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Florida State University's four-year graduation rate of 72 percent places FSU among the Top 10 public universities in the country and is the best in the state of Florida.



#### **GLOBAL REACH**

FSU's commitment to increasing the number of students studying abroad was honored with a 2019 Seal of Excellence from the Institute of International Education. The award specifically recognized FSU's extraordinary global-engagement network.



#### **FSU FRESHMEN FLOURISH**

Florida State's freshman retention rate is 93 percent, meaning more freshmen than ever are returning for their second year. That places FSU among the Top 20 public universities in the nation for freshman retention!



#### **WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH**

FSU researchers received a record level of funding from federal, state and private sources in the 2019 fiscal year, bringing \$233.6 million to the university to support investigations into areas such as health sciences, high energy physics and marine biology.



#### THE WORD IS OUT

Prospective students are taking notice of FSU's preeminence. We received a record-breaking 60,555 first-time freshman applications for the 2019 summer and fall semesters.



#### AN OUTSTANDING VALUE

Florida State is ranked No. 9 in the nation among public universities that offer high-quality education at an affordable price, according to Kiplinger's annual list of Best Values in Public Colleges.



ld Salt Union is a bluegrass band that offers a renewed take on a traditional roots group. Their music incorporates influences from jazz, rock, classical and pop for an eclectic sound that can be enjoyed by music lovers of all genres.

The group was featured in the 30A Songwriter's Festival three years in a row, and their songs can be heard on Spotify's Grass Roots and Indie Bluegrass playlists. Their distinctive sound and high energy performances always leave audiences amazed.

June holds the last two performances of the season: Veronica Swift on June 10 and An Evening with Billy Dean on June 17.

Veronica Swift is an amazing young jazz vocalist who has been performing professionally since the age of nine. She's performed with Michael Feinstein, Benny Green and Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Veronica's smooth voice is sure to make for an unforgettable night.

We close out the season with country music star Billy Dean. In this intimate evening, Billy will perform new arrangements of his hit songs from the 90s accompanied by an eight-piece section of musicians from the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra. Local Tallahassee doctors and song writers Hugh and Cody VanLandingham will join Billy Dean and open the show with songs from Billy's recently released extended play record, Gadsden County Line.

Mark your calendars for July 8 when we will announce the full 2021-22 Season lineup. Keep an eye out for some additional sneak peeks about what is to come.

We hope you'll join us.

Muxcel

Michael Blachly

Director, Opening Nights at Florida State University



## **Putting Our Hands Together** *For Opening Nights*

Celebrating our 25th anniversary with the best entertainment.







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Brooke Hallock

Eric Friall

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Ron Sachs

Susan Stratton



## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

#### MAY

**97** Old Salt Union

bluegrass

#### **JUNE**

10 Veronica Swift

jazz, vocal

17 An Evening with Billy Dean

country, singer-songwriter
Sponsored by Ajax Building Company

#### **JULY**

2021-22 Season Announcement

Sponsored by Capital Eurocars

#### **ON-SALE DATES**

JULY 9 Sponsors

JULY 15 Producer's Circle Members

JULY 19 Partner Members

JULY 22 Friend Members

**JULY 26** Associate Members

JULY 28 Debut Members

JULY 30 Solo Members

#### **AUGUST**

2 General On-Sale

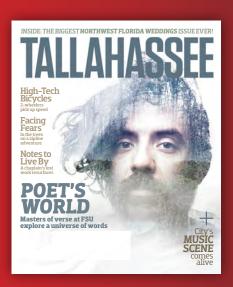
Cover: Old Salt Union

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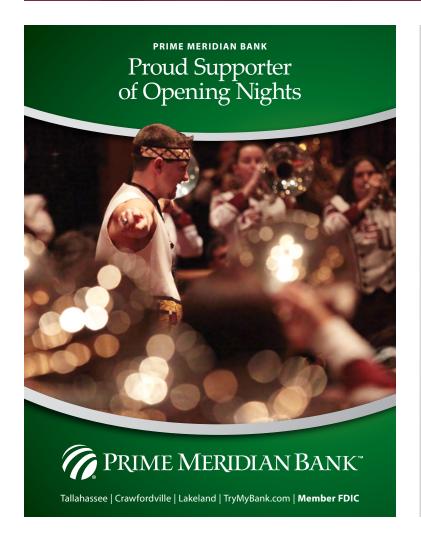




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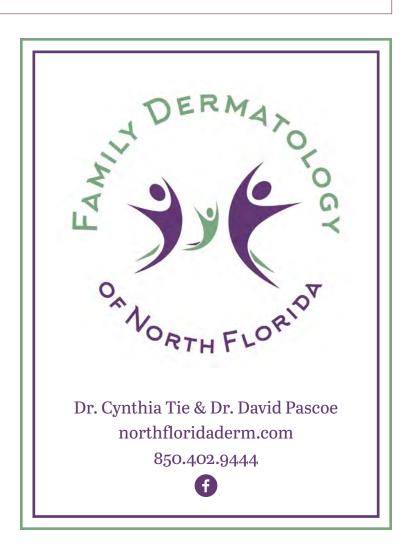
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**THURSDAY** 

May

7:30 P.M.

