

Review of Houston Jones

By Randy Kirchhof, Audio Engineer
North American Folk Alliance Conference
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The logo for the Folk Alliance, North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance, is displayed in a gold serif font on a dark red rectangular background. The text "FOLK ALLIANCE" is prominently featured in a larger font size, with "NORTH AMERICAN" and "FOLK MUSIC AND DANCE ALLIANCE" in smaller text below it.

One of my new and all-time favorite bands, anywhere. From the Bay Area, they have a pretty traditional bluegrass instrumentation. Their music is anything but. Twisty little musical change-ups combined with twisty little lyrical change-ups, atop world-class musicianship and been-there-done-that master-level industry experience.

These guys are Stone Pros, pushing every boundary possible, and creating something that is wholly unique, with layers upon layers of subtleties. You can hear bluegrass, delta blues, western, gypsy, swamp, spanish, rock, jazz, celtic, and God knows what other influences. They are surpassingly good and fun to watch live.

This is the kind of human artistic endeavor that gets you an all-access pass in St. Peter's office. Truly accessible, intricate, and engaging music. If there were justice in this world, Bill Gates would be their roadie.