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Greensky Bluegrass at the Fox Theatre, 03/02/13 (review)

By [Dylan Owens](#) | March 4th, 2013 | [No Comments »](#)

As [Greensky Bluegrass](#) took the stage at the [Fox Theatre](#) on Saturday night, front man and mandolin player Paul Hoffman eased up to the mic, his long hair whipping in the wind from a fan. "Tonight's show is brought to you by the letter 'T,'" he said with a wink.



15 of 40 Greensky Bluegrass at the Aggie Theatre in Fort Collins on Feb. 28, 2013. Photos by Dylan Langille, heyreverb.com



and all they needed were some connecting.

Whether it was just me and the Amendment 64 boosters scattered around the Fox Theatre on Saturday night or the whole theatre in scavenger hunt mode, I could swear there was some truth to Hoffman's "[Sesame Street](#)" **declaration**. The dots were there,

So it began:

"T" is for "t-shirt." Specifically, dobro player Anders Beck's Colorado t-shirt, hidden under a business-casual blazer and below a party-casual trucker hat. Saturday was the culmination of a week-long homecoming of sorts for Beck, who went to school in Colorado Springs before his days in Greensky Bluegrass.

"T" is for "tribute," or maybe "tributes." The first set had a slow and nebulous jam thicken into Coolio's "Gangstas Paradise," itself a tribute of sorts to Stevie Wonder's "Pastime Paradise." The hip-hop cover featured opener Ryan Montebleau's clear and bluesy vocals on the chorus along most of the audience. Hoffman later joked (?) that in writing Greensky Bluegrass's 2011 album, "Handguns," he was really just trying to write the next "Gangsta's Paradise."

In the second set, Hoffman's maniacal laughter cued Paul Simon's "Gumboots," a cover that the band nailed and made their own in terms of

arrangement. Later, they took a run at the Stanley Brothers' "How Mountain Girls Can Love," a definite crowd favorite on the night. In GSBG's capable hands, the song inspired the kind of moonshine-swilling hysteria that it does at a String Cheese Incident show. And even if you thought it was purely posturing on the band's part to play that tune in Colorado, who cares? Bruzza testified afterward: "It's true, you know: mountain girls do it better. Way better." The crowd loved it, of course; if they weren't already on their feet, it'd have been a standing ovation.

"T" is for "tapers," who are always welcome at a GSBG show, and who I'm hoping got a good recording of the Sting ballad, "Driven To Tears," because, even though I wasn't, it was a memorable moment on the night.

"T" is for "the mustache"—or, as Beck introduced him, "The man, the myth, the mustache,"—guitarist Dave Bruzza. Though used sparingly in the lead, Bruzza's vocals made for a nice departure from Hoffman's in those songs it's featured in, like "I'd Probably Kill You," of the second set on Saturday.

And "T" is for "twice." Hoffman admitted that after their last show at the Fox in 2012, the band was flattered. "This time," he said, "we're twice as flattered." The band sold out both nights of shows at Boulder's Fox Theatre this past weekend.

In case you missed them, Greensky Bluegrass will swing through Colorado for two more shows this summer: in June for **Telluride Bluegrass Festival** and July at Red Rocks Amphitheater, where they'll be opening for Railroad Earth and Galactic. Just don't expect the same show: by then, they'll probably have worked their way back through "G."

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