



Sons & Brothers Full Bio:

Sons & Brothers is the Wolking Brothers - Mike, Aaron, and Joe! The boys have been playing music together since 1999 and have covered genres ranging from contemporary Christian, bluegrass, western, and even country-rock. As the band moves into 2022, they are focused on presenting the Gospel through word and song in an effort to point listeners to the Way, the Truth, and the Life - Jesus Christ.

The brothers' musical journey began in the mid 1990's. Band founder and family patriarch, Frank Wolking, had been a lifelong musician, performing in ensembles ranging from country and rock'n'roll to polka. After a long hiatus from musical activity, Frank was persuaded by eldest son, Mike, to pull the guitar out from under the bed and teach him the chords to the classic Rich Mullins song "Step By Step." Soon after, the family discovered a natural three-part vocal harmony stack with middle son Aaron carrying the melody and Frank and Mike both able to sing harmony. After attending a few recording sessions with bands led by Frank's older brother, Fred Wolking, Aaron was encouraged to switch from percussion to bass guitar. At that point, youngest brother, Joe, jumped in on percussion. Shortly thereafter, Joe moved to stringed instruments when he began taking fiddle lessons. Frank and the boys initially only performed at a few local churches and at the occasional family gathering. However, that changed on April 9th, 1999, when the boys signed up for and performed at their first formal gig – an open stage set at the Black Rose Acoustic Society in Colorado Springs, Colo. That night, Sons & Brothers was born in earnest.

Upon being introduced to bluegrass legend Ron Thomason of the Dry Branch Fire Squad, Sons & Brothers moved from playing contemporary Christian music into a bluegrass-centric style. The sounds of mandolin, fiddle, and Dobro, combined with the band's signature harmony vocal blend, opened the door to perform at concert halls and bluegrass festivals across the United States and even a two-week stint in Scotland, England, and Wales. Frank and the boys drew from a diverse set of musical influences, which eventually became "WestGrass" – bluegrass instrumentation and vocal prowess, shaped and flavored by life in the Rocky Mountain West. Thus, it was a natural transition for the band to add traditional country, cowboy, and western music influences to the already broad range of stylings they presented. Sons & Brothers was on the cusp of some national notoriety in the western music world, when, in 2007, tragedy struck – founder, band leader, and beloved dad, Frank, was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. The following 18 months were a time of incredible difficulty and unfathomable grace from God above. Frank's brother Fred joined the band and Sons & Brothers trudged on with their busy performing schedule. In October of 2008, 10 days after performing at one of the largest musical gatherings in the country, the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival in San Francisco, Frank Wolking's journey on earth was ended and he was brought into eternity with the Lord and Savior he so earnestly loved.

As one would imagine, the following years were full of challenges and triumphs, laughter and sorrow. The band added new sounds to their musical arsenal, with drums and electric guitar becoming a staple

of the band's presentation. With this new instrumentation, the boys added country-rock and swing to their catalog and continued developing a new "sound" following Frank's passing. When Mike, Aaron, and Joe all married and began their own families, an informal hiatus took place in Sons & Brothers with performances being limited to once or twice a month. This afforded the band the opportunity to reflect and consider what the brothers' musical future held.

Mike, Joe, and Aaron, along with the rock of the family, their mother, Val, all came to the same conclusion: that it was time for the band to return to their true roots and dedicate themselves to making music specifically intended to bring the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to any audience willing to listen. While Gospel music had always been a large part of what Sons & Brothers was about, the time had come to change gears entirely and dedicate the music to the ministry.

As the band moves in 2022, the boys have never been more excited about the music that they are preparing. With sounds, tones, and songs that are both new and old, Sons & Brothers is committed to bringing the Gospel message with as much energy and excellence as can be mustered. "We want to play Gospel music and we want to give it away," said band leader and eldest brother, Mike. "This world is broken and in desperate need of rescue; Jesus is the only place where that rescue will be found. As a band and as a family, we want to be found busy when the Lord comes back and, you can bet on it, He is coming back!"

If you are interested in having Sons & Brothers perform at your gathering, please contact:

Sons & Brothers

Aaron Wolking

719.371.3838

sonsandbrothersband@gmail.com

www.sonsandbrothers.com