

ROCK and *KEYSER* ROLL

Music In My Life My Life In Music

Dedicated to all the venues, bookers, house and stage managers, sound and lighting techs, promoters, publicists, photographers and videographers and roadies who have supported me and the bands I have represented over the past four plus decades. It is an honor and a privilege to work with so many highly talented musicians. I am filled with gratitude for the road I have traveled, and look forward to many more years of helping to bring live music to the world!

Cover photo J.C. Juanis
Cover lettering Mike Dolgushkin

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Music has always been my passion. As a young guy I remember riding the #37 bus downtown to stop at the record store to pick up the latest albums. From my hometown of Baltimore I listened to WCAO radio Top 40 hits, and watched The Buddy Deane Dance Party every day after school. My early musical heroes were Dion, Paul Anka, Neil Sedaka, Little Eva, Ray Charles, Chubby Checker, Gene Pitney, Roy Orbison, The Four Tops and, Stevie Wonder....

My parents were also music fans. Here are few photos from back in their day....



Debbie Reynolds ? My mom My dad (dark suit) watching
Eddie Fisher at Grossinger's Resort in the Catskills
circa 1958



After dinner with Harpo Marx and his wife at their Hollywood home, Harpo serenaded circa 1963

My first foray into the music world happened on my last day of 4th grade at Liberty School #64. Dr. Carlin, the music teacher, came into our classroom. He told us that next year, in 5th grade, we could be in the school orchestra. He asked everyone to choose which instrument they wanted to play. I wasn't sure. My brother had played clarinet, but not very well. I gave it some thought.

When Dr. Carlin asked who wants to play violin, I saw Evelyn Brodtkin raise her hand. Evelyn had been my first elementary school crush, although I was way too shy to ever do anything about it. I've had my eyes on her for years. Now here was my chance. If I went with violin, at least I could sit near her and maybe start to get her attention. I raised my hand.

Fifth grade. I proudly walked to the first day of school with book bag over my shoulder, and a brand new violin in case in my hand. Rehearsals started, and soon Dr. Carlin had decided who would play in the school orchestra.

My best laid plans for an Evelyn-connection failed. She was a great violinist, and sat confidently in the 1st violin section. I was outright lousy, and was parked in the back of the string players, an unhappy 5th violin. Somehow I got through that year, hoping to get better at my craft. Kept my Evelyn hope alive.

At the beginning of sixth grade, Dr. Carlin asked me to his office. Nervously I entered, expecting him to expel me and my squeaky violin from the ensemble. Instead, he told me that he would like me to be the orchestra's conductor! Even though I knew he was doing whatever he could to silence my squeaky string instrument, I gladly accepted my new role. And of course I thought that Evelyn would think I was a cool guy.

After much practice, the orchestra announced a Friday evening concert. With folding chairs filling the gymnasium, parents crowded the room in anticipation of their children's talents. The musician-students took their seats at the front of the room. Loud chatter in the room stopped suddenly as the lights went down on the moms and dads, but keeping the performers illuminated.



Conducting the Liberty School #64 Orchestra 1961

I was standing in a corner near the musicians as the light dimmed. That was my cue to walk toward the conductor's podium. As I did everyone in the room burst into applause, which continued as I stepped up on the podium and smiled. This was great! All I did was enter the space, and suddenly everyone was giving me all this love! Raising my hands and baton, the music began. I loved not having the pressure of playing a note, not worrying about being out of tune, but still being a part of these beautiful melodies. Short lived as it was, as June rolled around, my role leading the orchestra and Elementary School was a thing of the past.



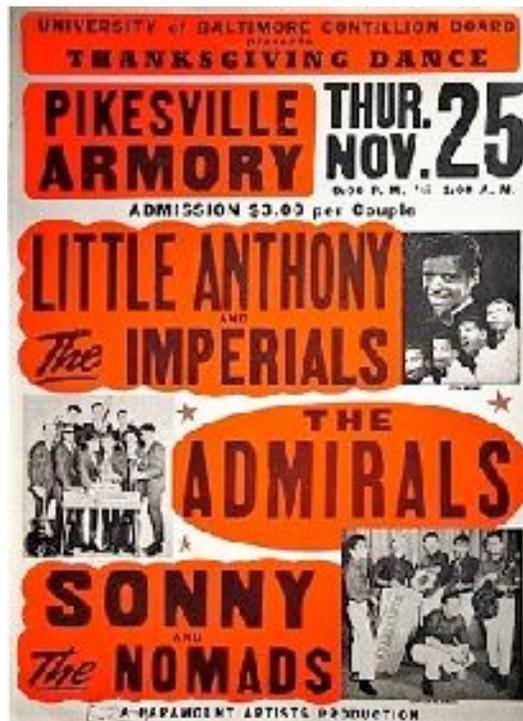
I'm the conductor. Evelyn Brodkin is far left row, 1st Violin

PS: I located my first elementary school crush, Evelyn Brodkin on Facebook in 2015. She was a professor in Chicago. We chatted online for a bit, and a few months later Evelyn came to California for a scheduled Education Conference. We had a lovely day cruising San Francisco and dinner by the beach. So special to catch up after 54 years!



Evelyn Brodkin & me 9.4.15

My early teen years were filled with buying records, and listening to groups like The Temptations, The Miracles, The Four Seasons, Dion, Neil Sedaka and then on to The Beatles and The Stones. I saw live concerts with The Supremes, Lovin' Spoonfull, Little Anthony & The Imperials and Major Lance. Lots of teen dances with a DJ. Music continued to be my salvation.



When I was 15 I saw the Beatles live. Yes saw. Can't say I heard them much, as thousands of screaming fans never stopped to catch their breath. I stood on a chair in the back section of the Civic Center in awe. Their set was less than 40 minutes.....

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4 P.M. and 8:30 P.M.



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Months later, The Rolling Stones played at the same venue. “Hey You Get Off Of My Cloud” was on the top of the charts. Still swimming in Beatlemania, I was not that impressed with Mick and the boys, even though I had 2nd row seats.

Not long after that, finally with my driver's license and a new Chevy convertible, my best buddy Sheldon and I went to see Bob Dylan, again at The Civic Center. Our seats were in the next to last row of the balcony. I still remember the cigarette smoke wavering in the spotlight that was beaming from the projection room just above our heads. The room darkened, and Dylan appeared stage right, as a spot followed him across a blackened stage. He got to center stage, sat on a stool, and played his less than an hour acoustic set, without ever saying one word to the audience. Not even hello or goodbye. Neither Sheldon nor I were taken by his performance.

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	<i>see & hear</i> Bob Dylan
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In my late teens I listened to a lot of Jefferson Airplane, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Country Joe & The Fish, Big Brother & The Holding Company, Grateful Dead, Cream, Cocker, Arlo and many others. I still have my couple hundred album collection.

Off I went to college. Two years at American University in Washington DC. Live shows included Cream, Hendrix and Grin (with Nils Lofgren). Then two years at University of Maryland, where I saw Jefferson Airplane and Quicksilver Messenger Service perform. I was a full on pot smoking, acid taking hippie student, much more interested in outside the classroom learning than in. I was #37 in the Military Draft Lottery, certain to be shipped off to Viet Nam. Fortunately I did a number of things to get classified as 1-Y, and could only be called up in case of a national emergency.

Living in the DC area, I became very active in the anti Viet Nam war movement. I joined the National Peace Action Coalition, as we began planning The Moratorium, a huge protest on the US Capitol steps. Tens of thousands of peace-seekers gathered to hear political speakers, religious leaders, and musicians, speaking and singing out against that awful war.

My job was to bring Country Joe McDonald and his manager Bill Belmont to and from the Capitol and their hotel. Joe was scheduled to perform at 1PM. I called Bill asking him to be ready at 11:30 for my arrival. I reminded him that there would be lots of traffic across the city that day, and we needed to depart his hotel in a timely manner.

I arrived at the hotel at the appointed time. No Joe or Bill. I called up to their room and they eventually showed up. We walked to my car and Joe said “Let me grab my guitar from the trunk of our rental car over there and I’ll be ready”. But the key to the trunk did not work. Joe muttered something about how he couldn’t play without his guitar. I told them to get into their rental car and follow me a few miles to a nearby Hertz Rent-A-Car. But they were also unsuccessful in opening the trunk, and suggested we drive back to the airport, where they originally picked up the car. Finally, the airport Hertz did get the trunk open. I told Joe and Bill to grab the guitar, hop in my car, and I’d bring them back to their car later. So off we went, Capitol bound.

As we wound our way thru DC, Joe asked me how long he was scheduled to perform. I told him 15 minutes. He went a bit crazy, complaining that he had come all this distance at his expense and he was only being given a lousy 15 minutes. I explained that there will be speakers like Rennie Davis and Dick Gregory at the protest, along with musicians like Arlo Guthrie, Peter, Paul & Mary, and many others who would also be performing. I reminded Joe that *even* if he only stood before the crowd and flashed the peace sign, he would be accomplishing his mission of supporting the cause. So I suggested that he played his legendary anti-war anthem “I Feel Like I’m Fixin’ To Die Rag” and maybe one other song, and leave at that. He groaned. When his turn finally came around, Joe performed at least 30 minutes. My initiation into the world of working with musicians.

I learned to play guitar while I was in college. Lots of chords. Lots of strumming. I wrote a bunch of songs, lamenting lost loves and expressing the angst of my latter teen years. I got up the nerve to perform one concert, at a coffee house near the University of Maryland. I quickly realized that performing was not where my talents lay. So I continued my guitar playing in house, and it has stayed that way over the years.

In the Summer of 1969, my friend Steve and I hopped in his brand new Chevy convertible and headed out of Maryland, west to California. We stopped along the way at Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park, The Grand Canyon, and Boulder, Colorado before entering into the Golden State. Steve had a buddy from school in Maryland that had moved to San Francisco a few years earlier, and had joined a local band called Mt. Rushmore. We stayed with them at their band house near Golden Gate Park. The band had released their first album in 1968, and they were playing lots of gigs at The Fillmore, Winterland, The Avalon and The Fillmore West, opening for local and touring national acts. Unfortunately, they didn't have any shows booked for the few days of our visit.



Mt. Rushmore's 1st album – 1968

Our first night in San Francisco we hung out with our hosts, listening to something I had never heard before: Underground radio. An FM station that played rock & roll songs, no matter how long they were. Before that I had only heard songs on the radio that were under 3 minutes long. As we puffed on California bud, I was delighted to experience this leap forward in our musical culture!

The next day the band loaded Steve and me into the back seat of their very large 1950's automobile. They told us to sit back and relax as they slipped a tab of acid under our tongues. We were off to see the Bay Area. First we toured San Francisco, from Chinatown to Ocean Beach, from Haight-Ashbury to Fisherman's Wharf, with constant smiles. Then we headed over the Golden Gate Bridge into Marin County. I remember telling everyone how disappointed I was that the bridge was painted red, not gold. My expectations from the name of the bridge left unmet, we covered Mt. Tamalpais, Stinson Beach, and zipped thru town after town on our way back to The City. A most amazing introduction. Love at first sight!

After a few days in the Bay, Steve and I headed east to New England, where our girlfriends were living together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Driving over the Oakland Bay Bridge to Highway 80, I looked back at the San Francisco skyline, and said to myself "This will be my home someday. I'll be back to stay".

I stayed with in Cambridge with my girlfriend Roberta for much of the rest of the summer. Roberta was a waitress and I was a dishwasher at a restaurant at Harvard Square. Work started at 5, but on Sundays we left home early for our weekly dose of live music. This wonderful trio filled the air around Cambridge Commons, a nearby park, with the most delightful music. They were the Rowan Brothers – Peter, Lorin and Chris. Roberta and I kept calling them The American Beatles, starting a lifetime of admiration. I was so very excited 15 or so years later to work as a booking agent for both Lorin and Chris.



The Rowan Brothers

On August 14th, with our newly day-glow painted tent, sleeping bags, and backpacks full of goodies, Roberta and I stuck out our thumbs and headed to Woodstock. We had purchased our tickets for this festival a few days earlier at a local record store. After a few rides, we arrived in the town of Woodstock. Much to our surprise, there was a big sign in the middle of town, saying that the festival had been moved to White Lake NY. Thumbs out again.

As we approached the festival grounds, there was a line of cars stretching for miles. We jumped out of the back of the pickup truck, thanked our driver, and walked the final distance past cars full of excited hippies. By the time we got to the entry gate Thursday evening, the fence had been knocked down, and no one was collecting tickets. I was glad to be able to keep mine, which I still have.

