

MUSIC

SOUND TRAVELER

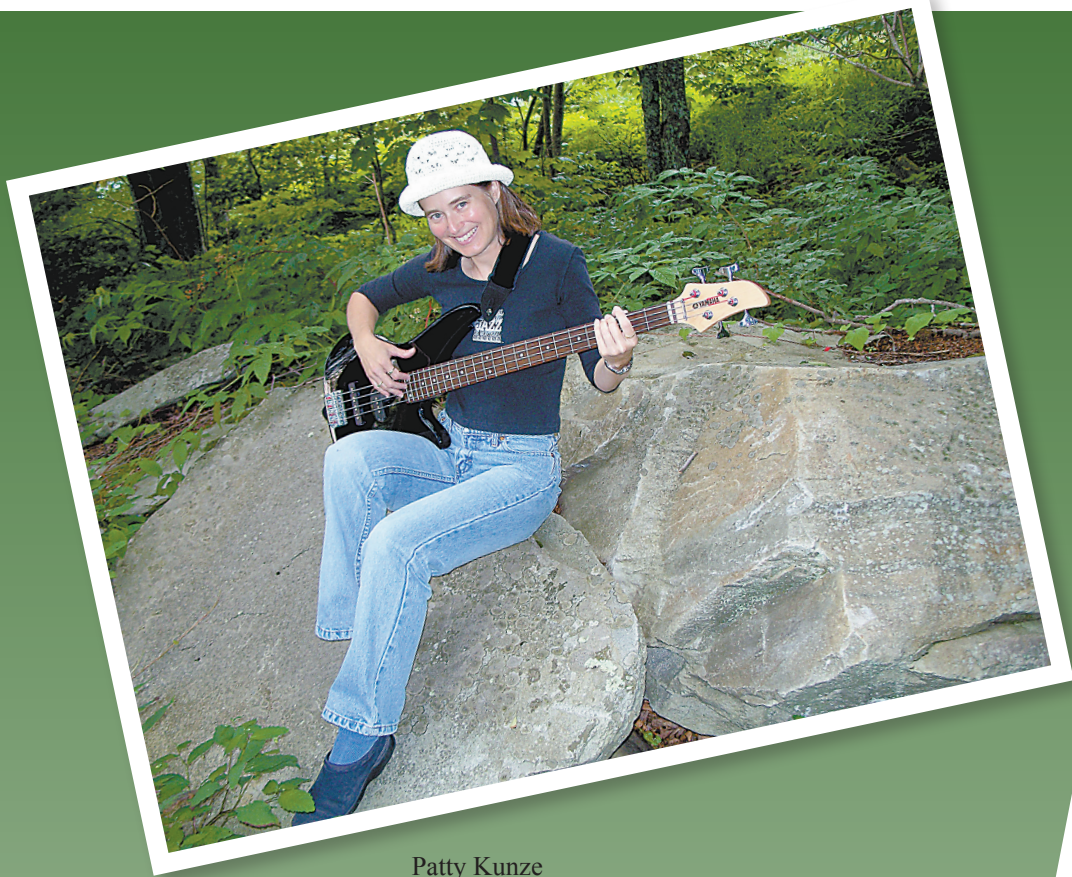
by: Yozette “Yogi” Collins

Five years ago Patty Kunze met Bob Tatum while she was playing an open mike night and Bob was standing off-stage playing along. “I was just playing some solo guitar stuff. I’m not very good at that kind of thing,” says Patty, so she invited Bob to join her on stage. That turned out to be a very good move.

Call it fate or divine intervention, but they began a friendship and musical collaboration that stuck. They recently started the band Sound Traveler which features renditions of popular classic songs from a variety of genres... and last month they married.

Following a two week honeymoon in San Francisco, the couple looked forward to actually living and working in the same state when they moved full-time to Patty’s hometown of Cape Canaveral, FL. But, they will still be playing in North Carolina where they have roots and a following stemming from their days playing as Bob & Ellie with Patty (since Patty and Bob will be moving to Florida, Ellie decided to go her separate way). In fact, Sound Traveler has numerous July events in the High Country listed on its website.





Patty Kunze



Bob Tatum



Sound Travelin' with Sound Traveler on River Street in Savannah, Georgia.

Naming the band Sound Traveler was Bob's idea. Because he had been half of the Bob & Ellie duo for 18 years, he wanted to have a band name rather than simply people's names. "Sound Traveler is kind of a play on words," explains Patty. "We want to travel around and make music, and we also hope that people can travel in their minds with our music. Our music represents a span of decades, like time travel."

The two middle school teachers have quite an extensive musical background. Patty began playing trumpet when she was 11 years old and eventually studied trumpet in college and toured with a Japanese orchestra. But, she is willing and able to play other things – she began playing guitar ten years ago, plays bass, a single head drum and, among other instruments, began playing the concertina after finding one at a flea market a few years ago.

Bob, along with writing some original songs that Sound Traveler includes in its repertoire, is a skilled musician. "Bob finger picks and thumb picks guitar, he plays mandolin and harmonica and sings vocals," Patty says. "In all of our songs we try to do two or three things at once. As a duo we try to have a big sound."

One of the things Patty and Bob like to do with their sound is use different instruments to change the mood of songs. "The different instruments," says Patty, "take you in a different musical direction. For example, "Doe, a Deer" is based on a really simple C scale. So I picked it up and played it on the concertina; the trumpet and guitar, however, take us toward light jazz. We try to be eclectic and hope that our music offers something for everyone."

Bob, Patty and Sound Traveler are all at the beginning of a new journey -- new band, new city, new marriage – and they are excited and optimistic. "The sky is the limit as far as what we're going to be able to do musically," says Patty, eagerly. "For the last several years, we've had a very strict schedule, but at times we'd be separated up to six weeks at a time and our music wouldn't move forward. But, now that we're going to be together full time, the sky is the limit."

To hear a sample of Sound Traveler or to see their upcoming events, log onto www.soundtravelerband.com or 'friend' them on Facebook.