

the **Fallen Stars**

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The Fallen Stars is an Americana Rock band that believes a good story can break your heart and a driving guitar riff can put it back together again, all in the space of a three minute song.

Few musical partnerships are as lucky as Bobbo and Tracy Byrnes. Happily married for over a decade, they've been writing and performing music together for just as long. In the autumn of 2000 they moved from Boston, Massachusetts to Southern California and shortly thereafter founded one of Orange County's leading Americana Rock bands, The Fallen Stars.

Blending rock and roll energy, country-flavored instrumentation and folk-inspired story-telling, The Fallen Stars have carved out a niche in the Southern California scene all their own.

One of the key qualities that make the Fallen Stars stand out from the crowd is their adaptability. Bobbo and Tracy often perform as an acoustic duo, him on guitar, her on bass, and both sharing lead and harmony vocals. These performances are rich with warm intimacy, as with the dobro-laden tale of the Industrial Revolution "Millsboro", and personal anecdotes like "Raining in Hollywood," a long-distance letter home.

Add drummer Gary O'Yeah into the mix and they are transformed into a dynamic three-piece band. At full strength, the band also includes Geoff Geib on keyboard and mandolin. This powerhouse lineup bursts with energy, soaring through the big-hearted "Candyland," and connecting with the audience on the swaggering "Welfare Cadillac," before leading them on a wild ride through the dusty back roads of rock with "Outlaws and Angels" and the anthemic "One, Two, Three."

The Fallen Stars have honed their live show over the years, sharing the bill with bands as



diverse as The Church, The Blasters, The Tubes, Ian Hunter, Matthew Sweet, The Motels, Dave Alvin, and most recently, the Gin Blossoms and Roger Kline. "It's such a gift," says Bobbo, "to have the chance to play with these great bands. We always learn something new."

Their latest release "Where the Road Bends," has garnered critical praise, including nominations at the Orange County Music Awards in 2009 for "Album of the Year" and "Song of the Year" for its opening track "St. George's Bank." The band also walked away with a win in the Best Country/Americana category, along with sweeping the Best Live Rock Band and Best Live Acoustic Band categories at the SoCal Live Music Competition. They are currently in the studio working on their next yet-to-be-named album.

In the words of one Fallen Stars fan, "Their music is Americana with an edge, it feels like driving on Route 66 with the radio on full blast. Every song has a story, every story has a meaning. The more you listen to it, the more it becomes a part of you." ☞

"Somewhere between the wide-open stretches of Gram Parson's beloved Mojave Desert and the decaying cityscapes frequented by Bruce Springsteen shine the Fallen Stars."

~The Orange County Register

"The Fallen Stars are much more than just music to the ears – they are an experience and a feast to the senses. Combining elements of country rock, blues and Americana into their music, their true talent lies in their ability to create an atmosphere of fun for their audience."

~ SoCal Music Live

"The Fallen Stars play music that hints of America's heartland. John Mellencamp, John Hiatt, and Steve Earle have all made a name for themselves playing this style of Americana and now The Fallen Stars are taking their shot at the brass ring."

~Metronome Magazine

Band Members

- Bobbo Byrnes
Vocals, guitar
- Tracy Byrnes
Vocals, bass guitar
- Gary O'Yeah
Drums
- Geoff Geib
Keyboards, mandolin

Tidbits:

- Hometown:
Huntington Beach, CA
- Founded:
2001

Discography

- Where the Road Bends (2008)
- Vaya con Queso—Live (2008)
- Found and Lost (2004)

Genre

- Americana Rock
- Alt-Country
- Roots Rock
- Country Rock

Similar Artists

- Whiskeytown
- Bruce Springsteen
- Uncle Tupelo
- Lone Justice
- Blue Rodeo
- Gram Parsons
- Kathleen Edwards
- Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
- The Pretenders
- Steve Earle

Press

"Highlights on "Where the Road Bends" include the freewheeling alt-country rocker "St. George's Bank," heartland-flavored "One, Two, Three," the folk rock of "Raining in Hollywood" and traditional country-western gem "Diner Door."

"Another winning element in the Fallen Stars' sound is the effective way that husband-and-wife team of Bobbo and Tracy Byrnes handle lead vocal duties, as well as the adventurous way they blend those voices beautifully together on songs such as "House of Cards" and "APB."

~The Orange County Register, 5/7/08

"Where the Road Bends" is a well-crafted album with songs about out-of-the-way places, busted relationships, and escaping (both the law and your hometown). The band deftly follows the musical storytelling tradition of Bruce Springsteen, Steve Earle, and Gram Parsons."

~Gary Schwind of BrooWaha.com

"The Fallen Stars definitely know how to put on a show. At a performance at The Coach House in June, the band's onstage chemistry flowed into the audience, mesmerizing them. The lyrics are universal yet personal, with Bobbo Byrnes seemingly singing to individuals in the audience. Bassist Tracy Byrnes has an energizing smile and she plays bass with ease. The rest of the band, guitarist Gregg Braught and drummer John Vowell, play like they are having the time of their lives."

~ 944 Magazine, June 07

Awards

2010

Orange County Music Awards

Nominee - *Best Country / Americana*

2009

Orange County Music Awards

Winner - *Best Country / Americana*

Nominee - *Song of the Year*

"St. George's Bank"

Nominee - *Album of the Year*

"Where the Road Bends"

SoCal Live Music Competition

Winner - *Best Live Rock Band*

Winner - *Best Live Acoustic Band*

2008

Orange County Music Awards

Winner - *Best Live Acoustic Band*

"Playing music that is at once as inviting as the Pretenders and as arresting as My Morning Jacket, The Fallen Stars impressed mightily..."

