

Eddie From Ohio

tour de force folk band with great harmonies, energy, and humor



"...tight four-part harmonies, compelling folk-pop rhythms, and capricious lyrics that make light of heavy subjects."

— *Washington Post*

"...folk-rock never sounded so comforting!"

— *Dirty Linen*

"This 'folkternative' quartet charms with an irresistible cache of smart, quirky songs that goose the imagination."

— *Entertainment Weekly*

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Too energetic to be labeled just "folk" and not angry enough to be pegged "alternative," **Eddie From Ohio** continues to defy description with their unique blend of vocals and acoustic instrumentation. A bedrock foundation of hand and stick percussion and a textural flavoring of guitar/bass/harmonica support the four-part harmonies and lyrically-driven original music. While this combination has drawn comparisons like the **Grateful Dead** meets **Peter, Paul & Mary**, or like **Jewel** fronts the **Barenaked Ladies**, **EFO** fuses a multitude of musical influences to create their own trademark sound. *Performing Songwriter* writes, "The manic strumminess recalls **Ani DiFranco** or **Dave Matthews**, but there's also a deep undercurrent of high, lonesome mountain harmony that should appeal to fans of **Alison Krauss** and **Union Station**."

With this trademark sound, **EFO** has produced nine CDs independently (selling over 100,000 copies to-date), toured from Florida to Washington State, cultivated massive postal and email lists, received air play from hundreds of radio stations worldwide, been invited to play the Main Stage at prestigious festivals like Philadelphia Folk, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival (Hillsdale, NY), Telluride Bluegrass Festival (CO), and Strawberry Music Festival (CA), appeared on syndicated radio programs Mountain Stage, West Coast Live and World Cafe, and were awarded "Best Contemporary Folk Group" by the Washington Area Music Association five times since 1997.

Not bad for a Virginia-based band that began in 1991 playing covers in neighborhood bars when three James Madison University graduates (**Robbie Schaefer**, **Eddie Hartness** & **Michael Clem**) teamed up with Virginia Tech alumnae **Julie Murphy** (now **Murphy Wells**). After a popular seven year Tuesday night residency at Bad Habits Grille in Arlington, VA, **EFO** graduated from town taverns to renowned listening rooms and concert series throughout the country, where their tight harmonies and humorous lyrics, set against an eclectic array of musical forms, can be featured to best advantage. Since signing with a national booking agent in 1996, the band has covered the country, from The Somerville Theater outside of Boston to The Great American Music Hall in San Francisco.

The band continues to perform but on a more limited basis since September, 2005 when vocalist **Wells** was diagnosed with breast cancer. Fortunately, after an intense year of chemotherapy, **Wells** is on the road to recovery and remains active in cancer cure fund-raising. In 2006, bassist/guitarist **Clem** produced his first solo CD (produced by **Hartness**), and guitarist **Schaefer** has found quite a calling in children's music, releasing a successful CD and hosting a daily satellite radio show on XMKids. Percussionist **Hartness** continues to keep the beat for a number of local artists and stays active in the world of audio engineering.

Wherever and whenever the four reconvene on the stage, an **EFO** show is always an experience to remember.



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