



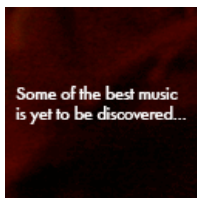
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Band of the Week: Rising Appalachia

Hometown: Atlanta, Ga./Asheville, N.C.
Fun Fact: The group lives on the road in a biodiesel-fueled bus.
Why It's Worth Watching: The harmonious singing and instrumentation between sisters Leah and Chloe Smith paired with old-time lyrics feel like a step back, then forward.
For Fans Of: Gillian Welch, Ani DiFranco, The Be Good Tanyas

Rising Appalachia stands for everything that tends to get swallowed up in a slick and shiny society. It's the rise of a past lifestyle that is still rooted to the land. Drive up to one of the group's shows in a fancy car, and you'll want to leave on foot. And that's the goal. By resurrecting and reinventing their parents' nostalgic old folk and mountain music, sisters Leah and Chloe Smith pave the way back to lost simplicities and social responsibility.

"We eventually want to have a whole section [of the music] dedicated to alternative fuels and political activism and human rights," Leah says.

But as focused as the young women have become, they'd never planned to be an official group. They didn't even have a name when they recorded their first album a little more than a year ago, which was done as a Christmas present for friends.

"The reception to [the first] album was really strong," Leah recalls. "People wanted us to perform all the time. It just kind of took over. It's been a blessing because we were all very scattered and it's like we've been guided."

Department
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Writer: Mary Richardson
, photo by Chad Hess
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