

# Backstage with Mipso

*CPAC's Visiting Artist Series brings master class to student musicians*

Mipso, a young and very talented group of vocalists and musicians, performed at the Cedarburg Performing Arts Center Oct. 23 as part of the Visiting Artist Series. The group gave a master class for Cedarburg High School students in the CPAC theatre earlier that day.

With ringing, four-part harmonies, singable yet poignant lyrics and heart-melting charisma, this North Carolina four-piece band borrows the best from bluegrass, contemporary country, pop, gospel, folk and American singer-songwriter traditions to create their hallmark sound.

Credited by IndyWeek with "expanding the vocabulary of common touchstones" for

bluegrass, Mipso has become known for sly original lyrics and a distinctive sound full of soft, understated harmonies, nostalgic melodies and optimistic rhythms – harnessing the sentimental character of bluegrass and twisting in the hopeful outlook of youth. These charming, talented youngsters bring fresh wit to old themes and dispensing wisdom with an undercutting wink.

The band consists of Jacob Sharp, Wood Robinson, Joseph Terrell and Libby Rodenbough. Formed in Chapel Hill in 2010, these four North Carolinians are touring the country to support their Oct. 2 release, "Old Time Reverie," the band's third album with 11 original songs.



Members of Mipso are, from left, Jacob Sharp on mandolin, Wood Robinson on double bass, Joseph Terrell on guitar and Libby Rodenbough on fiddle.



Mipso members demonstrate to the students how old-time bluegrass musicians performed with one microphone.



Left and above, CHS students Leah and Carly Rishel receive a lesson in playing a violin like a fiddle from Mipso member Libby Rodenbough during the master class.