

THE CHURCHMEN

The Churchmen are a Bluegrass Gospel group based in Collinsville, Virginia. The group was formed in 1989 when they began singing in local churches. Their Southern Gospel style, four part harmony, along with the sound of the bluegrass instrumentation, gives them a unique sound that has gained attention all across the country and abroad. The group consists of five Christian men, and each one feels that he was personally called by God into this music ministry. The Churchmen previously recorded three projects on the "Mountain Home" label of The Horizon Music Group along with the last three projects on the Pinecastle label. The CD "On the Journey Home" was nominated for a Dove Award for Bluegrass Album of the Year while the CD, "Traveling Through", gained acclaim across the country and included the song "Bedside Prayer" that also garnered a Dove award nomination for Bluegrass Song of the year. Their latest CD "I'll Be Long Gone" released in 2008, the band's best effort to date, gained great reviews and is getting substantial radio airplay. The group would love to come to your area and bring their unique brand of Bluegrass Gospel that not only entertains but truly warms the heart and uplifts the spirit.

What People Are Saying

"The Churchmen are a very talented group who play and sing with the kind of harmony that keeps you listening for more. I have known them since they started their group and I highly recommend them to anyone who loves good bluegrass gospel music." **Russell Easter, Sr.**

"We have had the pleasure of performing with the Churchmen on several occasions, and it is always enjoyable. They have a fine group and are fine people." **Doyle Lawson**

"The Churchmen are one of the fastest growing, hottest sounds in Bluegrass Gospel Music today. We have worked with these guys a lot, and they really live what they sing. We highly recommend them to any- one for concerts." **Jeff and Sheri Easter**

"Speaking of vocalists, The Churchmen certainly know how to sing a good gospel tune. More than just about any other band, they have figured out how to successfully marry the Southern Gospel style of singing to Bluegrass and the result is a compelling, exciting and powerful combination."

Dave Higgs, Bluegrass Breakdown



- Multiple nominations for "Gospel Group of the Year" by The Society of Preservation of Bluegrass Music in America (SPBGMA).
- Performance at the Ryman Theater for the Bluegrass Now Fan's Choice Awards
- Performance at two International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) show cases, and the IBMA Bluegrass Fan Fest
- Twice Nominated for a Dove Award, Gospel Music's most prestigious award, for Bluegrass Gospel album of the Year, and Bluegrass Song of the Year.
- Churchmen song "Get Onboard" was #1 on Bluegrass Now Magazine's Gospel Truths chart and remained on the top 20 chart for 3 ½ years
- 2009 Powergrass "Group of the Year" and "Album of the Year"

For Booking Information:

Keith Clark 172 Ferndale Court •

Collinsville, Virginia 24078

dkeithclark@yahoo.com • (276) 647-8518

www.theChurchmen.com



About The Churchmen

- **Keith Clark**, helped form The Churchmen after playing with his family band and several regional Gospel groups. Keith sings lead, baritone and low tenor and plays a rock solid acoustic bass. He makes his home in Collinsville, Virginia.
- **Freddy Rakes**, another original member, formerly played with the Rakes Family and the Easter Brothers and now sings lead and high tenor with The Churchmen. Freddy also plays the banjo with the group. He resides in Fork Mountain, VA.
- **Gerald Harbour** joined The Churchmen in late 1989 shortly after the band's inception after playing with various groups such as the Lewis Family. He sings lead, baritone and bass, and plays the mandolin. He calls Martinsville, VA his home.
- **David Guthrie** sings lead and harmony vocals along with handling the guitar duties. David's high lead and great tenor voice is a great addition to The Churchmen sound. He comes to us from The Carolina Road Band, and was nominated in 2007 by SPBGMA for "Male Vocalist of the Year – Traditional". He lives in Parkton, North Carolina.
- **Rick Keen** plays the Resonator Guitar (commonly called The Dobro) and is one of the most talented young men in Bluegrass today. Rick is a real fan favorite and makes his home in Benson, NC.
- **Jerry Haga** runs the sound for the group and is a vital part of the band. Jerry is an outstanding musician in his own right and is a great Christian man. Jerry hails from Horsepasture, VA.