

STUDENT MODELS NEEDED:

A Fletcher manufacturer of Tote Bags and Accessories sold in college bookstores is looking for UNCA student models (male and female) for an on-site photo shoot in mid-October for their 2010 product catalog. E-mail full-length, ¾ body, and headshot to cfraley@carolinasewnproducts.com (professional photos not required). Pay starts at \$15/hour.

Banner interviews the Avett Brothers

Local band discusses its international success story

By Noor Al-Sibai
STAFF WRITER
NAALSIBA@UNCA.EDU

From a farm in the Piedmont of North Carolina to playing sold-out shows all over the world, the Avett Brothers have gained notoriety in the last few years with albums such as *The Gleam*, *Mignonette* and their latest release, September's *I and Love and You*.

"The best part for us is that we are able to get our songs out to as many people as possible. That has always been the goal," said Bob Crawford, upright bass player in the genre-spanning trio, on the band's recent exposure.

Hailing from Concord, the Avett Brothers all currently live in North Carolina, and have lived at different times both in east Asheville and Mars Hill.

"We wrote some great songs back then. It was a great time," Crawford said.

The band's early work speaks to freshman Hannah Grace, who has listened to the Avett Brothers since the beginning of high school.

"They saved me from Avril Lavigne," said Grace, a studio art and creative writing student.

Rather than breaking completely into the mainstream, the Avett Brothers are earning their fans instead of buying them, Grace said.

The Avett Brothers worked for the first time with Columbia Records and producer Rick Rubin on their recent studio effort, *I and Love and You*.

According to Crawford, Rubin brought decades of experience to the recording sessions, teaching the band about experimental arrangements and how subtle adjustments to tempo could affect the "feel" of a song.

I and Love and You is different from previous albums in ways other than production—the album represents the band's maturing interests and where their lives are, Crawford said.

"We have all gotten a little older and hopefully more mature. I think



Photo courtesy of the Avett Brothers

The Avett Brothers are regional natives who have evolved from a little-known local bar band to a widely embraced folk act. Their new album, *I and Love and You*, came out last month on American records.

some of the themes in this record are marriage, starting a family and coming to terms with the fleetingness of life," Crawford said.

One such track, "January Wedding," focuses on marriage, but in a manner characteristic of the Avett Brothers' whimsical narrative style.

Early in their career, the Avett Brothers were influenced by artists such as Rambling Jack Elliot, Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan and Tom Waits, as well as other music styles, Crawford said.

"As a group there have been periods when artists, authors, actors, and philosophers have loomed large in our collective mind," said Crawford of the band's nonmusical inspirations.

Similar to past albums, songs such as "Kick Drum Heart" and "It Goes On and On" center around love, while "Slight Figure of Speech" and "Incomplete and Insecure" cover life in its various moods and worries.

On the opening single, "I and Love and You," Seth Avett, the lead singer, sings the now-famous lines "Oh, Brooklyn, Brooklyn take me in," referencing the borough in New York City rather than a girl. Brooklyn, to the Avett Brothers, is "a magical place."

"And more than Brooklyn the place, it's more what Brooklyn seems to represent to the rest of the country and the world," Crawford said. He describes it as "the heart of hipness."

Like the rest of the music world, the Avett Brothers dispute their place in this "hip" culture. Crawford said it's difficult for the band to describe their genre. Instead, they choose to be grateful for the praise they've received and opportunities they've had.

"We are just thankful to be able to do what we do. We love our jobs," Crawford said.

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