**LOCATION** 

The Moon

**GENRE** 

bluegrass

## **Old Salt Union**

Old Salt Union has the groove and the chops of a great string band, balanced with captivating rock and roll energy. The high-energy group features banjo, mandolin, violin, bass and guitar to create a bluegrass and folk sound that incorporates jazz, classical, and pop elements for a well-rounded performance and eclectic music. Despite coming from varied musical backgrounds, Old Salt Union's collective melting pot of styles and musical vocabularies inform their fresh approach to modern string band music that has helped carve a unique niche for this St. Louis, Missouri and Belleville, Illinois roots group. The band includes Ryan Murphey (banjo), Justin Wallace (lead vocals and mandolin), John Brighton (violin) and Jesse Farrar (lead vocals and bassist). The quartet has continued to hone and develop their sound through relentless touring, which has cultivated a steadfast fanbase drawn to their high-energy shows.

Continued on pg. 21

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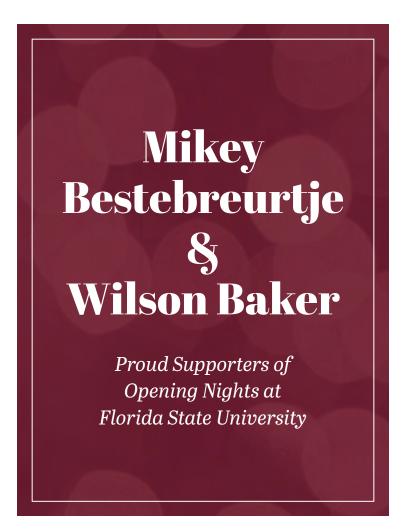
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#### **Old Salt Union**

Continued from pg. 17

Old Salt Union is a string band founded by a horticulturist, cultivated by classically trained musicians, and fueled by a vocalist/bass player who is also a hip-hop producer with a fondness for the Four Freshmen. It is this collision of styles and musical vocabularies that informs their fresh approach to bluegrass and gives them an electric live performance vibe that seems to pull more from Vaudeville than the front porch.

In 2015 they won the FreshGrass Band contest and found the perfect collaborator in Compass Records co-founder and GRAMMY® winning banjoist and composer, Alison Brown, whose attention to detail and high standards pushed the group to develop their influences from beyond a vocabulary to pull from during improvisation and into the foundation of something truly compelling in the roots music landscape.

The band pulls its influence from musicians like Darol Anger, Edgar Meyer, Mike Marshall and Mark O'Connor. Primary vocalist and bassist, Jesse Farrar brings an alternative rock spirit as well as his unique formative experiences as a hip-hop producer and bass player for a national tour of The Four Freshmen. The band's self-titled debut album combined instrumental proclivities with pop melodies and harmonies into a coherent piece of work that carves out a road-less-travelled for the band in the crowded roots music genre.

Though the band had established themselves as a growing festival act with performances at LouFest, Stagecoach Festival, Bluegrass Underground, Winter Wondergrass, Freshgrass, Wakarusa, Yonder Mountain String Band's Harvest Festival, and the 2014 Daytona 500, it was their breakout track on Spotify, "Madam Plum" that seemed to amplify awareness of the band beyond the bluegrass bubble.



Old Salt Union's newest album Where the Dogs Don't Bite is their second release with Compass Records

Old Salt Union enlisted GRAMMY-winning banjoist and Compass co-founder Alison Brown to produce the follow-up to their selftitled Compass Records debut. The resulting album, Where the Dogs Don't Bite, builds on this non-traditional string band's varied musical backgrounds for a wildly entertaining, eclectic batch of songs.

Farrar, nephew of Son Volt's Jay Farrar, kicks off the album with "God You Don't Need," a hook laden ode to a relationship gone bad set against a tapestry of strings and an eerily compelling banjo melody. Label mate Bobby Osborne guests on "Tell Me So," a nod to the bluegrass side of the band's musical sensibilities featuring lead vocals and songwriting by mandolinist Justin Wallace. Violinist John Brighton delivers the gypsy-tinged instrumental "Johann's Breakdown," which pulls from jazz and classical progressions, and Wallace delivers the haunting title track, "Where The Dogs Don't Bite." The dark, but heartfelt song features triple-layered guitar harmonies, stacked vocals and a group singalong that recalls last call at a corner pub in the rust belt, a fitting closing to this musically diverse and compelling release.

