

Short Band Bio, Quotes, and Performance Highlights

Short band bio

From Toronto, Beyond the Pale's explosive acoustic sound is inspired by a wide range of cross-cultural influences, from Klezmer, Balkan, and Romanian music, to bluegrass, jazz, reggae and funk. Performed with high energy and infectious joy by consummate musicians, Beyond the Pale's dynamic live performances have delighted audiences across Canada and parts of the US.

<http://www.beyondthepale.net>

One-liner review quotes

"Beyond the Pale has practically created its own music genre." (Barrie Examiner)

"An altogether original mix." (Victoria Times-Colonist).

"Grace and style...gusto and sheer joy!" (Folk and Acoustic Music Exchange)

"A delightful musical journey." (San Francisco Jewish News)

"The band's name pretty much says it all." (Ottawa Citizen)

"A riot of rhythm, a montage of modes...can they play!" (Folk Trax Australia)

Review excerpts

Barrie Examiner - Concert Review (Feb. 2005)

"Beyond the Pale excels at playing live. There is an energy about this talented Toronto-based group that transcends their music. The interplay between the musicians, their obvious enjoyment and natural stage presence had many in the audience commenting how good they are. From its opening number Beyond the Pale captivated the audience. One woman said she felt like dancing. Others did - in their seats. There was much enthusiastic clapping along. And naturally, they gave the group a standing ovation, then another after they came back for an encore.

There were many highlights - some were original compositions by the group, each had its own unique style. Beyond the Pale has practically created its own music genre."

Canadian Musician Magazine

"A rich musical experience which can touch your soul with its plaintive melodies, while at the same time enticing you to kick off your shoes and dance your burdens away....They're extending the traditions of klezmer in a decidedly contemporary way (ever wonder what Bob Marley would have sounded like had he been born in eastern Europe?)....Born of tradition but living in the here and now, Beyond the Pale gives routes music a whole new meaning."

Folk Trax (Adelaide, Australia)

"A riot of rhythm, a montage of modes...can they play! You don't need to be a klezmer aficionado to enjoy it - it's all there in the music."

www.klezmershack.com - CD review "Routes" (2001)

"This is post-modern klezmer in all the best senses....extremely satisfying....a revelation....an album expertly grounded, and very much of our specific time. Not just "routes," but "roots." [GRADE: A]"

www.klezmershack.com - CD review "Consensus" (2004)

"Beyond the Pale is a lovely, graceful combination of world acoustic music. This live recording captures them at a typical high point. The bands roots are in klezmer and other Eastern European folk traditions, and having assimilated those musics they are busy creating new ones....They have moved with facility to the creation of a new world folk music that seems at home in any tradition, yet belongs exclusively to none....This music sounds like what would happen if Dave Grisman were playing from Jewish roots, rather than merely accompanying them, as he did with Andy Statman years ago. Instead of mere "dawg" music, think of the result here as Jewish-Balkan post-klezmer music in a style that befits a city, Toronto, hailed by the UN as one of the most culturally diverse in the world. The result is sometimes borrowed, sometimes blue, sometimes old; always new, and always a pleasure."

San Francisco Jewish Bulletin - CD review "Routes" (2001)

"One of the best Jewish fusion bands around has got to be Beyond the Pale. Hard to believe that first-class klezmer can come out of the wilds of Toronto, but that's where this group of five uncommonly talented musicians hails from. Their debut disc 'Routes' is a delightful musical journey across Russia,

Short Band Bio, Quotes, and Performance Highlights

Romania, and Moldavia all the way to the New World, where touches of bluegrass and reggae spice up some of the time-honoured melodies and rhythms of Jewish folk tunes. 'Routes' is great for just listening, but don't be surprised if at some point you feel the urge to jump and dance. There are several numbers that make it hard to sit still....The best thing about this album - besides the impeccable performances - is that, unlike many 'world' music collections, no two tracks are alike. In case you haven't already guessed, I am crazy about this recording and I just hope my boss doesn't ask to get it back. Fat chance!"

Folk and Acoustic Music Exchange - CD review "Consensus" (2004)

"The musicians of Beyond the Pale play with grace and style. In their hands, klezmer is not a dead, ethnomusicological oddity, but a living and evolving music that they perform with gusto and sheer joy."