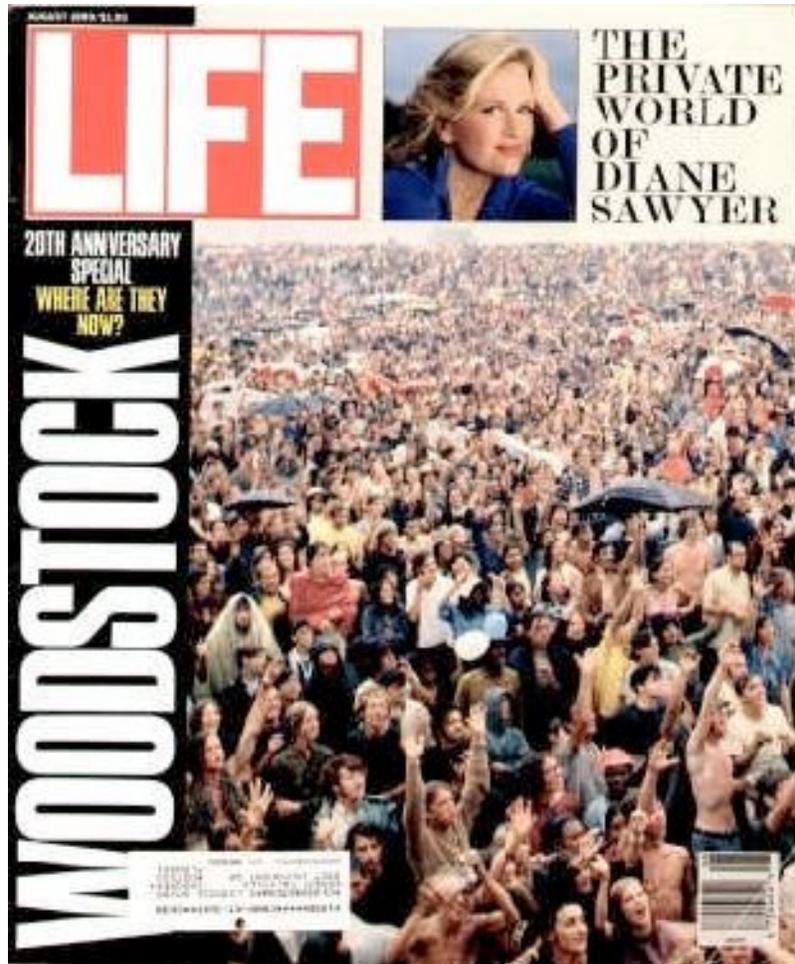


Entering the festival grounds, we found the camp sites, set up our tent, and were off to explore this magical space. I was so comforted to see that there were tens of thousands of people, who came from all over the country that loved the same music I did, and that listened to and believed in the same lyrics I did. It was so reassuring knowing that I was not alone. From the size of this crowd, growing to 400,000 or so, I was guessing that millions of people in America felt very much like I did.

As Roberta and I walked thru the masses of hippies, I glanced up on a grassy hillside, and was totally amazed to see my sister and her friends enjoying the scene. Amongst hundreds of thousands of people, there was my own flesh and blood, who had also just recently arrived at the festival. After hugging and laughing for a while, Lynn handed Roberta and me little purple pills. As I recall that added some amazing sparkle to this already magical experience with this immense community of kindred spirits.

The music started on Friday late afternoon, with Richie Havens. How very sweet to be surrounded by hundreds of thousands of joyous people, living in harmony, listening to Arlo, Joan Baez, Country Joe, Santana, Canned Heat, The Grateful Dead, Janis, Creedence, Sly, The Who, The Airplane, Joe Cocker, CSN, Sha Na Na, and others. After the music ended in Sunday, Roberta and I had had enough of the rain and mud and crowds, and decided it was time to head back to Boston. So we hugged our friends goodbye, headed to the road, thumbs out. Definitely the greatest musical experience of my life!

In August of 1989, Life Magazine came out with a 20th Anniversary of Woodstock issue. On the cover below, across from the S in Woodstock, notice the guy in a red shirt. To the right of him there is a female in a dark blue top, hands clasped. That is Roberta. Immediately behind her, you can see the top half of my head. Our friend Judy is a few feet away. Got this framed on my wall with my Woodstock ticket.



I visited the Bay Area in the summers of 1971 and 1973. In 1971, while living with my sister on the houseboats in Sausalito, I had breakfast with a few friends in town. Finishing before the rest of our party, my friend Steve and I went outside, and told our friends we would wait for them to finish their bacon and eggs. We found a long wide stairway between two buildings outside, sat and waited for our pals.

While sitting, I noticed a police car across the street, next to a small park with a fountain. At this time in history, hippies were totally frowned on by the establishment. Sausalito was trying to keep the longhairs out of town, because it was scaring tourists away.

Suddenly two cops hopped out of their cruiser, and headed across the street. Standing in front of us, they said “You’re under arrest”. Shocked to say the least, I said “What for?” The sergeant replied “For sitting on the steps. The sign on the wall behind you says ‘Sitting on steps not allowed’”. I smiled at the officer, told him we did not see the sign, and said we would move on. As we started to leave, they grabbed Steve and me, slapped handcuffs on our wrists, escorted us back to their patrol car, and had us spread arms and legs against the trunk of their vehicle. As they were frisking us, our friends exited the restaurant, asking what was happening. I let them know that we were being arrested, for sitting on the steps. I found this whole thing rather amusing.

So off we went, handcuffed together, to the Sausalito Police Station. We were booked, mug shots, fingerprinted, and thrown into a cell. After an hour or so they took us to another squad car, and drove us north to the County Jail in San Rafael. Again we were booked, fingerprinted, and locked up. Our friends showed up with bail money, but the cops would not talk to them or release us.

During our incarceration, the police brought in a guy who was tripping, and tried to beat up a cop. They stuck him in a nearby padded cell, which had a microphone. The speaker at the sergeant's desk was right next to our cell, and we could hear this poor guy freaking out. A few hours passed, and finally they accepted our friend's bail money, and we were released. In a few days I received a notice in the mail that our court date was set for September. I headed back to the East Coast, ready to start another semester of college. In a few weeks I got another notice that they had dropped the case. I was most relieved that my criminal record was cleared, and I was excused for sitting on the steps. Bad boy!

In 1975 I finally moved to Marin County California. I had visited the Bay Area in 1969, 1971 and 1973, and knew when the time was right, I would make this beautiful locale my permanent home. So unlike my East Coast roots, the magnificence of the landscape was matched by the friendly, relaxed nature of California people. My girlfriend Mimi and I settled in the spare room at my sister's rural Forest Knolls home.

We lived next door to David Mackay, the bassist with the band Tazmanian Devils. Started following the band at venues like Uncle Charlie's, Cotati Cabaret, and their home club in Fairfax - The Sleeping Lady. Along with a number of neighbors we planned an outdoor party in front of our houses we called Day on The Gravel. The Devils played a kick ass set for a large assembly of dancers, many dressed in costumes. My introduction to the Northern California music scene.

Day on the Gravel



Marin County, Ca. ...

The name was a joke, a parody, a put-on. But it was outdoor music with plenty of good feelings, champagne, dogs and children. And, besides, it was a good excuse for a party.

So Day on the Gravel Number 2 took place on Oct. 24 in Forest Knolls, situated a half hour south of San Francisco. Entertainment was provided by the TASMANTIAN DEVILS and friends picking up when their set was over.

The party had a theme—as close to Hallowe'en—which called for Arab costumes. A video crew with porta packs and tripods scanned the crowd, the weather was warm enough for little or loose apparel to be worn. The TASMANTIAN DEVILS, a white reggae band which has been getting some local radio air play, did not need a permit for dancing because the party was held at the bass player's back yard.

By contrast to Gosh's productions, Gravel drew a mere 200 by day's end. But it was free and most everyone knew someone else who was there.

Rack 'n' colleague is the way to describe the final jam which lasted nearly ninety minutes with at least ten musicians. Two notable performers were Terry Higgarty, lead guitar for SONS OF CHAMPLIN and Joe Butler, former drummer in LOVIN' SPOONFUL.

As the stream flowed slowly past not ten yards from where the band was set up, you were struck by the enjoyment of an idyllic fun afternoon.

Tazmanian Devils broke up in the early 1980s. In 2016, they decided to reunite. I was thrilled to get a phone call asking if I was interested in helping the band find gigs. So many years later, they sounded better than ever, and I started to fill dates for these very talented longtime musical friends

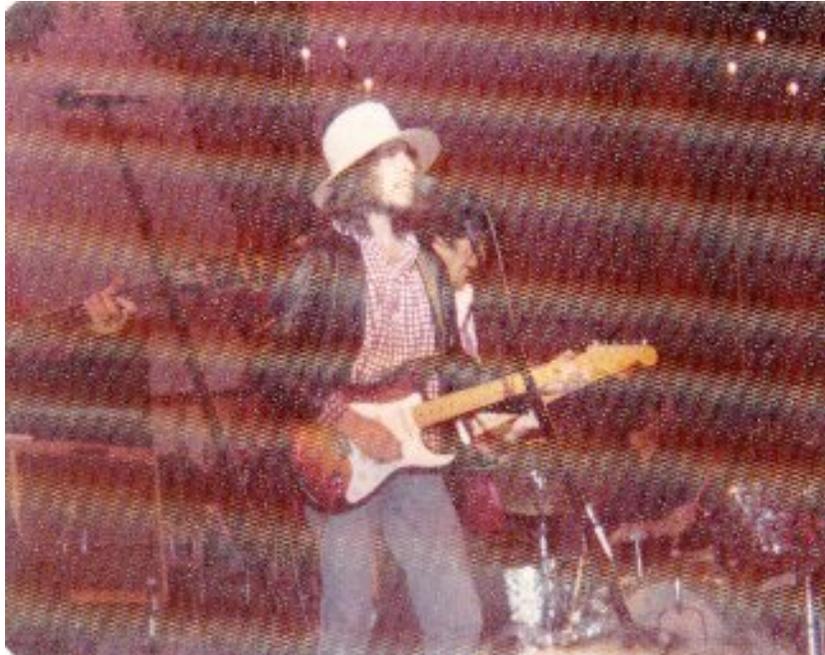


Tazmanian Devils 1976



On Thanksgiving 1976 I headed into San Francisco to Winterland Ballroom for The Last Waltz. This was the final concert for *The Band*, who was ending their 9 year run with a performance featuring many of the musicians who had influenced their highly successful career. The evening began with a sit down Thanksgiving dinner for 5,000 fans. A chamber orchestra serenaded the crowd of turkey, mashed potatoes and cranberry lovers. Then the house lights suddenly dimmed, the house crew removed all the tables and chairs, and the audience made their way closer to the stage. I got lucky and found a spot 2 feet from the stage, where I stood for the next few hours, enjoying *The Band* with their guests:

- Paul Butterfield – harmonica, vocals
- Bobby Charles – vocals
- Eric Clapton – guitar, vocals
- Neil Diamond – guitar, vocals
- Dr. John – piano, guitar, congas, vocals
- Bob Dylan – guitar, vocals



Bob Dylan – The Last Waltz

- Bill Graham – master of ceremonies
- Emmylou Harris – acoustic guitar, vocals
- Ronnie Hawkins – vocals
- Joni Mitchell – acoustic guitar, vocals
- Van Morrison – vocals
- Pinetop Perkins – piano, vocals
- Cleotha Staples – backing vocals
- Mavis Staples – vocals
- Roebuck "Pops" Staples – guitar, vocals
- Yvonne Staples – backing vocals
- Ringo Starr – drums

-
- Stephen Stills – guitar
- Muddy Waters – vocals
- Ronnie Wood – guitar
- Neil Young – guitars, harmonica, vocals
- Michael McClure – Poet



Neil Diamond Joni Mitchell Neil Young Van Morrison
Bob Dylan Robbie Robertson

A few years later, Mimi and I had split up, and I rented a room in Steve Mallory's Marinwood house, ready to turn the page. Steve played bass guitar for the band *Chicago Blues Power*. They rehearsed in our garage, and in short order I became their booking agent.



This awesome 7 piece ensemble was the backup band for the legendary Chicago blues guitar icon Mike Bloomfield



Mike Bloomfield

Mike was not in the best of shape, struggling with substance abuse. Sometimes he showed up for the gig, sometimes not. I remember a show at The Flying Fish in Sausalito. The band, with my roommate Steve, Ron Buktovich (Van Morrison, Junior Wells), Ben “King” Perkoff (Mary Wells, Big Mama Thornton), Hart McNee (Boz Scaggs, Steve Miller Band), John Chambers (We Five, John Coltrane), Lonnie “Showtime” Walter (Aretha Franklin, Jackie Wilson), and Applejack Walroth (Elvin Bishop, Sam Lay) were on stage, awaiting the arrival of the often late Bloomfield.

That night he had asked for a keyboard to be set up for him, as he wasn't up to playing guitar. Finally Mike showed up, walked slowly up to the stage, sat down on the piano bench, laid his head down on the keyboard..... and passed out. The band woke him up and helped him offstage. I called a taxi and Mike was driven back to his Mill Valley home.



Ron Buktovich Applejack Walroth Hart McNee Steve Mallory
Ben "King" Perkoff Lonnie Walter (drummer John Chambers
behind Steve Mallory)

Later that year, New Years Eve 1980-81. Ron Butkovich and I drove over to Mike's house to celebrate. I recall walking down the hallway to his living room, and seeing Mike's gold record for the album *Super Session* (with Al Cooper and Stephen Stills). The record has hanging haphazardly crooked on the wall. I thought to myself "Here is a treasure that most people in the world would kill to have – a gold record. And Bloomfield didn't give it the respect it deserved by at least displaying it properly." Oh well, on I went to the living room, where our host was slumped over his cozy chair. Mike was a super nice guy, and it broke my heart seeing him self-destruct on drugs. Six weeks later, they found his dead body in his car in San Francisco, an apparent overdose. The Blues personified.