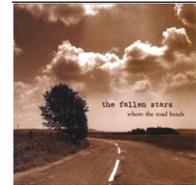
"[Bobbo and Tracy] Byrnes write deeply affecting material and it is delivered with an authenticity that is exhilarating. Even on disc, the Fallen Stars' blend of roots rock, country, folk and pop is delivered with the wallop of the Clash, notably on the outfit's most recent CD, 2004's astounding "Found & Lost."

~The Orange County Register, 11/24/06

"Their new CD, Found & Lost, is filled with tales that sound like antecedents from Bruce Springsteen or Tom Petty. "Sioux City," about playing blackjack on a riverboat has that ragtag "Born to Run" feel."

~The Lowell Sun, 9/9/04

Track Listings



Where The Road Bends (2008)

1. St. George's Bank*
2. Candyland*
3. One, Two, Three
4. Raining in Hollywood
5. House of Cards
6. Diner Door
7. Millsboro*
8. APB
9. Outlaws & Angels
10. Lies Like These
11. Welfare Cadillac
12. Eveline
13. January



found & lost (2004)

1. Found
2. Break the Skin
3. In Reach*
4. We Are Only Young
5. Double Down*
6. Sioux City
7. Wedding Eyes
8. Coming Home
9. Ellie*
10. April Fool
11. Heading South
12. San Diego
13. Lost

*Feature Tracks

The Orange County Register, March 6, 2009

The Orange County Register

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ORANGE POP

Fallen Stars are on the rise

The Americana group is up for three Orange County Music Awards in April.

By **KELLI SKYE FADROSKI**
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Bobbo Byrnes was thrilled when he got the call last week that his band, the Fallen Stars was nominated for three Orange County Music Awards. OK, so it's not the Grammys, but the alternative country quintet from Huntington Beach is honored to be nominated nonetheless.

The group is up for the best album award for its 2008 release "Where the Road Bends," best song for "St. George's Bank," and best country/Americana group at the 2009 OCMAs at the Grove of Anaheim on April 4. It's quite an accomplishment, as a group is the only one within its genre that was able to beat out a slew of rock and indie bands to be nominated in the top two award categories.

Though they're no stranger to awards (Fallen Stars won best live acoustic band at last year's OCMAs) the moderate success isn't going to their heads.

"We've been nominated a handful of times in the past, we've won before, now we're up for three awards and I have absolutely no complaints," Byrnes says.

In 2000, Byrnes, along with his wife, Tracy, moved to Orange County from Boston. With the desire for a change after the tragic and sudden deaths of two loved ones, the couple decided to hop in the car and head as far west as they could, eventually landing in Huntington Beach.

The duo had always been involved in music. Once settled in their new home, the couple decided to regroup, start up a band and find quality musicians to play with. The name, the Fallen



MARK T. STOCK

Orange County Americana band the Fallen Stars are, from left, Brian Matteson, Geoff Geib, Bobbo Byrnes, Tracy Byrnes and Gregg Braught.

The Fallen Stars

Bobbo Byrnes (vocals, guitar)
Tracy Byrnes (bass)
Gregg Braught (lead guitar)
Geoff Geib (keyboard, mandolin)
Brian Matteson (drums)
Hometown: Huntington Beach/Los Angeles
Established: 2000
Next gig: 9 p.m. Saturday at the Marlin Bar, 16651 Gothard Ave., Huntington Beach. \$5.
Online: thefallenstars.com

Stars, came from a song Bobbo wrote called "Find Some Light," in which he sings "I'm just a fallen star that never shown, did you never see the flames that I had thrown."

With Bobbo taking over guitar and vocal duties and Tracy on bass, the lineup was completed with the additions of lead guitarist Gregg Braught, drummer Brian Matteson and key-

boardist and mandolin player Geoff Geib.

Music is a true labor of love for this band. Since there's no high-dollar record contract, the group has contributed a lot of their own funds into the project, but they remain hopeful that one day it will all pay off.

"We've had some benevolent people who have donated money and friends and family who have contributed, but we've all had to dip into our own savings as well," Byrnes says.

The Fallen Stars have been hard at work for the past year. They released their fifth album, "Where the Road Bends" in May and embarked on their LA LA Tour in October that had the band playing various cities from Los Angeles to Louisiana.

"The final show on that tour was in Costa Mesa at the Orange County Democrats election night party," Bobbo Byrnes says. "I

heard a rumor that we were on CNN that night briefly, but I didn't ever see it."

Currently working on a sixth album, which is scheduled to be out in a couple of months, Byrnes says the tracks are sticking to the storytelling style the group is known for, but the content is definitely more positive than it has been in the past. Songs on "Found and Lost," the band's 2004 release, came from watching everyone they knew who had gotten married, suddenly getting divorced.

"It was kind of a breaking up album and after we finished that we didn't want to write anymore songs about that," he says. "On 'Where the Road Bends' and with the new stuff, we just tried to focus more on looking forward instead of looking back."

Though the band sticks with what it does best when it comes to genre, Byrnes says that each member has an extremely eclectic taste

in music.

"We are all into so many different things," he says. "Our drummer Brian loves music from easy listening to Swedish death metal. You listen to him play and you wonder, 'How does that work?' We'll ask him what influenced certain parts of music and he'll throw out some bizarre band name that we've never heard of... but it all sounds good."

So what does the band think really makes them stand out in the scene?

"It sounds so cliché, but people often tell us that we don't sound like the other bands in the area. There's a familiar aspect to our music, but we don't sound like whatever the flavor of the month is. We don't play metal. We just tell stories with our songs. It's an old style of music, but done with our own twist."

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