



# Greensky Bluegrass hits Capital City Film Fest

Written by Rich Tupica

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Greensky Bluegrass may be a folk-bluegrass band, but they're not afraid to go off course and, perhaps, go into an extended classic-rock jam. The band's spontaneity and authentic American-music has kept them touring endlessly for the past five years – in front of growing audiences. Thursday, April 12 the band performs at [The Loft](#) for the [Capital City Film Festival](#). Anders Beck (dobro, lap steel), of the Kalamazoo-based band, recently talked with REVUE Mid-Michigan about the band's time on the road, and the growing appreciation for roots music, even in the (gasp!) world of pop music.

## What sets Greensky Bluegrass apart from traditional bluegrass?

"A big part of it for us is that we're writing our own material. We didn't grow up like lonesome coal miners in West Virginia – which is a typical bluegrass story. We also have a willingness and ability to improvise. If we want to jam out a song for 15 to 20 minutes because it's going to sound cool, we do it. A lot of people are realizing we're sort of like half psychedelic-rock band, half-bluegrass band combined."

## What's been the best part about touring?

"It's been amazing. Most of the shows have been sold out and we're talking about much bigger places than we used to play, like Fox Theatre in Colorado and places like that. These rooms used to look huge to me, and it'd be really scary if nobody came. A couple of times we've been selling out rooms like that. We're not going to have an MTV hit or anything. For us, playing shows and word of mouth is essentially the model for success."

## Is it a good thing that Mumford and Sons are putting Americana in the national spotlight?

"Absolutely – the fact that there were banjos and acoustic instruments on the Grammys last year with Bob Dylan and the Avett Brothers and Mumford did that thing with Bob Dylan – is a definite sign of good news for us. Some bands are actually crossing over into the pop world with that acoustic sound and bluegrass instruments."

## It for sure introduced millions to the genre, what do you think they thought about it?

"I think a lot of people walked away from their televisions thinking, 'Wow, that was really cool,' because in the era of huge production and DJs and lip synching and things like that, here all of a sudden these scraggly-hippy looking guys walk up on stage, play acoustic instruments and almost rock harder than anybody else there. I think the juxtaposition of that, just people using their regular voices and regular acoustic instruments, has really excited people."

## Greensky Bluegrass

@ [Capital City Film Festival](#)

w/ [Joshua Davis](#), [Flashing Blue Lights](#)

Thursday, April 12

Show will be held at: [The Loft](#) – Lansing

\$10 advance, \$13 door, 8 p.m., 18+

<http://theloftlansing.com/>

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