“Don’t let the name fool you! The members of Highrise Lonesome ain’t about to be boxed in by those highrise canyons. No sirree, instead they break new trails in bluegrass, old time and roots music with classic-inspired originals, strong singing and instrumental prowess. It’s quite the ride!!!” - Jim Burnett (aka The Stern Old Bachelor), In The Pines, Vancouver Co-operative Radio.

The members of Highrise Lonesome are city dwellers steeped in the classic sounds of bluegrass. Although they may make brief detours off into the side streets of old-time and roots music, they always return to the bluegrass superhighway. Sparkling vocals are a major part of the sound, with the harmonies of Sue Malcolm and Vic Smyth as the centrepiece. Their 2010 release One Way Street features ten classic-sounding originals showcasing instrumental prowess with innovative arrangements. It’s a bluegrass road trip. Enjoy the ride.

Highrise Lonesome (and its previous incarnation Rhythm Roundup) has performed at: The Filberg Festival (Comox BC), The Coombs Bluegrass Festival, Wintergrass (Tacoma WA), The Sooke Bluegrass Festival, The Victoria Bluegrass Society, The Pacific Bluegrass and Heritage Society (Vancouver), The Sorrento Bluegrass Festival, The North Shore Parks and Rec Summer Concert Series, Treefest (Coquitlam), The Envision Twilight Concert Series (Mission), The Vancouver Parks Board Summer Concert Series and The Harmony Arts Festival (West Van). The group supports Sue in her Slow Pitch Jams.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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SUE MALCOLM - vocals, guitar, clawhammer banjo. Sue sings with a “crisp, clear voice” (Victoria Times-Colonist) and has performed bluegrass, country, old-time, western swing and children’s music for many years. She was a founding member of Vancouver’s Pacific Bluegrass and Heritage Society in 1980. Sue teaches singing and guitar at the BC Bluegrass Workshop, the Georgia Strait Guitar Workshop and the Britannia Community Centre. She created the Slow Pitch Jam, a unique method of teaching bluegrass jamming to beginners, and has presented workshops at festivals in BC, Alberta, Washington and Oregon.

VIC SMYTH - vocals, mandolin, rhythm guitar. Vic started out in the early eighties playing folk music in bars and coffeehouses in Nova Scotia. He brings great energy to his mandolin playing and vocals. His crystal clear baritone shines on solos and blends seamlessly on harmonies. Vic and Sue’s duets are a highlight of the Highrise Lonesome sound.

DON FRASER - vocals, resophonic guitar, lead guitar. Aka ‘The Maestro’, Don added his inventive dobro stylings to Highrise Lonesome’s lineup in the fall of 2007. Don’s abilities run the gamut from bluegrass and country to swing standards and gypsy jazz. Don has won numerous awards including first place at the Western Canada Guitar Championship. He is well respected as a teacher, performer and arranger, and is a regular instructor at the Georgia Strait Guitar Workshop, Moveable Music School and BC Bluegrass Workshop.

JAY BUCKWOLD - five string banjo. Jay has been an active member of the Vancouver Bluegrass community since 1986. Jay has added his banjo skills to a variety of west coast bluegrass bands including Rhythm Roundup, False Creek, Crescent Ranch, Lonesome Pine, Curley Maple and the New Nash Ramblers. Jay is the founder and director of the British Columbia Bluegrass Workshop (www.musicworkshops.ca)

STU MacDONALD - vocals, acoustic bass. Stu is well known in the Vancouver music scene as a member of such bands as Crawfish Fiesta, Helen Gone and The Beverly Brothers. With his razor-sharp wit, Stu has made it his mission to revive the role of the bassist-comedian so popular with early bluegrass and country bands.