

NU-BLU - Bio



Nu-Blu was founded in the fall of 2003 by Carolyn and Daniel Routh. The band also includes the talents of *young guns*, **Levi Austin** and **Kendall Gales**. The band has worked hard to develop a group that would give the listener a diverse experience, while remaining within the realms of bluegrass. By mixing original and traditional material along with incorporating songs from other genres, Nu-Blu has certainly created a unique and driving blend of music that keeps audiences coming back for more.

In October 2009, the Nu-Blu signed with Pinecastle Records, but unfortunately several months later, the label closed business before the band's new album, "**NIGHTS**," could be released. Due to fan request for the album, Daniel and Carolyn decided to self-release the project in May 2010 along with the first single release, "*Spin on the Red Brick Floor*." Radio immediately welcomed the album and as evidenced by its debut on the Americana Music Chart, the Euro Americana Chart and the Roots Music Bluegrass Report. Media and other sources were on board with the group as evidenced by the incredible quotes and reviews, along with their **award for "Best Country Music Band" by the Carolina Music Association**.

2010 continued to be a landmark year for the band with the September 2, 2010 announcement by **Pinecastle Records** starting business again and Nu-Blu as the first artist signed to the label. On November 22, 2010, the band released a new single, "*Christmas in Dixie*," a cover song made famous in the 80's by Alabama - just a few short weeks later, the song hit #1 on the Airplay Direct Top Bluegrass Album Chart.

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Nu-Blu members include:

Daniel Routh began playing guitar at age 15. After playing banjo in the bands *Different Directions* and *Carolina Tradition*, he has returned to the guitar. Daniel focuses on different styles of guitar and incorporates them together in his playing. Not only does he add his guitar talents to **Nu-Blu**, but he also contributes lead and harmony vocals. His influences are Clarence White, Tony Rice and Greg Luck. Daniel also lends his songwriting talents to the band, writing and co-writing the group's original material.

Carolyn Routh began taking the stage at the early age of 7. During high school, she was introduced to Broadway musicals where she gained a wealth of knowledge and experience. In the years that followed Gospel, Country, the Blues and Rock-n-Roll all shaped and expanded her vocal style and achievements. While fronting bands in all of these areas, she is also an accomplished songwriter. Her vocal range and clarity are what put the "NU" in **Nu-Blu**. Handling lead vocals, most of the tenor, and playing bass, she gives the band flexibility and a driving edge that sets them apart from the rest.

Levi Austin has been playing banjo since age of 9. After taking lessons for just a few years, Levi struck out on his own - with much success! He has won first place at the NC State Fair competition as well as the NC Beta Club and competed in the nationals in New Orleans. Most recently he won 1st place at the Galax Fiddlers Convention in Galax, VA. Although he is still a young player, Levi never fails to deliver with a very driving right hand, and complex though tasteful solos and fill-in licks. He is a great asset to **Nu-Blu** and one that will be around the bluegrass community for a long time.

Kendall Gales, with thrilling tones, easily captures his listener's attention. Whether a slow ballad or an up-tempo, driving tune, he never fails to amaze. His motto of, "I ain't scared," says it all. Kendall started his musical career at a very young age, and played for many years in his family band, Gospel Grass. He is a tremendous asset to **Nu-Blu**, and most of all, a great friend to the band members.