

# Asheville Junction Bio

Asheville Junction is a bluegrass/Americana band from the high country of North Carolina. Their lively, entertaining shows feature hot fiddlin', vocals, harmonies and much more. Folks find themselves singing, clapping, and toe-tappin' along to the music. The band formed when mother-daughter duo Tierra and Maria Raiti moved to Asheville and joined up with long-time local musicians Brad Pope on upright bass, Tim Comstock on mandolin and Ken Sager on dobro.

## **Tierra Raiti: Fiddle and Lead Singer**

Tierra Raiti, lead and harmony singer and fiery fiddler for the band, has been noticed as a formidable rising musician and appeared on the Woodsongs International Radio Show last year. Recordings from a bluegrass album she cut at age fourteen have been played in roots and Americana radio shows around the world. Tierra is a phenomenally accomplished and versatile singer and fiddler, having won numerous fiddle contests and violin competitions, as well as singing competitions and scholarships ranging from jazz to classical to country.

## **Tim Comstock: Mandolin and occasional vocals**

Tim's a multi-instrumentalist with a penchant for musical diversity. Originally hailing from Portsmouth, Virginia and a longtime Swannanoa Valley resident, if he's not picking tunes he's probably enjoying the great outdoors with his esteemed Plott hound friend. Tim has worked with a wide variety of artists in the WNC area, from string bands to indie rock and jazz groups, and is excited to have a role on mandolin with Asheville Junction.

## **Brad Pope: Bass and occasional vocals**

I was born and raised in Asheville, NC. Twenty-one years ago I heard [dwrightyoakamacoustic.net](http://dwrightyoakamacoustic.net) and it socked me in the eye and I said "I WANNA DO THAT!" So my Mom got me a guitar for Christmas that year, and I sat down and taught myself guitar, and as time went on, mandolin and bass. In other music, I play tenor guitar and mandolin with the Lazybirds. In the spare time that I rarely see at my door, I'm a painter as well.

## **Ken Sager: Dobro and guitar**

Ken has been a musician all his life. He has performed on more than 40 albums

for other groups and soloists, and even released a solo album *Here* in 2007. Ken is also the 2004 State Flat Pick Guitar and Mandolin champion. When not playing music Ken enjoys poker, fly fishing and traveling with his wife Sherri.

**Maria Raiti: Rhythm guitar and harmony**

When Maria and her daughter Tierra lived up north, Tierra was taking classical violin lessons, but kept expressing passionate interest in bluegrass fiddle. So Maria picked up a guitar, and mother and daughter discovered joy and bonding in playing music together at local jams, and eventually bluegrass bands. Maria always joked with friends and family up north that one day she would move and take her talented daughter to Nashville. Then in August of 2021, Maria and Tierra actually made the move, no joke. Except instead of Nashville, they stopped and got off at The Asheville Junction!