

The Tongue Family String Band started in 2006. At the time, Steve Tongue – a pianist with background in jazz and classical – was looking for a way to involve the whole Tongue family as a musical group. He and his wife, Amy – a flute player – had recently attended a concert by the Irish band “Lunasa.” They were inspired by what they heard and started to learn Irish and Scottish tunes as a family – with Steve on guitar, Amy on flute, daughters Abby (age 14) and Lara (age 12) on fiddles, and youngest daughter Emma (age 9) on the Bodhran (Irish Drum).

Since then, Emma has taken up cello and provides the bass line for the band. In addition, the girls have studied and become proficient in Irish Step Dancing which adds some visual dazzle to their performances. Starting in 2008, the family began making appearances around the Traverse City area with regular performances at Horizon Books and Kilkennys Irish Pub, as well as special events at Old Mission Peninsula Lighthouse, Grand Traverse Lighthouse, Boardman River Nature Center and the Old Mission Peninsula Library. They were also selected to perform at the Maritime Heritage Festival on July 4 in Alpena.