While they look like a bluegrass band, Old Salt Union's musical sensibilities run much deeper and broader, borrowing as much from indie rock and jazz fusion as from Bill Monroe.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS...** 

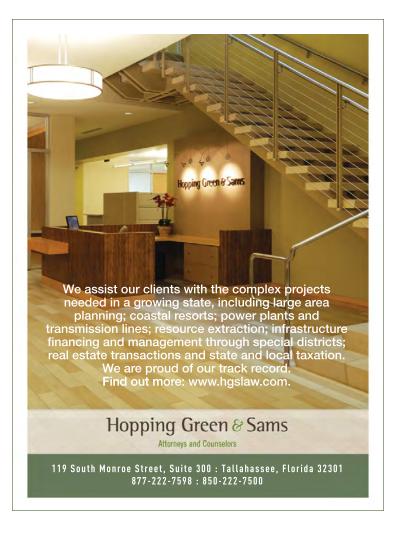
2021–22 Season Announcement **JULY 8** 

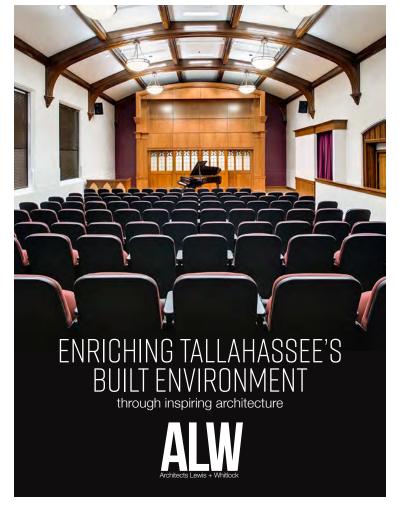
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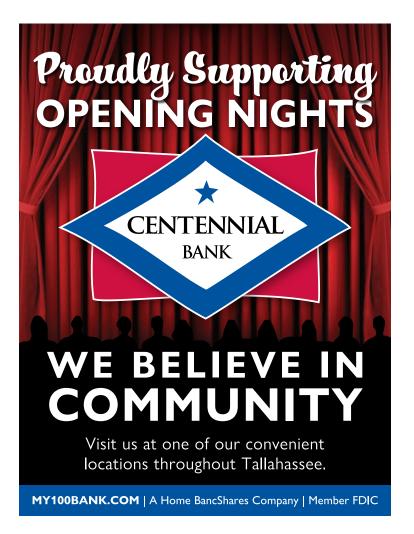
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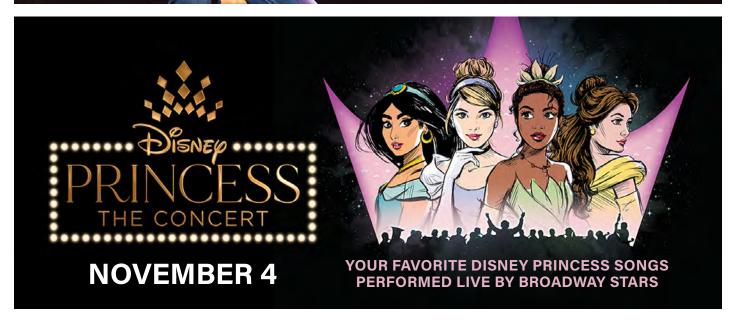


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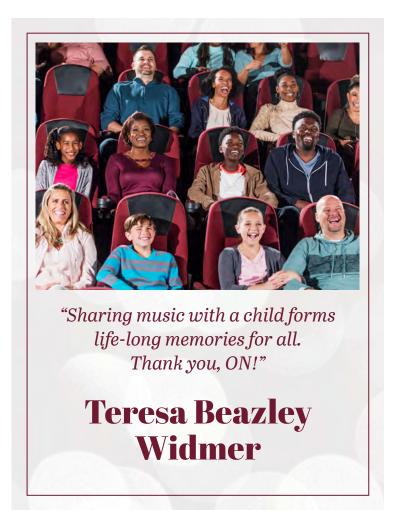


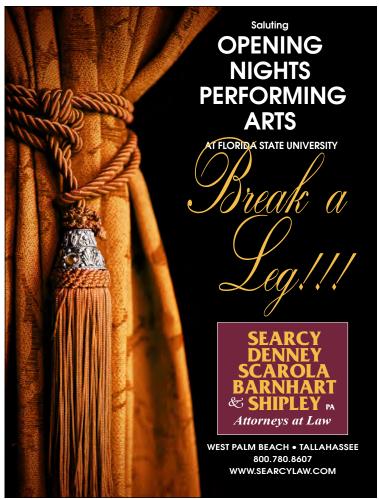






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