A few days after Mike's passing, Boz Scaggs called Blues Power's band leader Ron Butkovich. At that time Boz was one of the biggest acts in the world. He was still riding the wave from his hugely successful album *Silk Degrees*, and had been touring to promote his most recent *Middle Man* LP. Boz told Ron that Bloomfield was his hero. He asked if he could come the Blues Power's upcoming gig at The Saloon in San Francisco, to pay his respects to his fallen idol. Of course Ron said of course. Boz's only request was that we never refer to him as Boz Scaggs, but instead call him Dallas Slim. He said his manager and his agent and his record label would kill him if he performed at this 100 capacity venue under his real name.



Hart McNee Applejack Walroth Ben “King” Perkoff Boz Scaggs

So Dallas Slim came down to this North Beach venue. He actually showed up for a handful of Saloon gigs over the next few months. It was thrilling to hang out with and be entertained by such an amazing talent. The band invited him to join them at their 1981 San Francisco Blues Festival performance, which he did. Again he was advertised and introduced as Dallas Slim.



Hart McNee Steve Mallory Ben “King” Perkoff Boz Scaggs
Applejack Walroth John Chambers Lonnie Walter

I knew that San Francisco Chronicle Columnist Herb Caen was a huge fan of Boz. His column was hugely popular, and oftentimes the first place readers would go when they bought the daily paper. So the Monday after each Boz appearance at The Saloon, I would call Herb and let him know. And the next day there would be a good mention for his thousands of loyal followers to enjoy.

Here’s what Herb said:

“Dallas Slim” sat in again Sun. night with Chicago Blues Power Band at the Saloon in North Beach. That would be Boz Scaggs, who hides behind that name and is introduced as such to the crowd. The game is never to let on that you know it’s the Bozzer...”

“Boz Scaggs, disguised as a tourist in white suit, shades, camera around neck, wandered unrecognized in North Beach last wkend, then ducked into The Saloon on Grant to jam with Chicago Blues Power. One reason Boz doesn’t have to work regularly is that his greatest album “Silk Degrees” continues to pay off like a crazed slot machine, as it should: a classic.”

“If you stay home nights, you get a lot of rest but you miss things like Boz Scaggs dropping in at The Saloon on Upper Grant – next to La Pantera – and sitting in with Chicago Blues Power Band Sun. Night for three sets. Good ol’ Bozzer even paid the one-buck door charge, as did about 300 others when word got around the neighborhood.”

“Over at The Saloon on Grant, Boz Scaggs still separated from Carmella (and showing no scars), playing and singing up a storm with the Chicago Blues Power Band.”

“Okay, Boz Scaggs sat in again last Fri. night with the Chicago Blues Power Band at the Saloon on Grant; this is not news, but I like what he told the band’s manager Steve Keyser, rather wistfully: I always just wanted to be a singer in a bar.”

I continued to book Chicago Blues Power. Suddenly it became a lot easier to get them gigs, with the free promotion that Herb had given the band. Club bookers were thrilled to have CBP come to their venue, with the hope that Dallas Slim would be with them. I was booking the band in the far reaches of the Bay Area, as The Chronicle had a very wide ranging readership. Boz never played any of these gigs, but the band successfully spread their “Dancing Blues” music far and wide.

So I now had the ear of many club bookers. Most of them would now take my call, and return my message. But I only had this one band. So I decided to expand my horizons, and started to recruit new acts for my agency, SK Productions. I built a roster, and starting booking live music like never before. Some of the acts I worked with in the following years were:

Marty Balin
The Beau Brummels
Lorin Rowan & The Edge
FPB (From The Blues Project)
Hoo Doo Rhythm Devils
“Hurricane” Annie Sampson
Mitch Woods
Kingfish
Maria Muldaur
The Sundogs
New Riders of The Purple Sage



Terry & The Pirates
Secrets
Olatunji & His Drums of Passion
Blue Cheer
Problem Child
Thunder & Lightning
Ron Thompson & The Resistors
Larry Lynch & The Mob
Billy & The Boppers
Terry & The Pirates
Rocky Sullivan
Country Joe McDonald
Cris Loiter & The Hangouts
Zero
Kokomo aka Go Ahead



KOKOMO

Steve Mykland, David Morgan, Kevin Scandell, Bill Kretzmann



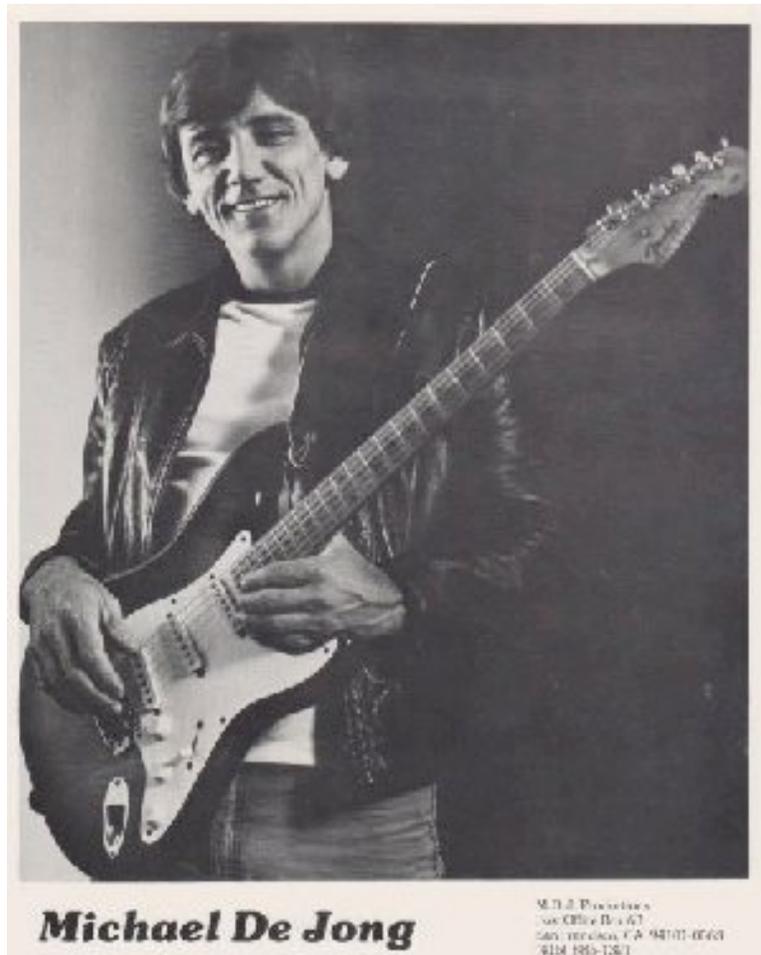
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At one of Chicago Blues Power's Saloon gigs, I met the very talented guitar player/vocalist Michael De Jong.



Michael would frequently sit in with CBP. He also had his own band, which I started doing bookings for. One day Michael told me that he had a friend who had slowed down his music career to study to become a lawyer. His friend had just passed the bar, opened his law office, and now wanted to form a band and start back playing music live. He needed a booking agent. Michael said he would put me in touch with his friend. Turns out that it was Barry "The Fish" Melton, former singer/guitarist with *Country Joe & The Fish*.

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WRECKED?**



OUT OF CIRCULATION?



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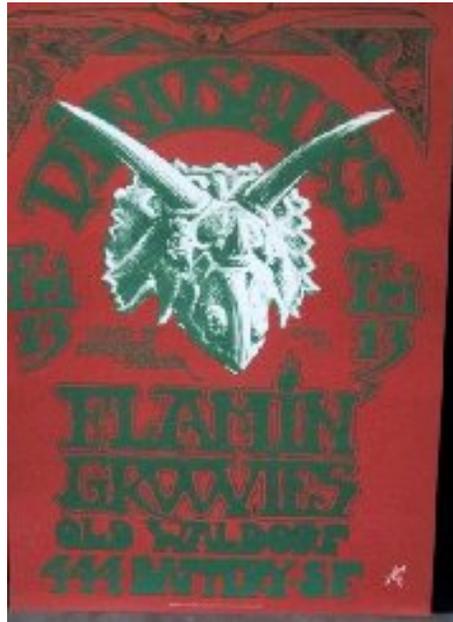
Barry and I met for lunch, and began our friendship and professional relationship, which continues to this day. Barry quickly assembled his guys, and I got on the phone to line up dates. Thus the beginning of the band Fish & Chip, with Quicksilver Messenger Service guitarist John Cipollina, Big Brother & The Holding Company bass player Peter Albin, and Jefferson Airplane drummer Spencer Dryden.



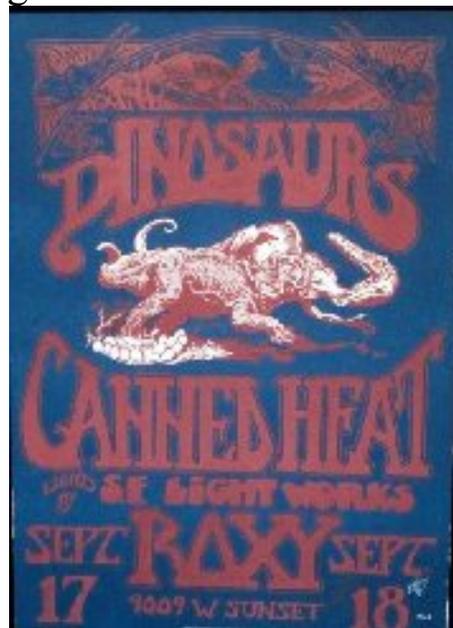
Peter Albin John Cipollina Barry Melton Spencer Dryden

The band was packing the house in mostly club settings. In short order they evolved to the band Dinosaurs, and started playing larger premiere venues.

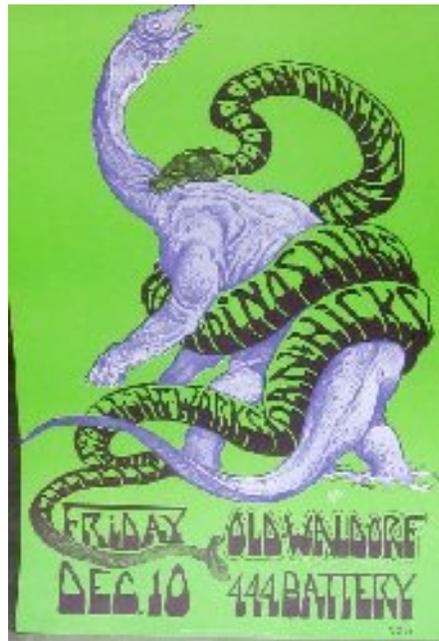
Dinosaurs' 1st gig was July 5, 1982 at The Marin County Fair. Special guests were Mickey Hart, Peter Walsh and Airtio. Next a sell out at San Francisco's Old Waldorf, with guests Mike Wilhelm (The Charlatans) and Greg Elmore (Quicksilver Messenger Service). Robert Hunter sat in, and decided then and there to become a regular member of the band.



Off to Los Angeles to headline two nights at The Roxy on The Sunset Strip (Dave Getz and Nicky Hopkins sitting in), with Canned Heat opening.



The band got national attention from their November 22nd MTV Music News clip, and got mentioned in Billboard in early December. On the 10th they were back to The Old Waldorf, with guests Mickey Hart, Nicky Hopkins, Country Joe McDonald, Merl Saunders and David Nelson. Dan Hicks opened the show.



New Years' Eve 1982-83 topped off the band's first year with Dinosaurs opening for The Grateful Dead in Oakland, with guests Country Joe McDonald, Nicky Hopkins and Kathi McDonald.



