

Drawn together by a common passion for creating inspired newgrass acoustic music, these three sterling musicians crossed continents to collide deep in the heart of Texas, where—as The Greencards—they've rapidly distinguished themselves amongst a new generation of acoustic musicians.

By any measure, 2004 has been a watershed year for The Greencards. Named 'Best New Band' at the Austin Music Awards and nominated as 'Best New Emerging Talent' at Nashville's Americana Music Awards, the group simultaneously vaulted to the front-lines of a crowded field in the twin capitol of American Roots music.

And, for those who have yet to witness the electrifying wonder of their live shows (2004's schedule included appearances at some of the U.S.'s finest festivals: SXSW, Merlefest, Strawberry and Austin City Limits Festival), their self-produced debut disc— MOVIN' ON — provides irrefutable evidence of the band's diverse musical mastery with a dozen shimmering tracks marked by stunning vocals and exquisite instrumental interplay.

After nearly a year's worth of incendiary, crowd-pleasing gigs, The Greencards entered Nashville's Sound Emporium in August, 2003 to record their debut, MOVIN' ON. To add dynamic texture, they tapped into New Grass Revival veteran Pat Flynn (guitar, Resonator guitar) and all-world drummer Kenny Malone, both of whom sport A-list session resumé's long enough to amaze anybody.

Nine of MOVIN' ON's twelve tracks are written by the band, either individually or in collaboration (with Fred Eaglesmith contributing on the title track), establishing a group approach that effortlessly straddles traditional Bluegrass music and a fresh global vision.

The three well-chosen covers feature additional cameos: singer/songwriter Jedd Hughes chiming in on Carol Young's sublime rendition of Gillian Welch and David Rawlings' "Caleb Meyer," while the venerable Harry Stinson adds rustic harmonies to both Robert Earl Keen's "Love's A Word I Never Throw Around" and the late John Duffey's (Seldom Scene) classic Gothic lament, "Victim To The Tomb."

Like most "overnight sensations," The Greencards' success is the product of varied, hard-won individual achievements and the serendipity of their unlikely intersection half a world away from their origins— topped by the kind of musical magic that simply can't be forced.

South London native Eamon McLoughlin was classically trained through London's Royal School of Music, where he was awarded seven Violin Performance Qualifications. He first played country music professionally at the tender age of 13, but a keening, high lonesome sound and a desire for permanent work eventually drew him to Austin in 1997. Once Stateside, Eamon served as a member of The Asylum Street Spankers, The Austin Lounge Lizards, and the touring bands of noted Lone Star state troubadours Ray Wylie Hubbard and Bruce Robison. In addition, he notched up session work with such celebrated Artists as Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Peter Rowan, Tony Rice, Robert Earl Keen, Alejandro Escovedo and Kelly Willis.

Raised in Coff's Harbour, New South Wales, Carol Young was nominated for 'Best Female Vocalist' and 'Best New Talent' by the Country Music Association of Australia (CMAA). Carol also enjoyed two #1 Australian singles in 2000 ("True Blue Fool" and "Part Of The Past"), which landed her the 'Australian Independent Country Artist Of The Year' award.

Kym Warner, from South Australia's capitol Adelaide, was a four-time National Mandolin Champion of Australia (1994-1997), earning a scholarship to the acclaimed bluegrass program at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas along the way. His "Mando On The Mainland" was nominated for 'Instrumental Of The Year' by the CMAA in 1999. Kym was a member of Kasey Chambers' touring band which played at Austin's world-renowned annual SXSW blowout near the end of Chambers' 2001 world tour. The incredibly fertile musical climate Kym discovered in Texas had a profound effect on him, to say the least. (Warner has since performed with Trisha Yearwood and Bruce Robison, played on Kasey Chambers' album, WAYWARD ANGEL, and appeared on Rodney Crowell's 2004 Live DVD.)

"When Kym returned to Sydney from that tour," Young recalls, "we immediately applied for visas and moved straight to Austin."

Shortly after arriving in Austin, the duo from Down Under began crossing paths with McLoughlin; the three hit it off famously right from the start.

"At the time, Eamon was playing with the Austin Lounge Lizards," Carol continues. "We started running into each other in the studio and at gigs 'round town and just started pickin' together. That was two years ago, and we never looked back!"

"The three of us all love similar music, and we have the same sense of humour, which goes a long way when you spend as much time together as we do in the car and in hotel rooms."

Their camaraderie is readily apparent in The Greencards' music, but it's undeniably palpable when witnessed in person at their kinetic live performances. The band is rooted in bluegrass music (from Bill Monroe to New Grass Revival), but shadings from influences as far-flung as Tom Petty, The Beatles and Gillian Welch—just to mention a few—crop up throughout their unique transcontinental blend.

MOVIN' ON is an immensely invigorating, truly satisfying exploration of the rich mother lode that is roots/Americana music.

