

## Locally Grown 2014 Band Biographies

The Flowers of Evil began in 2009 as a recording project. Now as a live 5-piece band, they have a distinct ear for sounds from a forgotten and esoteric past, but keep both eyes steadfastly on the future with their music and songwriting. Not liking labels and pigeonholing, they simply describe it as a very primal, punk in spirit, head music.

The Bankesters are a nationally touring bluegrass/Americana band from Carbondale, IL, and one of the most sought after new bands on the bluegrass scene. Their CD "Looking Forward", released in 2012, received heavy radio play and reached #1 in February, 2013. Lead vocalist Emily Bankester won the IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Association) momentum award for vocalist of the year. They signed with Compass Records a year ago and their latest CD "Love Has Wheels", released in late September, is already being played on Sirius/XM and stations around the world. They were featured performers at the 2013 IBMA World of Bluegrass, and will be playing several days again this year at both Dollywood and Silver Dollar City. They have been featured on the Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour as well as the Kentucky Educational Television series "Jubilee", and will be appearing live on "Music City Roots" from Nashville in April. Their last three CDs have made the Top 15 Best Of Bluegrass 2011, 2012, 2013 lists according to [engine145.com](http://engine145.com).

Storm Crows: A band made up of sad-souls singing sad-souls-songs to an audience of sad-souls and there was much rejoicing. The Storm Crows are a dream team, a who's-who of sad, depressing music. Five lovers of the blues, bluegrass, lost-my-wife-and-my-dog country and other similar genres. There might be a few happy tunes in our set because hey, nobody's perfect. Southern IL has more than its fair share of great musicians. We all have the fortune to play with many of them. Many of those acts have a person on their roster that's a bit darker, moodier than the others. Some weird kid that likes songs in a minor key and sings the blues even on a sunny day. This band unites all those weird kids with one purpose: to make you cry.

Meridian 90 is a musical duo consisting of Kathy Livingston on vocals, mandolin, keyboard and bells and Curt Wilson on guitar vocals and misc. percussion. They perform folk, rock and Americana of the 60's and 70's along with some blues and additional modern touches. Hear some acoustic rock, folk, Americana and blues! Songs from Joni Mitchell, Grateful Dead, the Byrds, Moody Blues, Dylan, Beatles, Zeppelin, Jefferson Airplane, Gram Parsons, Traffic, the Stones, Floyd and newer songs from groups such as Mumford and Sons and the Avett Brothers and a dash of various other artists and styles delivered in a guitar/mandolin format with harmony vocals rounding out the mix. Curt Wilson has performed electric and acoustic music for years including time in groups such as Organic Rain, Kokapelli, Garcia's Finger, Wu, Nuclear Winter and a slew of one-off adventurous projects of an experimental and/or unusual musical nature. He also records music and occasionally performs as Sound Tapestry, a one person sound experience. Kathy Livingston has performed in a variety of musical formations over the years including For Healing Purposes Only where her harmony vocals helped touch many people in the southern Illinois region. Meridian 90, discussed by the late great renaissance man R. Buckminster Fuller, is a line that circles the Earth, and it's eastern and western meridians connect and run through the largest populations on this planet. In this vein, Meridian 90 can help you connect with musical joy and community.