After John Cipollina and Dinosaurs opened the show, John and Maria Muldaur and Rick Danko jammed with The Grateful Dead
12.31.82



John Cipollina Robert Hunter Barry “The Fish” Melton
Spencer Dryden Peter Albin

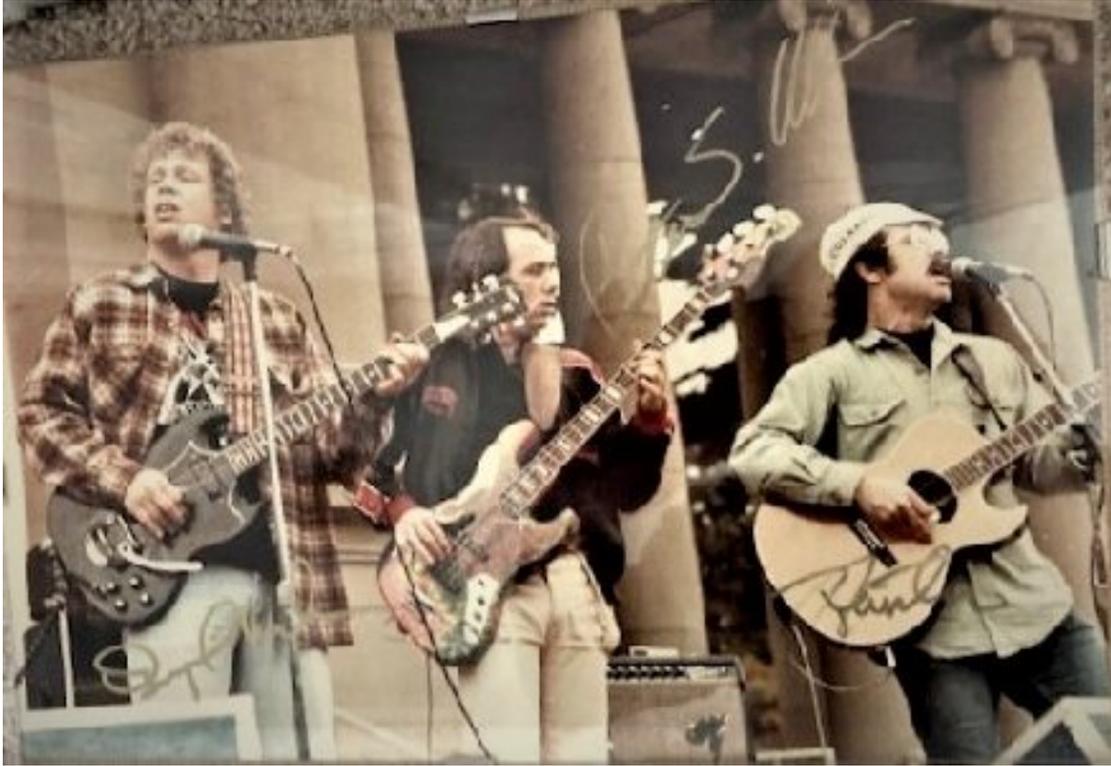
In 1985 Robert Hunter decided to leave the band to pursue his solo career. B-3 organ master/vocalist Merl Saunders filled that slot. Dinosaur Jr. continued touring and performing until the early 1990s, with talents like electric violinists Papa John Creach (Jefferson Airplane/Starship, Hot Tuna) and David LaFlamme (It's A Beautiful Day), guitarist/vocalist Jerry Miller (Moby Grape) and drummer Dave Getz (Big Brother & The Holding Company) joining in at various times.



Merl Saunders Peter Albin Barry "The Fish" Melton
Spencer Dryden Papa John Creach



Peter Albin Jerry Miller Dave Getz David Laflamme
Barry "The Fish" Melton



Barry “The Fish” Melton Peter Albin Robert Hunter

Some other memorable Dinosaur moments included:

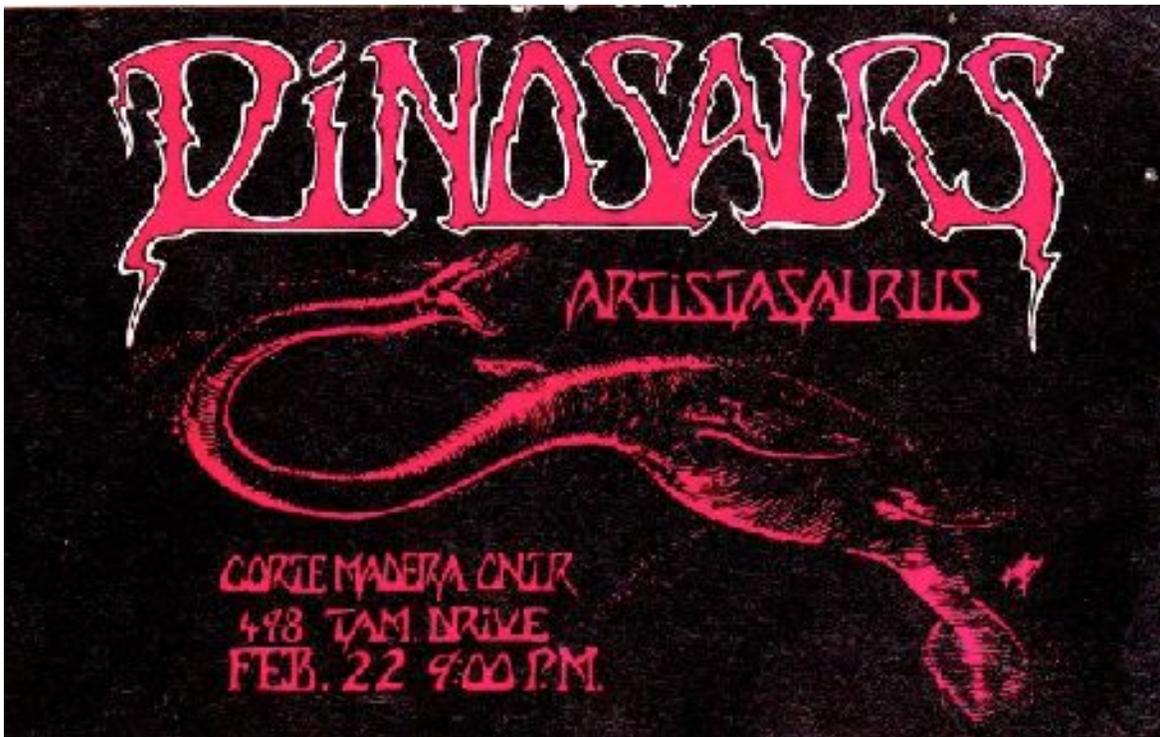
January 20 1983 – The Club in Oakland CA – with special guests
Buddy Miles and Kathi McDonald



Merl Saunders John Cipollina Spencer Dryden,
Barry "The Fish" Melton Peter Albin Buddy Miles

February 22 1983 Artista Party – Corte Madera CA – with guests

Michael Wilhelm (The Charlatans)
Norton Buffalo (Steve Miller Band)
David Nelson (New Riders of the Purple Sage)
Michael DeJong (Jimmy Reed)
Kathi McDonald (Long John Baldry)
Richard Olsen (The Charlatans)
Greg Anton (Zero)
Mark Unobsky (Copperhead)
Matthew Kelly (Kingfish)
David Bennett Cohen (Country Joe & The Fish)





Barry “The Fish” Melton Spencer Dryden Robert Hunter
Barry Melton Spencer Dryden Robert Hunter
Peter Albin John Cipollina 2.22.83

December 22 1983 Dinosaur Jr. played in San Francisco’s Union Square at a Benefit for Nobody for President. The band had set up for a full on electric rock & roll show. But as Nobody’s manager Wavy Gravy was promoting his candidate before the music began, a light rain descended on the partially covered stage. Playing electric instruments during precipitation is not a good idea, even if it’s for Nobody. So the band surrounded Robert Hunter and his acoustic guitar, I held the microphone stand in one hand and the umbrella in the other, and the band played a kick-ass 50 minute set as well for Nobody as they would for anybody.





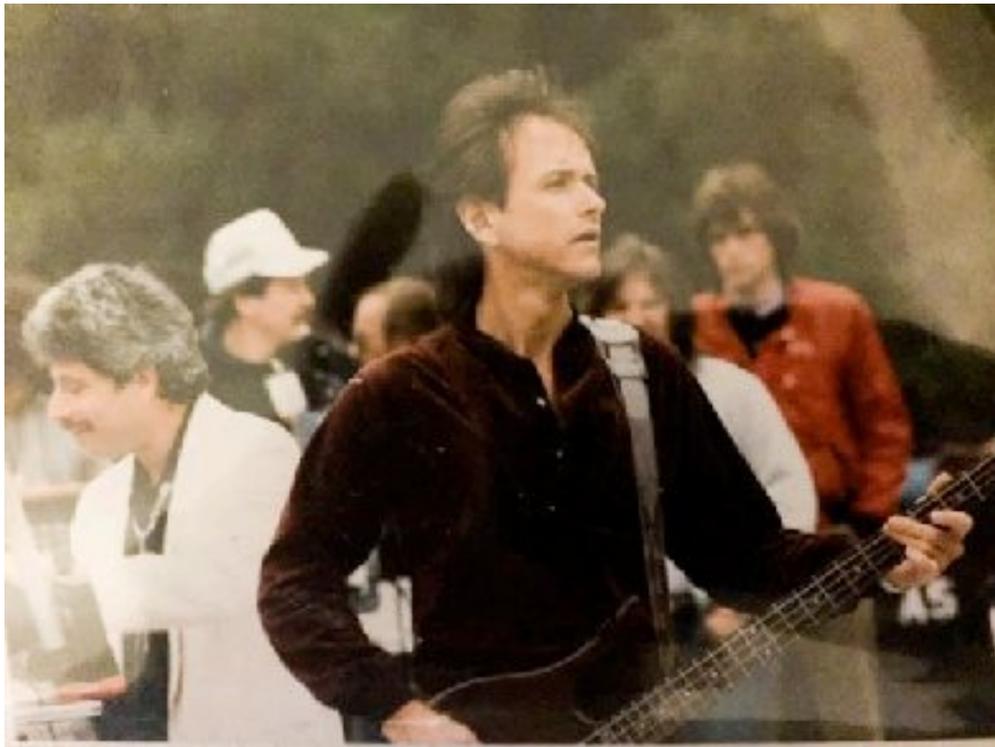
Dinosaurs 12.22.83

June 22 1985 Dinosaurs headlined at The Spirit of America Festival in Lindley Meadow, Golden Gate Park. Also on the bill

Eddie Money
Jesse Colin Young
David Laflamme
KBC Band
Santana
John Lee Hooker
Roy Rogers
The Nick Gravenites John Cipollina Band



Roy Rogers Carlos Santana John Lee Hooker 6.22.85



Banana & Jesse Colin Young 6.22.85



Carlos Santana & John Cipollina 6.22.85

July 4 1985 – Steinhart Aquarium – Golden Gate Park – an afternoon courtyard rockin’ set celebrating Dinofest – followed up with a police escort to Crissy Field, they were the featured band keeping everyone dancing just before fireworks.



Steve Keyser kissing a dinosaur at the Steinhart Aquarium 7.4.85

September 26 1986 Dinosaurs hosted the USSR band Stas Namin. Dinosaurs gathered at San Francisco City Hall as the Russians arrived. We went up to then Mayor Dianne Feinstein's office where she greeted everyone.



Mayor Dianne Feinstein 9.26.86

This was still during the heart of the cold war. Our idea was to work with a band from Russia, and show the world that we have so much more in common than what divides us, and music is the universal language that unites us. The Stas Namin Band was the first Russian rock band to *ever* play in America. That night Stas and comrades shared the stage with The Barry Melton Band at The Saloon. The following evening Stas Namin opened for Dinosaurs at Bill Graham's nightclub Wolfgang's. The wonderful energy all of the musicians shared and generated to the audience left me with a more hopeful feeling about mankind.



BY JOHN O'NEILL/THE CHRONICLE

Mayor Greet Russian Rock Star

Mayor Dianne Feinstein yesterday embraced Soviet rock star Stas Namin — described by some as the Russian Bruce Springsteen — during welcoming ceremonies in San Francisco for the joint U.S.-Soviet children's cast of the musical "Peace Child." The cast, accompanied by Stas Namin and the band bearing his name, has

spent three months touring Russia and the United States. The play is set in the future, when peace is at hand because children in 1986 brought world leaders together. Performances are at 7:30 tonight and 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Palace of Fine Arts. The Stas Namin Group will perform at 8 p.m. tomorrow at Wolfgang's, 901 Columbus.



Peter Albin Spencer Dryden Merl Saunders John Cipollina
Barry "The Fish" Melton Steve Keyser

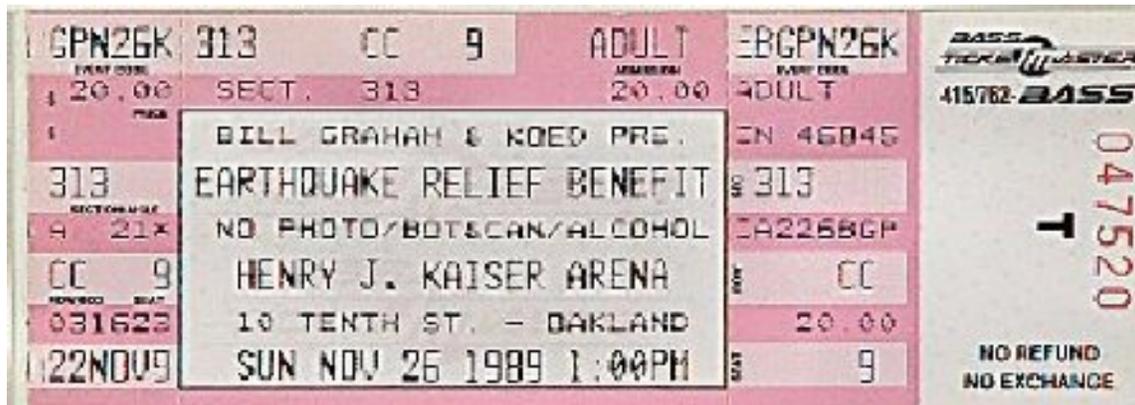
January 15 1988 – Dinosaurs headlined at The Saint in New York City. This venue was formally The Fillmore East, a bastion of Rock & Roll since 1968. Special guest Jefferson Airplane/Starship bass player Jack Casady, and the ever-loveable Wavy Gravy. Country Joe opened the evening. This was the final rock music performance ever in this historic theater, which closed a few months after Dinosaurs, a most appropriate Sixties super group gave a goodbye that made Bill Graham smile.



