



By Christopher Earle



MUSIC FAMILY COMMUNITY

As he talked with other ukulele musicians, he suddenly had many offers of songs to help raise money for the Association. Those offers resulted in the CD *Square Pegs & Round Holes*.

Square Pegs & Round Holes features sixteen tracks, with the title track written and performed by *The Barnkickers*. The second track, *Sail Away*, is by Greg Hawkes, the keyboard player

from the '80s band *The Cars*. Another notable contributor to the CD is Lyle Ritz, a session musician who has played with the likes of *Sonny and Cher* and the *Beach Boys*. His double bass work was featured on the #1 single *Good Vibrations*.

Square Pegs & Round Holes and *The Barnkicker's* debut CD are both available from their website, www.thebarnkickers.com. The duo is planning two performances in late December. One will be a house concert at the Dallas Ukulele Headquarters. The second performance will be in Florida. Details of the two shows are not final and will be posted on their website.

What happens when you take a family of accomplished musicians, mix a passion for ukulele and add in a desire to help raise money for the American Asperger's Association? You end up with a CD called *Square Pegs & Round Holes*, a CD where 100% of the proceeds benefit the American Asperger's Association.

The Barnkickers is a father and daughter duo based in Tarpon Springs, Florida. The duo formed when Steve Boisen began working, writing and collaborating with his daughter Amanda when she was 16. The pairing resulted from the two winning a local music competition. Steve Boisen studied music at Boston's Berklee School of Music and has a fascination and proficiency on many acoustic instruments, including stand-up bass and ukulele. Amanda Boisen is an accomplished singer, guitar and ukulele player and clarinetist.

The Barnkickers debut CD, available on both Amazon and iTunes, is *Up Before Noon*. The CD, recorded in the Boisen's home studio, features Steve and Amanda Boisen on a variety of acoustic instruments and creates an engaging sound that mixes humor, nostalgia and a bit of melancholy.

Steve Boisen's passion for ukulele lead him to start a local ukulele group, which eventually grew to over 100 members. One of the group members, Dr. Ronald Knaus of Largo, FL, volunteered his time to help children with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of high-functioning autism, joined the group to learn to play ukulele.

This chance meeting lead Boisen, whose son has Asperger's Syndrome, to write a song to help raise money for the American Asperger's Association.



THE BARNKICKERS

