

BONT & BLUEGRASS

Bont & Bluegrass ('bont' means colourful in Dutch) plays exciting acoustic music with special instruments such as banjo, mandolin and dobro.

The band started in the mid-seventies playing traditional American bluegrass, but quickly developed its style towards "newgrass", a mix of bluegrass with another musical style. B & B brings a combination of pop music and bluegrass. Unplugged, but with a rock & roll feel!

Bont & Bluegrass' set list is varied: pop, blues, country songs and ballads, sometimes interspersed with an instrumental. Their approach is one moment flashy and upbeat as can be expected from a traditional bluegrass band, and the next moment solidly rocking with a bluesy touch or subdued and restrained with careful attention to close-harmony. The band members have been playing together for years and this has made this foursome a tight unit.

In short, an experience for any lover of acoustic music!



John taught himself guitar, harmonica, banjo, mandolin and fiddle. Active as a multi-instrumentalist in folk bands, he eventually decided to stick to his trade, the acoustic guitar. He follows developments of the 'flatpicking'-guitar style with keen interest and famous, fast guitar icons like Tony Rice and David Grier can send him into a state of ecstasy! Nevertheless, he likes to go his own way as a guitarist. For this reason and, of course, due to the fact that the other members are such nice guys, he has enjoyed playing with Bont & Bluegrass for over 30 years.

At the age of seven, wearing a cowboy suit, **Henk** was already strumming country music on a plastic guitar. He played beat and pop music during the sixties, until in the seventies he fell under the spell of bluegrass music. Although originally a guitar player, he also learned to play the mandolin as a member of the then famous 'Hilarious Hotpickers'. For a while he was also a member of a fifties style rock & roll band and a dixieland band. He has also musically supported demonstrations against cruise missiles and the neutron bomb. He now feels very much at home with Bont & Bluegrass





Pieter, one of the two original Bont & Bluegrass members, got hooked on the banjo when he was 17. Initially, he played straightforward Scruggs style. However, a holiday in Ireland brought about a departure from the well-trodden path when he learned that Irish music can be played perfectly well on the banjo! In subsequent years each new musical interest had to be tried out on the banjo. Jazz, pop, classical or Latin, there was always something to experiment with for the banjo. Thanks to lessons with a couple of jazz guitarists his musical development got a theoretical foundation. Bluegrass became bluegrazz! In later years Pieter became so captivated by the dobro, that he almost forgot the banjo. His musical heroes are Bela Fleck and Jerry Douglas.

Henk is the musical omnivore of the B & B family and, alongside Pieter, the other founding father of Bont & Bluegrass. He plays both electric and double bass in a number of other bands, playing genres as diverse as pop, rock, French chansons and musettes, and even Dutch popular songs - nothing is too much for him!