Merl Saunders Steve Keyser Wavy Gravy Barry "The Fish"
Melton Spencer Dryden Peter Albin, Country Joe McDonald
John Cipollina Jack Casady 1.15.88

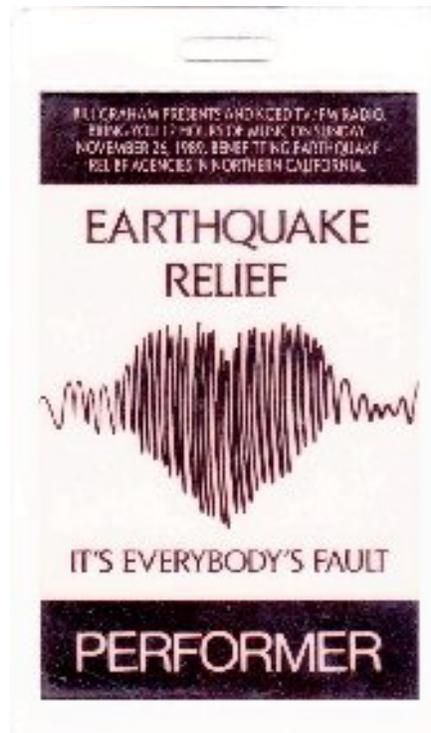


Wavy Gravy Merl Saunders Barry Melton Peter Albin Spencer
Dryden Country Joe McDonald John Cipollina 1.15.88



November 26 1989 Dinosaurs performed at the Earthquake Relief Concert in Oakland California, sharing the stage with:

Big Brother & The Holding Company
Bonnie Raitt
Carribean Allstars
Country Joe McDonald
Etta James
Dan Hicks
John Fogerty
John Handy
Lydia Pense & Cold Blood
The New Quicksilver Messenger Service
Pete Escovedo
Taj Mahal
Sheila E
Tower of Power



John Cipollina was a highly talented and most personable musician. When I started working with him and Barry, he asked me to book some of his other acts. So I took over managing John's music business. At one point, he was playing in six different bands. There were numerous evenings when I would take him to two different shows. I also remember one night when he played an opening set in San Francisco, a middle set in Mill Valley, and a closing set in San Rafael.

I worked closely with John, driving him to and from many gigs, and in his final years taking him to a bevy of alternative healers to help him with his emphysema. He always had a great spirit and sense of humor, regardless of how much his body was suffering. After battling his lung issues for years, John finally left us on Memorial Day 1989. On June 26th, we celebrated John's life and music at a Memorial Concert at The Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco.



The Fillmore Auditorium San Francisco

Participating musicians included

John's brother Mario
sister Antonia (Sheesh)

David Freiberg

Gary Duncan

Greg Elmore

Nick Gravenites

Barry Melton

Peter Albin

Spencer Dryden

Terry Dolan

Nicky Hopkins

Robert Hunter

Bob Weir

Merl Saunders

Pete Sears

Mickey Hart

Chris Cole

Bill Gibson

Johnny Colla

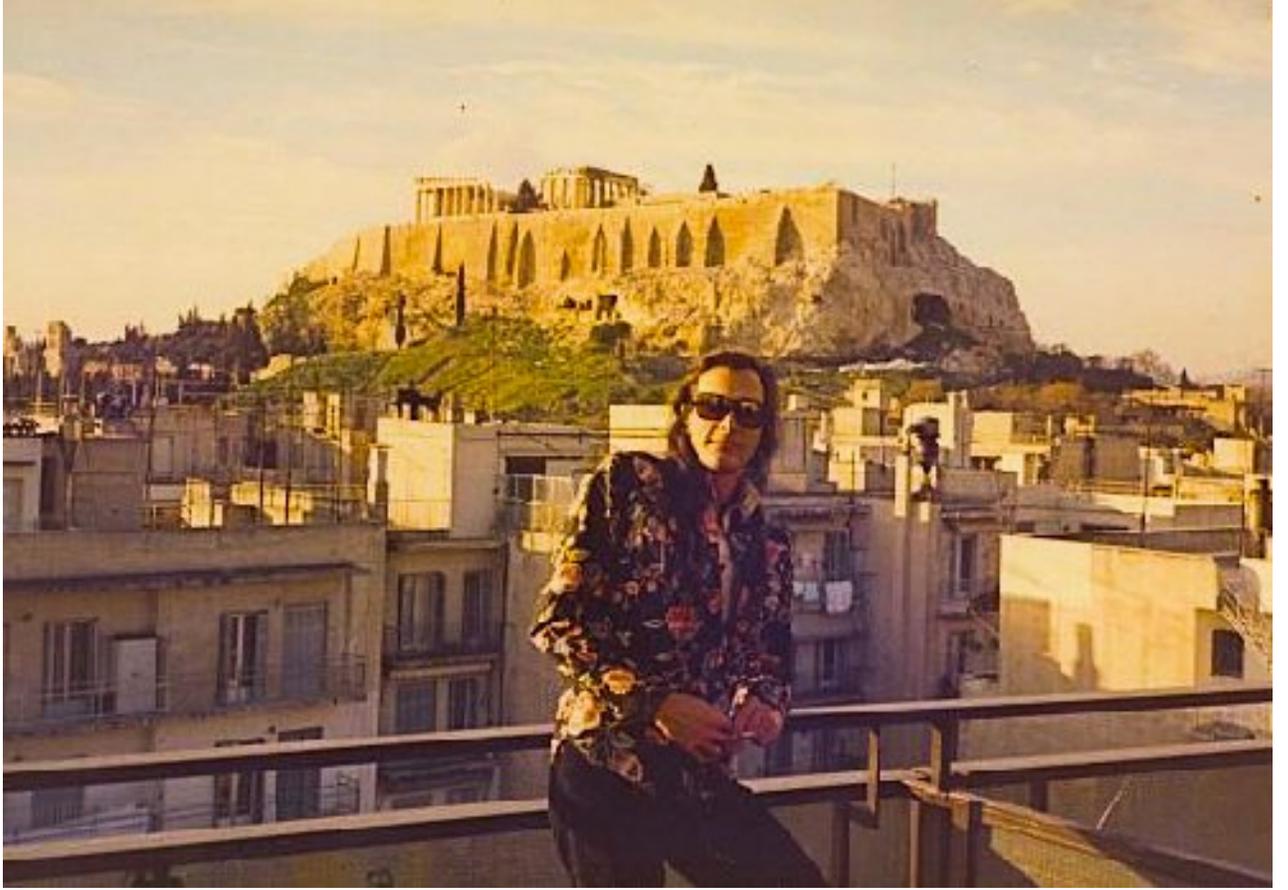
Chris Hayes
David Webber
Dan Healy
Rocky Sullivan
Martin Fierro
Steve Kimock
Al Staehely
Snooky Flowers
Mark Unobsky
Joey Covington
John Farey
I was honored to deliver the eulogy.



Nicky Hopkins Merl Saunders Snooky Flowers Al Staehely
Barry "The Fish" Melton Mark Unobsky Bob Weir Greg Anton
June 26 1989



Just weeks earlier, I traveled with John and Nick Gravenites and band to Greece for four concerts in two different cities. John was not in good shape, and we hauled around a breathing machine to help him. He so loved what he did, and I was honored to be able to assist him in sharing his amazing gift.



John Cipollina – Athens Greece April 1989

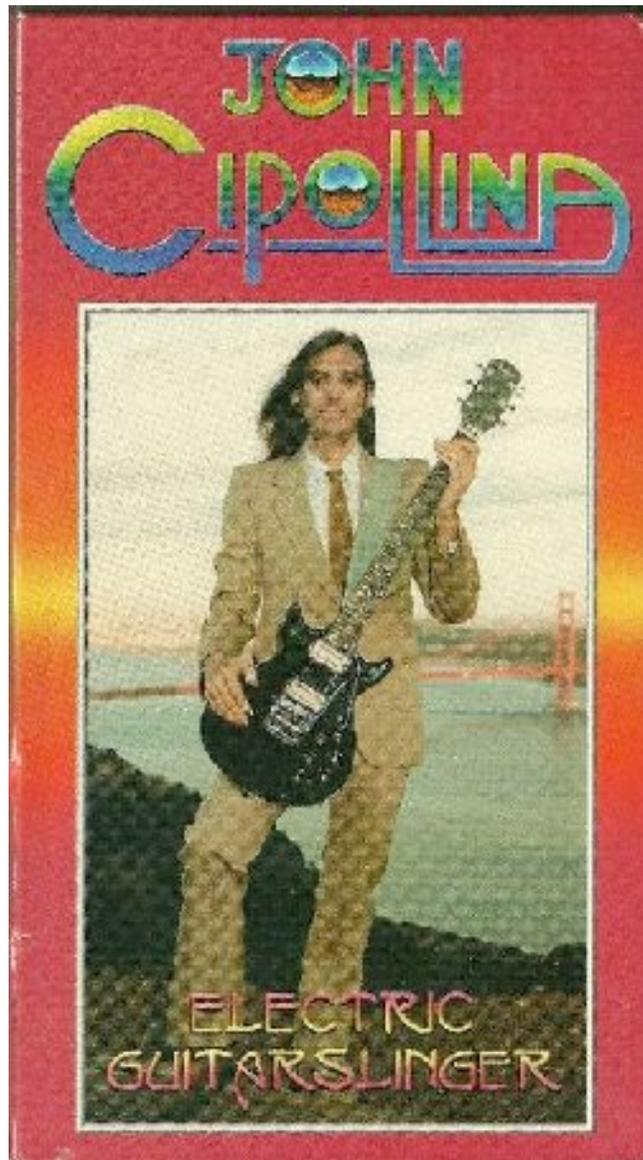


Steve Keyser – Athens Greece April 1989

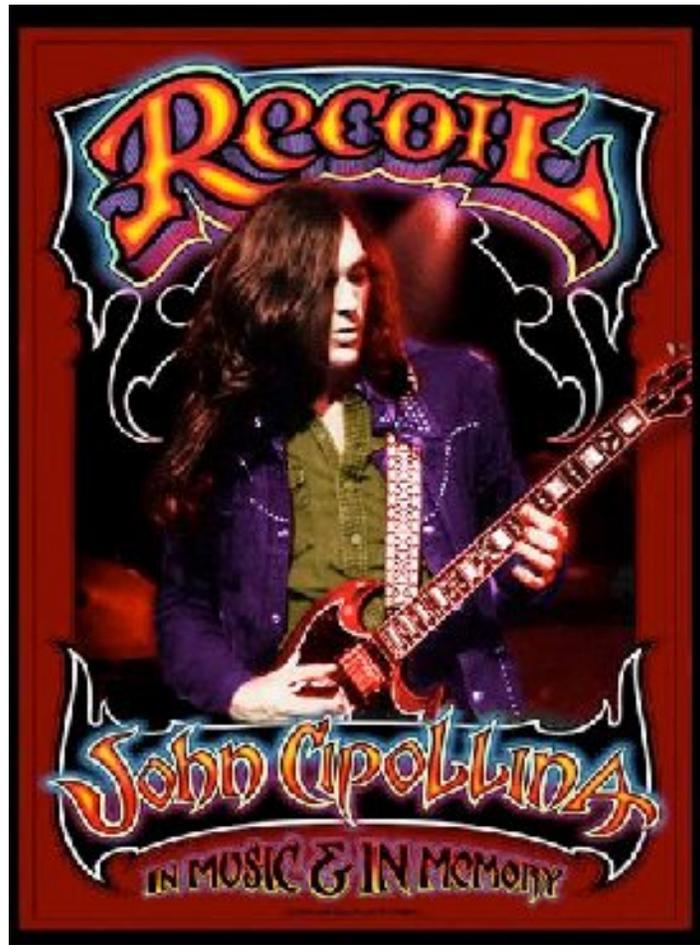


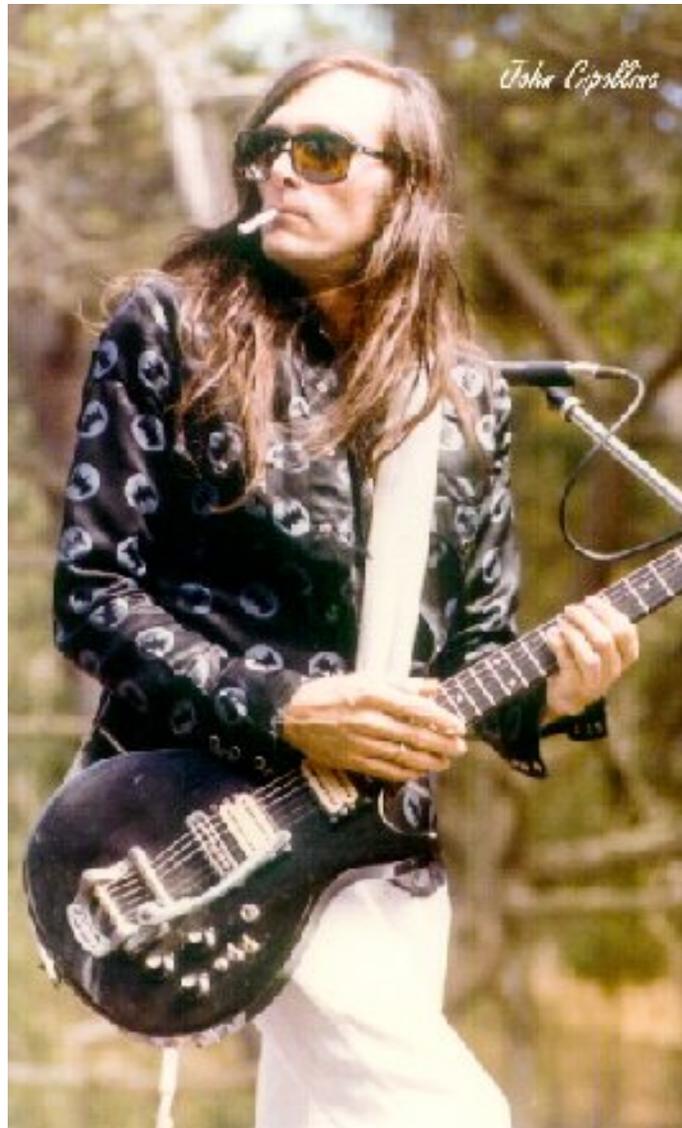
Nick "The Greek" Gravenites & John Cipollina Athens Greece
April 1989

In 1991 I co-produced “John Cipollina: Electric Guitarslinger”, a VHS documentary about the life and music of my musical hero.



