

## MUSIC: Step Into the Blue celebrate CD release

Thursday July 20, 2006



Bluegrass band Step Into the Blue will be in concert at 8 p.m. Thursday at Holderby's Landing.

By [Dave Lavender](#)  
The Herald-Dispatch

If you want to Step Into the Blue, you'll want to be down at the Ohio River on Thursday night.

We're not suggesting a cool-off swim to Chesapeake and back, just letting you know that the young bluegrass band Step Into the Blue will be in concert at 8 p.m. Thursday at Holderby's Landing.

The band, made up of twenty-something's from around the region, will also be in concert at 7 p.m.

Saturday at Milton's Mountaineer Opry House. Both concerts celebrate the release of the band's self-titled CD, which features band members, Tim Corbett (bass), Tommy Drake (banjo), Chris Stockwell (dobro) and Kelly Davis (guitar and vocals) along with a near Santana-length list of guest vocalists.

Wielding the nine-pound bluegrass vocal hammers were Ernie Thacker, Randy Kohrs, Chris Davis (from Larry Cordle's band), Buck Carroll, Adam Rutledge, Lemmie Adkins and Noel Tarr. Brandon Shuping, of Thacker's band, Route 23, also added mandolin to the blazing CD that was recorded at Dan Ward's Hit Maker Recording Studio in Wheelersburg, Ohio. Corbett said the band, which decided to form up at last year's Rudy Fest Bluegrass Festival in Grayson, Ky., said they wanted to do a couple of CD release parties to celebrate the project which includes so many area bluegrass artists.

"The main thing we were trying to showcase was how many talented musicians there are in the area," said Corbett, who has thumped upright bass with a number of local bands. "Since it has been a year working on it, and since everyone has been asking when it is going to be out, we really wanted to do something special where we could have the CD available for anybody."

Corbett, who was playing with Drake in Buck Carroll's band, said the band first got together to jam at Rudy Fest and it was there that they decided they should get together and put together a recording. Recorded off and on since last July, the CD is a good blend of originals, classic covers and new songs from some of the best contemporary bluegrass writers, including Bill Castle, whose flood song, "Big Muddy," was sang by Buck Carroll with Chris Davis harmony.

The CD also features some classic covers such as Bill Monroe's "Little Cabin Home on the Hill," "House of the Rising Sun," and "Wait a Minute," both recorded by the D.C.-based bluegrass band, Seldom Scene, as well as song by Michael Martin Murphy ("Carolina in the Pines") and Vern Gosdin's, "Helen." *(Continued on Next Page)*

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**(Cont.)**

Corbett said there's some great stories behind some of their originals. The idea for the title cut, "Step Into the Blue," was inspired by a Labatt's Blue, beer coaster Corbett had picked up a couple years ago when there were bluegrass jams at Peter Outlaws at the Econolodge on U.S. 60 East. "The song selection was the thing that took the longest," Corbett said. "You get somebody like Ernie Thacker, a singer of his caliber in the studio, and you want to make sure you get him to sing good songs that will help you and help him and make an impact if you can."

Thacker, who is slowly recovering after being critically injured in a car wreck this spring, sings "Danville Prison Grave," by Mark Brinkman and Mike Evans as well as "Daddy's Meadow Fields," a new song written by Kelly Davis. That song was added when Davis, who plays in the rock band Low Ground, shared the song, which he had just written a few days before, in the studio. "We learned it the night before with Kelly and Ernie, of course, had never heard it, he listened to the instrument tracks and Kelly taught it to him and Ernie went in and sang it," Corbett said.

Corbett said "The CD has been sent out to several radio stations as well as some of the nationally syndicated bluegrass shows such as America's Bluegrass, which is created locally by Bo McCarty, as well as the 24-hour streaming station, [www.bluegrassradio.org](http://www.bluegrassradio.org)."

"With the online stations and XM and Sirius there are a ton of possibilities out there," Corbett said.