



Bluegrass ensemble “Ghost Sugar” is a group of four young, talented musicians from the Baltimore area. The band is led by Alani Sugar on fiddle and consists of Taka Morishita on guitar, Shio Morishita on bass, and Matthew Zuckerman on dobro.

Ghost Sugar came together from the desire of the leader to play in a group, so she pulled from talented members of the community that she met at a jam in Baltimore.

Audiences will be sure to enjoy their tight, driving, bluegrass sound with exciting fast instrumentals, and beautiful slow melodies. With a perfect balance of traditional bluegrass standards and creative arrangements, the music of Ghost Sugar is interesting and compelling to the ear.





Alani Sugar first picked up the violin when she joined her schools orchestra at nine years old. She discovered bluegrass when she was thirteen and began taking lessons at a local music store. Since then, Alani has been making her mark on the Baltimore bluegrass scene through her rapidly advancing skill on bluegrass fiddle, paving the way for the next generation of bluegrass.



Baltimore born and bred, Matthew Zuckerman has been playing music since age 17. During his early playing he was drawn to the blues slide technique of Robert Johnson and Fred McDowell. While attending University of Maryland, the surrounding funk and jam scene continued to influence his playing. It wasn't until 2014, while attending his first Delfest Bluegrass Festival, when his love for bluegrass music began. From there he continued to play music but was drawn to the slide technique of the Dobro guitar; especially the soulful playing of Josh Graves and the modern stylings of Andy Hall. The welcoming bluegrass community led him to attend the Baltimore Bluegrass jam, where he met the other members of Ghost Sugar. In addition to designing custom effects pedals for musicians around the world (noiseKICK FX), Matthew continues to play in various electric blues and rock projects around the Baltimore area.



Taka Morishita is originally from the land of the rising sun, Japan. His first encounter with Bluegrass was in college, when he was 18 years old. Right away, he joined the bluegrass community there and ended up spending almost 10 years before he finally earned his PhD (in Astrophysics). Taka came to Baltimore, the dreamland of bluegrass, in 2017, where he works as an astronomer for the discovery of unknown, exploration of the new world, and peace of the Universe.



Shio Morishita was born in Sendai, Japan. She discovered bluegrass through a club in college, and was intrigued by the improvisational nature of bluegrass music and the idea of playing in a small band. She chose to play bass because she was interested in the role that it played in the bluegrass ensemble. After moving to Baltimore in 2017, Shio quickly found her place in the Baltimore bluegrass scene.

Video Links:

Senor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRKPrAf-xwA>

Cherokee Shuffle: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xe048BRPb_g

Wheel Hoss Special: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fRMLUVVPpE>

Camel Ride: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lunoDkwXpUQ>

99 Years: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpHtsSjgqSs>

Past performances/accolades :

Trinacria Ristorante & Bar Americana Night- Baltimore, MD

Maryland Marathon Bluegrass Jam 2019- Severn, MD

Four Hour Day Lutherie First Friday Concert Series- Baltimore, MD

3rd Place DCBU Bluegrass Band Competition 2019- Rockville, MD

Creative Labs- Baltimore, MD

Flower Mart Festival- Baltimore, MD

The Barn At Harpers Ferry- Harpers Ferry, WV

1st Place Deer Creek Fiddlers Convention Band Competition 2019- Westminster, MD

Sykesville Strawberry Festival- Sykesville, MD

Eldersburg Library- Eldersburg, MD

Wieland's BBQ- Catonsville, MD

Summer In The Squares Concert Series- Baltimore, MD

Tabard Inn- Washington, DC

The Filling Station- Sparks Glencoe, MD

1919- Baltimore, MD

The Fill 'Er Up- Parkton, MD

3rd Place Upperco Music Festival Band Competition- Upperco, MD

The Gordon Center- Owings Mills, MD

Baltimore Free Farm- Baltimore, MD