on her new acoustic tour.

### **DAVID SPICHER- bass, vocals**

A native of Nashville, TN, David is the son of session fiddle king Buddy Spicher. He has performed with Crystal Gayle, Pam Tillis, the Jerry Douglas Band, Carolina Rain, Jim Lauderdale, Nickel Creek, polka queen Lynn Marie, the Nashville Symphony, John England & the Western Swingers, and his family’s own Nashville Swing Band.