In 2010 I helped with the creation and release of the 3 DVD set “Recoil: John Cipollina – In Music & In Memory”





In March of 1992, the Quicksilver Messenger Service album "Happy Trails" went Gold. The Cipollina Family honored me and my friendship with John with my own gold record!

March 4 1990 – Dinosaurs toured the Northwest US. The day after their Seattle show the band hopped into a large van and headed east to Spokane. Drummer Spencer Dryden was feeling sick, and he slept most of the way across Washington State. Once I got everyone in their Spokane hotel rooms, Spencer called me and told me that he felt lousy, and would not be able to perform that night.

I checked with Barry Melton, who suggested that I go down to the club to see if I could find another drummer. He asked me to find someone who was older and more experienced, hoping that person could pick up on the band's selections quickly. Off I went to Gatsby's, wondering if I would be able to resolve this most troubling issue. When I got to the club, the opening band was on stage rehearsing. They took a break, and I introduced myself to their drummer, Vince Littleton. He was totally thrilled to have the opportunity to play with this band of highly seasoned, legendary musicians. He told me that he would have to have a quiet space for when he was not on stage, as he needed to study for his college finals coming up the following Monday. I thanked him, and called Barry. I couldn't find an older, more experienced drummer, but at this late hour I was glad to find anyone who knew how to hold drum sticks.

That evening, Dinosaurs greeted their new band mate, and hit the stage. From note one, Vince nailed it! He did not miss a beat! The band members kept turning around, wondering who was this amazing drummer, who played each tune as if he had played it a million times before. But this was the first time he had ever heard any of Dinosaurs' music!



Vince Littleton

A few months later, Vince moved down to the San Francisco Bay Area. He reconnected with Merl Saunders, and joined Merl's band. Later he became the drummer for the Neil Diamond tribute band Super Diamond, with whom he still performs.

In 1992, Barry Melton ran for Municipal Court Judge in San Francisco. On May 4th we held a fundraiser rally for The Fish with a powerful entertainment lineup

#1...2...3... WHO ARE WE VOTING FOR? #

BARRY MELTON



BARRY MELTON FOR SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE FUNDRAISER

WIKIY GRAVY

ELECTRIC MUSIC-ZASU PITTS,
MICKEY HART, NICK GRAVENITES

ACOUSTIC MUSIC-PALL KAUFNER,
ROBERT HUNTER, GREG DOUGLASS, MIKE
WILHELM, TRIPLE PLAY

COMEDY-MICHAEL PRITCHARD,
PATTY MORRISSEY,
D'ALAN MOSS
& MORE

MON. MAY 4

8 PM
TICKETS-\$20

GREAT AMERICAN MUSIC HALL

859 O'FARRELL ST. SAN FRANCISCO (415) 205-0200-OPEN THE BEATLES SHOW 8:00-10:00 PM & PUBLIC PUBLIC PARKING LOT 50-52 BETHUNE ST. MIN. RES. TICKETS AT 25th St. Box Office 10:30 AM-12:00 PM TO 5PM SAT. 2PM TO 5PM THE. NO. RESERVE ONLINE. CHECKS/PAY ORDER (ALLOW 7-10 DAYS) ALSO AT SALES/ET (CREDIT CARD) (CHECKS/ORDERS) CLOSURE BY 5PM (510) 742-8450. THANKS TO (NO CHILDREN UNDER 6)

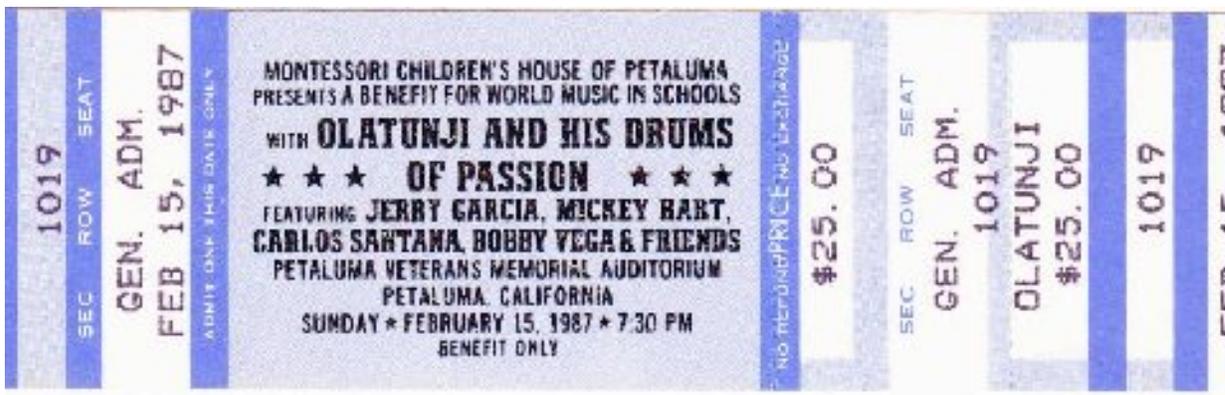
FOR MORE INFORMATION, ON THE MELTON FOR JUDGE CAMPAIGN PLEASE CALL (415) 205-1992

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREGORY TERRY, 7/24/81, 11:40 AM

When all the votes were counted, Barry came in second.

Barry was close friends with Grateful Dead percussionist Mickey Hart. In 1984 Barry let me know that Mickey was looking for someone to manage his business, travel and finances, so he arranged a meeting. I worked for Mickey for over four years, with every penny in and every penny out coming across my desk. I helped with the logistics for Mickey's move from his ranch in Novato to western Petaluma, handled payroll, and coordinated recording and book projects. I stopped into the Grateful Dead offices in San Rafael at least twice a week, picking up mail and dealing with various other Mickey business. There were numerous occasions when Jerry Garcia would be hanging out alone in the office kitchen. He knew that I was working with John Cipollina, who Jerry was very fond of. So he'd always start off the conversation about John and his guitars. Jerry was a personable, humble, smart and very insightful guy. Always a twinkle in his eye.

I helped to produce Mickey's World Music In Schools concert, with Jerry Garcia, Carlos Santana, Babatunde Olatunji, Hamza El Din and Bobby Vega.



PETALUMA
CONCERT

February 15, 1987

WORLD MUSIC



IN SCHOOLS

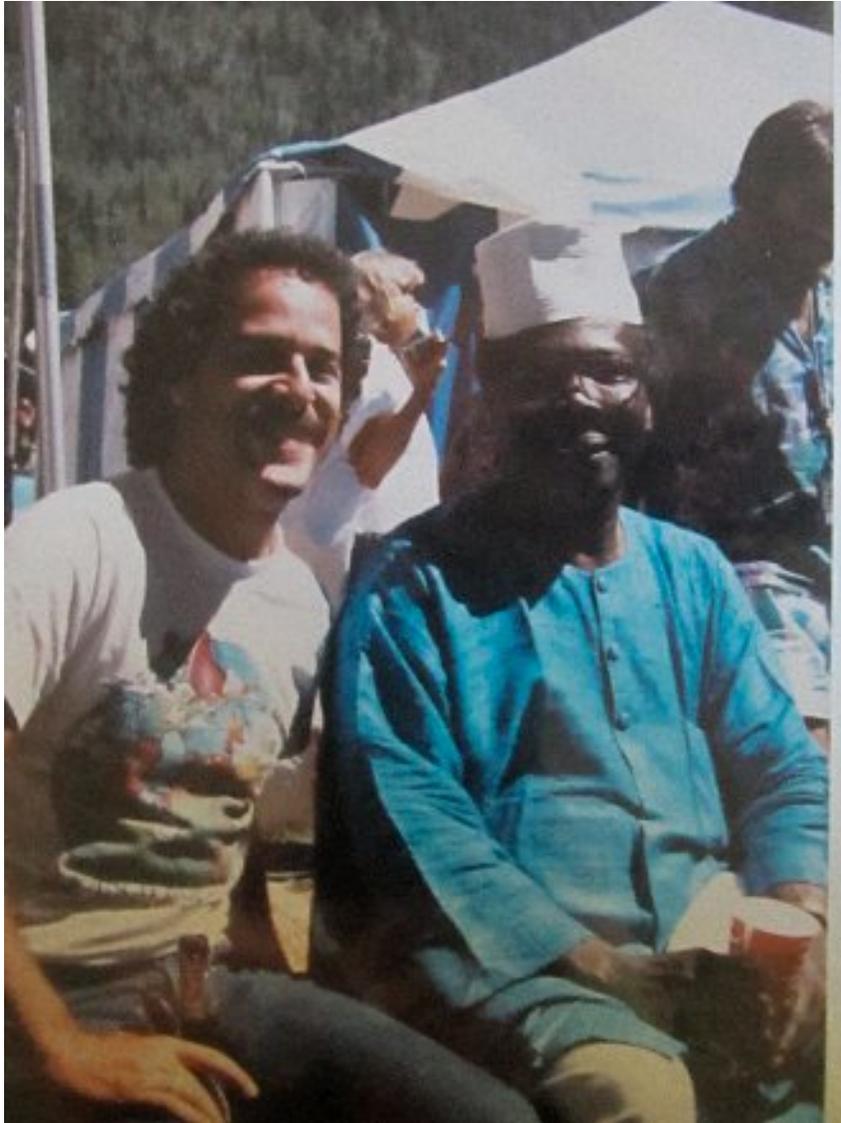


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When Mickey went into the studio at Fantasy Records in Berkeley, I picked up Olatunji every morning for a week at his hotel, took him to breakfast, on to the recording studio, hung out and listened to the session, and then returned Baba to his hotel.



Steve Keyser & Babatunde Olatunji Telluride Colorado 1987

Every year Olatunji would call me and let me know when his group would be in Northern California, so I could book some concerts. He had always played at Bill Graham's venues in San Francisco. One year he told me that he was tired of working for Bill, who underpaid him and didn't show him any respect. He asked me to find another promoter.

I called around, and got a very good offer from a venue in Oakland. I signed a contract, and that show was added to upcoming concerts in the San Francisco Sunday Chronicle. On Monday morning, I got a phone call from Bill's lieutenant. Boy was he pissed. He said it was a major mistake to book "one of Bill's acts" at another Bay Area venue. I was told that if I didn't cancel that booking, he would have Bill Graham call me directly.

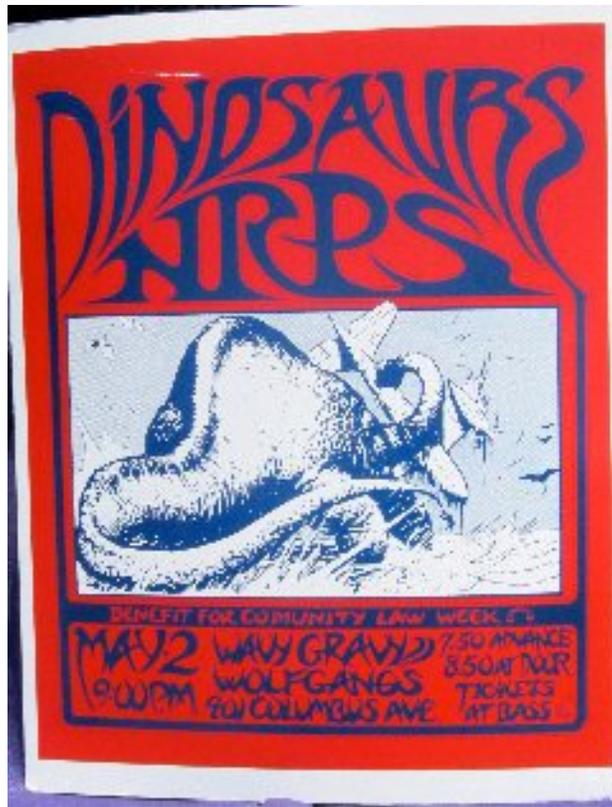
I thought he was bluffing. I knew that at that time Bill was in Moscow for an extended stay, working on a major Peace Concert in Russia. I really wasn't concerned that he would stop what he was doing to deal with this small issue. So I told Bill's guy that we had a signed contract, and that the Oakland booking would stand.

