

## The Deer Creek Boys

The Deer Creek Boys offer what Mountain Fever Records has described as “a youthful, edging on contemporary approach to bluegrass”, but definitely stay rooted in the traditional mindset. Bluegrass legend Terry Baucom has been quoted saying “I like to listen to these guys because they play the kind of bluegrass I dig.” They were originally formed when brothers Justin Tomlin (guitar) and Jason "Sweet Tater" Tomlin (bass) and best friend Cason Ogden (mandolin) started picking locally in their native Amherst, Virginia and have since added North Carolina banjo picker Andy Lowe to round out their sound. They have been a favorite of the festival circuit ever since emerging on the scene! With stints in Nothin' Fancy, Junior Sisk & Rambler's Choice, and the Bluegrass Brothers on the band's résumé, the Deer Creek Boys are a powerful blend of energetic picking, hard-hitting harmonies, and top-notch songwriting.

In April of 2016, the band released their major-label debut, *What Goes Up*, on Mountain Fever Records. The album received instant success, landing three separate songs on the Bluegrass Today radio charts and making it to the second round of the IBMA “Emerging Artist of the Year” award category. *What Goes Up* even received a bid into the initial round of the Grammy Awards voting in 2017, for “Best Bluegrass Album.” The Deer Creek Boys were selected as one of the World of Bluegrass showcase artists at the 2017 IBMA Convention. Promoters will want to get their hands on these crowd-pleasers at every available opportunity!

### **BAND MEMBER BIOS**

#### **Jason Tomlin – Bass, Vocals**

Jason "Sweet Tater" Tomlin plays bass for the group and started picking at the age of seven. He and his brother Justin, along with childhood friend Cason Ogden, founded the Deer Creek Boys in their pre-teenage years. After high school, "Tater" spent five years as a member of the Virginia-based bluegrass band and IBMA award-winning group Junior Sisk & Ramblers Choice. The group took home the coveted IBMA Award for Album of the Year in 2012 for *Heart of a Song*. Back with the Deer Creek Boys, Jason shares songwriting and lead vocal duties with his brother. Jason's stand-

out vocals and energetic songwriting are a key part of the Deer Creek Boys, and he has a captivating stage presence that will excite any crowd put in front of him!

### **Cason Ogden – Mandolin, Vocals**

Mandolin player Cason Ogden is a founding member of the Deer Creek Boys. He grew up listening to his dad play and has always loved bluegrass music. He started playing mandolin around the age of 11, befriending the Tomlin brothers as early as kindergarten, and has developed a remarkable rhythmic chop and an ear-grabbing lead style. He also is a contributor of several original songs in the band's repertoire. Cason is endorsed by Grey Eagle mandolins, crafted by Skip Peyre. It's hard to not tap your toes when you see Cason in his element onstage!

### **Andy Lowe – Banjo**

North Carolina native Andy Lowe plays banjo, immersing himself in the long history the instrument enjoys in home state. Andy has been a bluegrass fan since he was crawling, listening to his dad's band. He's been playing banjo for the past 15 years, gaining a reputation as a hard-hitting picker with a great right hand. Andy is fortunate enough to have won several regional awards for his banjo picking, including the historic Galax Old Time Fiddler's Convention banjo contest in 2011. Andy also serves as the merchandising and graphics expert for the Deer Creek Boys.

### **Justin Tomlin – Guitar, Vocals**

Guitar player Justin Tomlin has been playing and singing bluegrass for over 15 years. He helped to form the Deer Creek Boys with Cason Ogden and his brother Jason Tomlin as a youngster living in Amherst County, Virginia. He has played with the group Still-House and the popular award-winning group Nothin' Fancy, winning several SPBGMA awards as a member of the entertaining group. A prolific songwriter, Justin's songwriting is at the core of the band's sound, helping to write many of the songs included on the band's debut record, *What Goes Up*. He and "Sweet Tater" share lead vocal duties onstage with the Deer Creek Boys, with the exceptional brother harmonies that are a staple of bluegrass music. He also acts as the band's engaging emcee.