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Reckless Kelly brings roots rock to town

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It should come as no surprise that roots-rock, Texas-based quintet Reckless Kelly revels in life on the road.

After all, the band is fronted by brothers Willy and Cody Braun, who moved the band to Austin from Bend, Ore., to find a wider audience for their Americana-inspired tunes that cross between several genres.

Cody Braun, who plays fiddle, mandolin, harmonica and vocals, said they're seen as too country for rock and roll and too rock and roll for country. His brother provides lead vocals, acoustic and electric guitar.

"I don't know what you'd call that," says Cody, before allowing that "Americana" and "rock and roll with a fiddle" are apt descriptions.

Their live show, which will come to Texarkana in a week, is a high-energy, quick-moving experience that gets the audience dancing.

"It's a pretty wide range of music really," said Braun during a recent phone interview. "We play everything from country bluegrass kind of stuff to rock 'n roll and blues."

He and Willy grew up in the Northwest listening to a lot of old Western music, he said, and then played for about nine years with the family band to hone their skills.

Their influences range from classic rock to progressive country. Joining Willy and Cody are David Abeyta on the lead electric and acoustic guitars and backing vocals, bassist Jimmy McFeeley and drummer Jay Nazz.

What brought them to Texas, said Cody, was the need to find an audience and the venues to play live and learn.

"Mainly we just thought our music would be better received down here," said Cody.

The band's 2006 release "Reckless Kelly Was Here" captures much of the fun, exciting energy that resonates in their live shows. It was recorded live at Austin's La Zona Rosa and produced by Abeyta. This year, they released "Americana Master Series: Reckless Kelly (The Best of the Sugar Hill Years)."

Reckless Kelly will play Shooters Friday, Nov. 2, starting around 9:45 p.m. Tickets

are \$15.

Cody says they're looking forward to coming back to Texarkana after playing some bigger venues this past summer. He said it's a good place to feel the intimacy of the music.

"It's a small venue. Small venues are fun," he said.

Their arrival here will come in the midst of some heavy touring through such locations as Colorado, Chicago, Nashville and New Orleans. Earlier this year, Reckless Kelly went cross-country from the Northwest to the Southeast, playing many clubs along the way.

(For more information, check out the band's Website www.recklesskelly.com.)