A few days later, my phone rings. "Hello, this is the long distance operator, with a call from Bill Graham in Moscow." After picking myself up from off of the floor, I cleared my throat and said "Hi Bill, how are you?" He responded that he was very upset, and that if I didn't cancel the gig in Oakland "I would never work again in the Bay Area". We went back and forth, and finally I told Bill that I had a signed contract, and the deal was done. He seemed to back off once I said that, and we ended the conversation in a reasonably amicable manner.



Bill Graham

Two weeks later Dinosaurs, a band that I managed, was playing at Wolfgang's, a Bill Graham venue. I had the band sign a concert poster, and walked up to Bill, smiled, and handed him the poster. He looked at me, then at the poster, and mumbled "Thank you". That seemed to work, as all my future dealings with one of the biggest promoters in the country went well.



I was at Mickey Hart's home when Joseph Campbell and the Gyoto Tibetan Monks came to visit. Mickey was producing a lecture/concert that week with Joe & The Monks at The Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. I recall sitting outside of Mickey's house with him and Campbell, as the monks sat up on the hillside and performed their unique and enchanting chant.



Mickey Hart & The Gyoto Tibetan Monks

I helped Mickey as he was working on his book *Planet Drum*, hung out at a bunch of Grateful Dead rehearsals at Front Street, and also was in charge of distributing tickets to his always extensive guest list for all Bay area Grateful Dead performances.

One New Years' Eve at The Oakland Coliseum, I had about 20 tickets left over. After a final check with Mickey, I went out to the parking lot, found the saddest looking Dead Heads I could, and gifted them with a miracle NYE ticket. What fun!!! It was great to attend all of those shows with my all access laminate.



One time I was walking thru the backstage area, and as I rounded a corner, this very tall man bumped into me. I quickly recognized Bill Walton, and blurted out “personal foul on number 32. Two shots!” He smiled at me as I apologized for my part in this brief encounter.



Bill Walton & Bob Weir

At another show I was again meandering backstage, and as I came around another corner, there in an empty section, stooping low against a wall, was Bob Dylan. I've worked with a lot of well known musicians, but never before had such a reaction of awe. Bob f-ing Dylan. I thought "should I say anything.....or ask 'how does it feel?' or just smile." I completely lost my nerve, and headed on down the hallway.

In the mid 1980s I started The Music Hotline. No internet yet, so I got a new phone number and answering machine, and every week I would record an outgoing message listing all of my upcoming concerts. I printed up business cards to hand out to promote this service. Got tons of calls over the years, and lots of folks thanked me for this service.

In September 1986 I co-produced Ranch Rock, a day long music festival. I was Talent Coordinator. So my job was to hire the bands, deal with all of their travel and lodging logistics, backline requirements, and backstage details. It was called Ranch Rock because the event was originally supposed to be held at a ranch in Nevada. The ranch pulled out 2 weeks before show date, and the promoter convinced a Native American tribe to let us use their land at Pyramid Lake, located east of Reno.

RANCH ROCK 86



KINGFISH
BOB WEIR, MATTHEW KELLY,
DARRY FLAST, ANNA RIZZO, STEVE
KIM OCK, STEVE EWING, JEFFY SANCHEZ

MICKEY THE DAYLITES
MICKEY HART, BOB WEIR, DARRY FLAST, KATHI
MCDONALD, DAVID JEWELL, WATT ANDERSON,
BIBBY VEGA, RANDY WETTERMARK

**ROBERT HUNTER
& THE MYSTERY BAND**

PROBLEM CHILD
JOHN CIPOLLINA, GREG DOUGLASS,
BOBBY VEGA, GREG ELMORE,
JEFF NATIONS

ZERO
JOHN CIPOLLINA, STEVE KIMOCK,
BOBBY VEGA, GREG ELMORE, JELLY
FAREY, MARTIN FIERRO

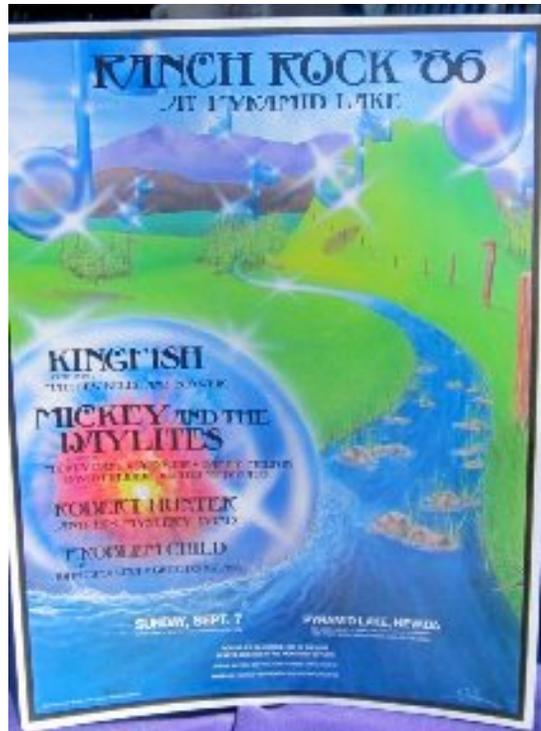
**SUNDAY
SEPT. 7
PYRAMID
LAKE,
NEV.**

TAKE HWY 86 EAST OF RENO FOR 21 MILES
TO WADSWORTH EXIT (EXIT 43) ONTO HWY 447
NORTH FOR 25 MILES TO PYRAMID LAKE
SHOW STARTS AT NOON AND RUNS TILL 8PM
GATES OPEN AT SUNRISE. ON SITE CAMPING AVAILABLE
SATURDAY FOR \$3 PER PERSON

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TICKETRON, TICKET MASTER AND BASS OUTLETS
\$15 ADVANCE, \$12 AT GATE ON SATURDAY AND \$20 AT GATE DAY OF SHOW
NO FIRES, CANS, GLASS, ALCOHOL, PETS OR VIDEO EQUIPMENT ALLOWED
FOR ONLY UPDATES CALL THE RANCH ROCK HOTLINE (915) 472-3104

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The lineup included Problem Child (featuring John Cipollina and Greg Douglass), Zero, Kingfish with special guests Bob Weir and Anna Rizzo, Robert Hunter & The Mystery Band, and Mickey (Hart) & the Daylites with special guest Kathi McDonald.



I recall that Cipollina played with every act, on stage for most of the day long 90 degree heat. Mid afternoon he ducked into the medical trailer for a B-3 shot, which gave him the energy to rock to the finish line. A truly wonderful gathering!



Matthew Kelly John Cipollina Bob Weir
(broken arm from motorcycle accident)

In 1987 the four founding members of Big Brother & The Holding Company decided to reunite after 15 years off stage. Sam Andrew, James Gurley, Peter Albin and Dave Getz asked me to help them with management and booking duties, which I graciously accepted.



Steve Keyser Michelle Bastian Sam Andrew Peter Albin
Dave Getz James Gurley

I ran a want ad in the San Francisco Chronicle (this was pre-Internet) looking for a female blues singer, without mentioning the name of the band. A handful of very talented singers stopped by the studio to audition. Some sounded too much like Janis, but Michelle Bastian fit the bill perfectly. Her soulful, balsy voice recreated Joplin's classic songs, without trying to be Janis. I worked with the band for a few years of Bay Area and out of town gigs, enjoying every moment. I continued to find gigs for Big Brother, and still do some bookings for them.

THE
ORIGINAL
BIG BROTHER
AND THE
HOLDING Co.

Steve Keyser
(415) 492-0717

PO Box 2224
San Rafael, CA 94912



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 SAN RAFAEL, CA 94912
 CA

Proof of Publication
 (2018.5 C.C.P.)

State of California) ss
 County of Marin)
218 SPOTNER & THE HOLDING #130956

I am a citizen of the United States, I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above captioned matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of the **MARIN COUNTY COURT REPORTER**, a newspaper published in the English language in the City of San Rafael, and adjudged a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the laws of the State of California by the Superior Court of County of Marin, State of California, under date of October 12, 1982, Case No. 10001. That the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and extra issue of said newspaper, and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

07/14/87 07/21/87 07/28/87
 08/04/87

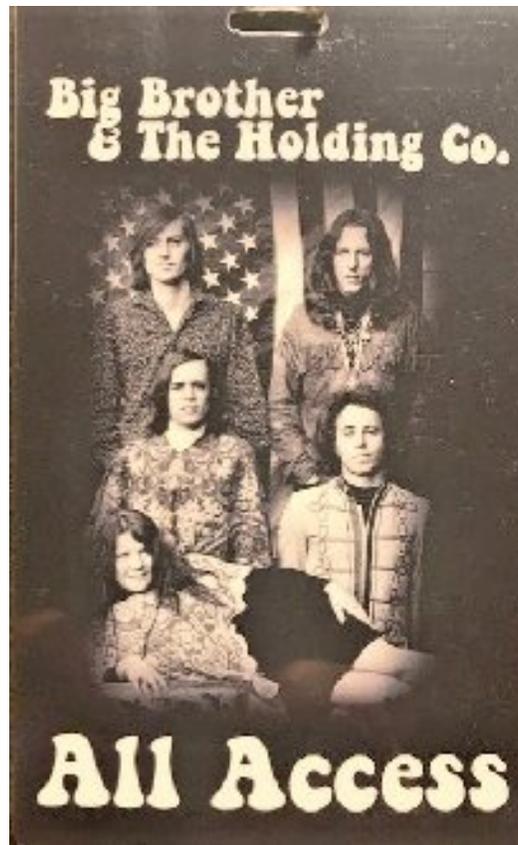
I hereby (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

EXECUTED ON : 08/04/87
 AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

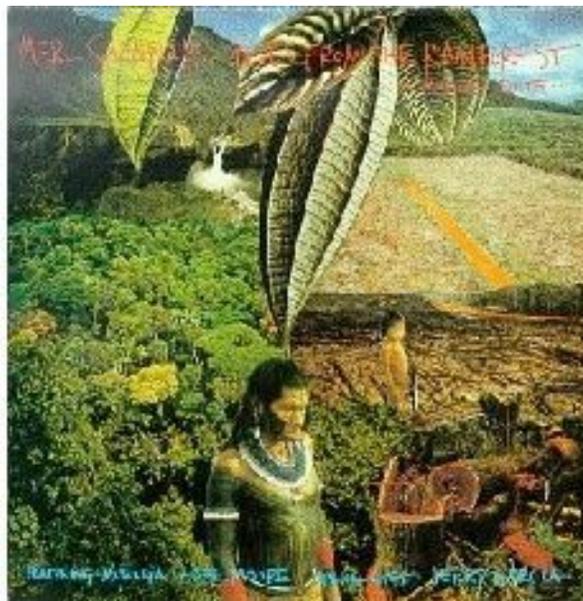
 Signature

County of Marin
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 No. 130956
 The following persons are doing business as
SPOTNER & THE HOLDING #130956
 at the address of San Rafael, California, CA
 94912
 Address: San R. 27 Main Road, Palto, CA
 94912
 Address: Michel, 2000 Rocking St. (DANVILLE, CA
 94912
 Gary David H. 1077 Marissa, Palto, CA 94912
 Address: James M., 140 Bonville, San Francisco,
 CA 94110
 Street: Steve W., 1000 Redwood Ave. San Rafael,
 CA 94903
 General: Steve Meyer
 Business address: 1000 Redwood Ave. San Rafael, CA 94903
 Filed July 8, 1987, by HOWARD HANSON, Clerk of A
 County, Deputy
 MARIN County July 14, 1987, by Jack Depp

Fictitious Name document for Big Brother 8.4.87



In 1990 Merl Saunders recorded the album “Blues From The Rainforest” with Jerry Garcia.



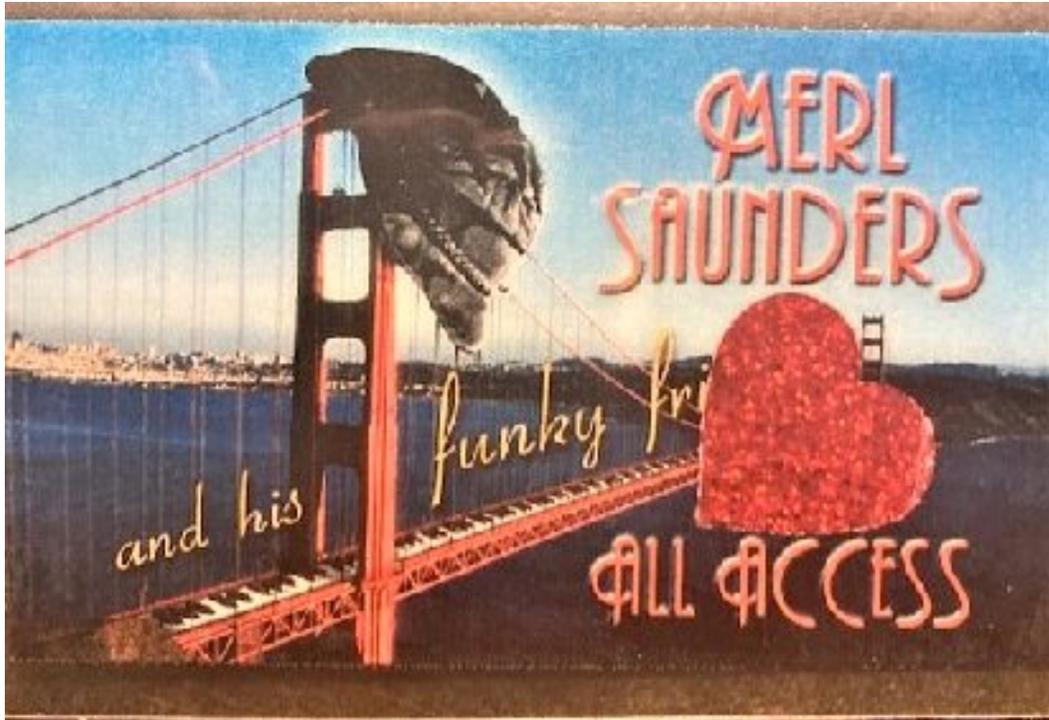
Merl asked me to be the Promotions Director for his label, Sumertone Records. Spent many days working at Merl's San Francisco home, calling radio stations to promote this great LP.



He assembled a touring band, and I served as Tour Manager for lots of dates around the country.



Vince Littleton Michael Hinton Michael Oliver Warren
Merl Saunders



I also went on the road with Merl's band *Gratefully Yours* aka *Dead Ringers*, with Fred Campbell, Tom Constanten, Barry Flast, Darryl Johnson, Papa John Creach, Steve Kimock, Barry Sless, and David Nelson.



While in New York City, Merl and I visited Michael Gaiman at his booking agency office. Michael moved his family to Los Angeles, and in 1991 he gave me a phone call. Paul Kantner was reassembling Jefferson Starship, and Michael asked me to be the band's Tour Manager. Of course I said yes! The Airplane were my favorite band in my teens and twenties, and now I had the chance to travel the US and Canada listening to my favorite music every night! Band members joining Paul were Jack Casady, violinist Papa John Creach, guitarist Slick Aguilar, keyboardist Tim Gorman, drummer Prairie Prince, and wonderful vocalist Darby Gould. Marty Balin rejoined the band after a few gigs.

JEFFERSON STARSHIP

THE NEXT GENERATION

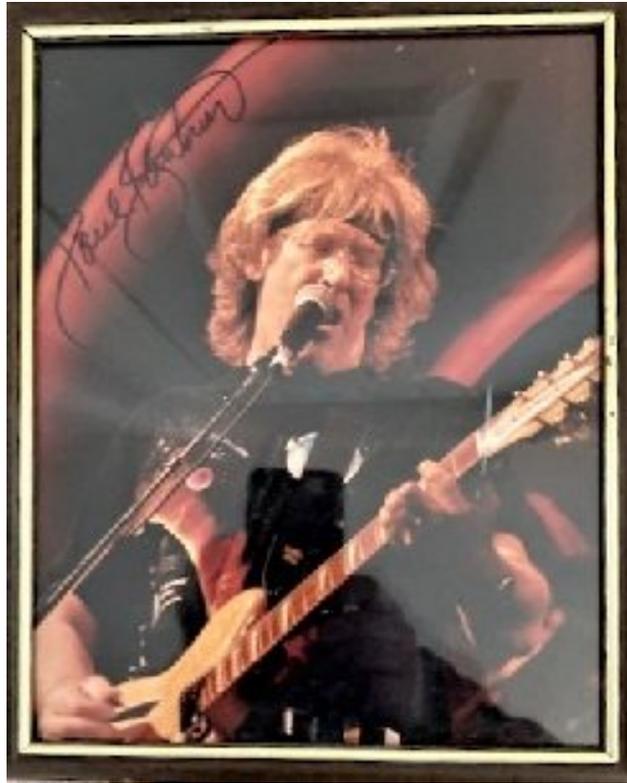


STEVE KEYSER

Tour Manager

P.O. Box 9826
San Rafael, CA 94912
(415) 499-8284

For 4 years I travelled with the band to big cities and small towns. Theaters, sheds, fairs and arenas. In October of 1993, Darby announced that she would be leaving the band for another musical project. Before Jefferson Starship hit the stage at Alfred University in Alfred New York, a young woman approached me. She had been told that I was the band's Tour Manager. This was Diana Mangano, who had heard that the band was looking for a new female singer. She handed me a cassette tape, and asked me to take it back stage and play it for Paul. Which I did.



Paul Kantner

Paul loved the tape, and asked me to bring Diana back stage, where she met the band. After a brief conversation, it was show time. Paul invited Diana to come to the band's gig the following night in Middletown, about 4 hours away.

Diana and her friend showed up as the band was arriving for sound check in Middletown. After levels were checked, the band returned to the green room with Diana. They did an impromptu audition, with Diana nailing "Crown of Creation" and "Ride The Tiger". Fortunately I had my 8mm camera rolling.



Marty Balin Diana Mangano Paul Kantner Tim Gorman

A few minutes later, Diana hopped on stage, performing her first tune with the band “Ride The Tiger”. She continued on the road with the Jefferson Starship singing a few nights along with Darby Gould, and a week later in St. Louis at Mississippi Night Diana took over singing Grace Slick’s parts on her own - beautifully!

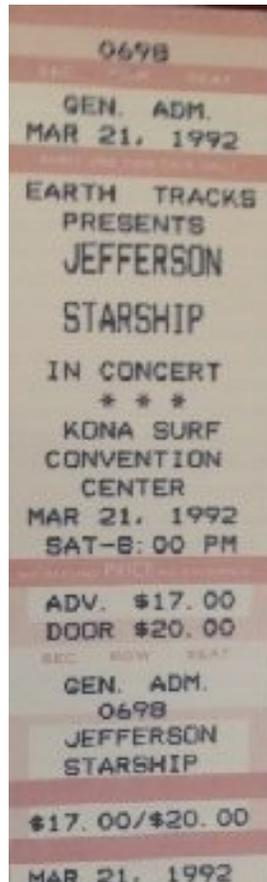
I stayed with the band through 1994, finishing with the Tribute to recently-passed Papa John Creach in January 1995 at The House of Blues in Los Angeles. I sat with Papa’s widow Gretchen in the first row of the balcony, videotaping the amazing performances. Jefferson Starship with very special guests Grace Slick, Merl Saunders, David Laflamme (It’s A Beautiful Day) and Paul and Grace’s daughter China. My years with Jefferson Starship were a great run, and a dream of a lifetime for me. Being just a little piece of this legendary band’s history, and honored to be able to help get my favorite music out to people is one of my life’s great blessings.



Jefferson Starship with significant others and Steve Keyser
Kona Hawaii airport

Some of my favorite Jefferson Starship memories:

March 19 1992 With the night off on the Big Island, the band (minus Paul) headed into Kona, looking for trouble. We found a karaoke bar, ordered drinks, and folks started picking songs to sing, as the lyrics popped up on the TV screen. Darby had selected “Somebody to Love”, which of course she nailed. Followed by “White Rabbit”, and encoring with “Come See About Me” (with the band singing backups). The crowd in the bar was amazed with the performances, and they were a bit overwhelmed with enthusiasm. We finally told them this was Jefferson Starship, and invited everyone to the Kona Surf Resort for the upcoming performance. I loved the look on their faces when Darby revealed their true identity!



May 16 1992 The band and crew were in two limos headed from Biloxi MS to New Orleans. Both cars were going at least 15 or 20 miles over the speed limit. A State Police car flipped on their lights, and both vehicles pulled over to the side of the highway. The cops approached the lead car, while the rest of us sat anxiously in car #2. Paul was in our car's back seat. He flung open the door, and walked swiftly to where the 2 lawman were standing. We couldn't hear what he was saying, but he was getting a good response and some smiles from the fuzz. In a few minutes everyone shook hands and waved. PK worked his magic, and we were off down the road.



Paul Kantner asking for mercy from the Mississippi police at their squad car

May 18 1992 The band played at The Phoenix Theater in Toronto Canada. After the show a few of the Toronto Blue Jays baseball players came back stage to enthusiastically thank the band for a great show. One of the players was pitching the game the following day. He asked if he could rub Papa John's head for good luck. Pops said go for it. The following day the band and crew were guests of the Blue Jays at the stadium. We had our own private box, and a team representative brought everyone a team tshirt. BTW, the pitcher who rubbed Papa John's head won the game.

May 30 1992 The scheduled outdoor gig in Washington DC was rained out. Instead we headed to Chevy Chase Maryland and the DC101 radio studios. The band sat around a curved table and chatted with the DJ, then sang a few of their favorite tunes. They had guitars, a keyboard, and Prairie banging on an upside down trashcan. I loved the look the band members gave each other as they approached the lyrics “up against the wall mother fucker”, knowing that this was family radio. In unison, they covered it up with “mother trucker”.



Paul Kantner Slick Aguilar Darby Gould Prairie Prince 5.30.92

September 3 1994 An ocean front beach gig in Ocean City Maryland – got to talk to one of my boyhood heroes Dion, and smoked a joint with Paul and The Beach Boys' Carl Wilson.



Dion



Carl Wilson Slick Aguilar Paul Kantner

I don't remember the venue or the date, but Jefferson Starship was on the bill with Johnny Winter and Steppenwolf. As Tour Manager, I had been in touch with Steppenwolf before this show to determine the order of play. Winter went on first. Because of our scheduling and the flight we had to catch right after this show, Steppenwolf agreed that we would go on second, and we would leave right after our set for the airport. While the opening act was still on stage, a roadie for Steppenwolf told me that John Kay, the band's leader, insisted that *his* band go on second. I told him no way, and alerted my roadies to start to put our band's gear on stage immediately after Johnny Winter's set was done.

I was also told by the stage manager that after our set and Steppenwolf was ready to play, a representative from the Mayor's office would be letting the audience know that they have declared this day John Kay Day, and would be giving John the Key to the City. Again Steppenwolf's roadie got in my face about his band going second. And again I said no way. He led me to their tour bus, I hopped on board and said hello to John Kay. I explained to him that we had a previous agreement regarding who would play when. He was very pissy, and said "if we don't go on second, we will be leaving and not playing our set". I started to leave the bus, turned around, and said to him "OK John. But please tell me what you want me to tell this huge crowd about why you and your band left when you were about to get the Key to the City on what the Mayor had declared John Kay Day. Obviously he was not aware of this. After a moment to consider, he finally agreed to keep the set order as it was agreed to. I hurried back to the stage to make sure our guys were ready to move our amps and drums quickly into position for the second set.

My most favorite memory from my days on the road with Jefferson Starship is also my most cherished memory from my many years in the music business. It took place in a small town in Ohio in 1994. The band was playing “Somebody To Love” while I stood watching in the wing of the stage. Looking out at the audience, I spotted a lady standing in the first row, hand on the stage. She was enthusiastically singing along with the band. I noticed that tears were streaming down her face. She was totally immersed in this song. I knew these were tears of joy, as I could almost see the memories racing between her ears. I thought to myself that I had a little, tiny tiny bit to do with those tears. This was why I was in this business. To bring people joy, tears of happiness. That moment is worth more than anything to me, and will forever be a most treasured recollection.

In 1995 I traveled to Cleveland with Antonia Cipollina, Nicky Hopkins’ widow Moira, and our dear friends James and Dan for the Grand Opening of The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame + Museum.



Moira Hopkins James Pell Antonia Cipollina

The Cipollina family had loaned The Hall John Cipollina's guitar and unique amplifier, which it prominently displayed immediately outside of the Museum entrance – without the distractions of any other displays – where everyone entering the Museum would definitely see it.



Steve Keyser Dan Wathen

We tripped thru the immense amount of rock memorabilia and history, amazed at the impact our music had on our culture and the world.

That night we attended the opening night concert at nearby Cleveland Stadium, with a monster lineup including

Allman Brothers
Chuck Berry
Bon Jovi
James Brown
Eric Burdon
Johnny Cash
Eric Clapton
Bob Dylan
John Fogerty
Aretha Franklin
Al Green
John Lee Hooker
Etta James
Billy Joel
The Kinks
Jerry Lee Lewis
Little Richard
Jimmy Page
Prince
Bonnie Raitt
Robbie Robertson
Bruce Springsteen
Rod Stewart
Sting
Pete Townsend
Neil Young
and many others.

Along with Woodstock and The Last Waltz, certainly amongst the greatest concerts in my life!



After I stopped touring with various bands, in the late 1990s I settled in as just a booking agent. Around the turn of the century I started working with my buddy Stephen Gordon, who ran the Savoy Music Booking Agency, adding these acts to my roster:

Country Joe McDonald
Brian Auger
Maria Muldaur
Shana Morrison
Canned Heat
Craig Chaquico
Lydia Pense & Cold Blood
Commander Cody
The Blues Broads
Roy Rogers & The Delta Rhythm Kings
The Fabulous Thunderbirds with Kim Wilson

My musical plate was very full!



June 2 1996 Big Brother & The Holding Company headlined at San Francisco's Maritime Hall. At that time singer Melissa Ethridge was considering the role of Janis Joplin in a potential movie about Big Brother's best known lead vocalist. She contacted the band, asking if she could sit on for a few tunes at their Maritime Hall show. Yes, yes and yes.

I connected with Melissa's manager, and had them call me when their limo arrived at the venue. I walked them to the green room, hung out for a bit, then walked Melissa to the wing of the stage.

She was holding a bottle of water. I mentioned to her that if she was looking a portraying Janis, that bottle should be Southern Comfort (one of Janis' favorite liquid refreshment). She laughed, as the band ended their tune and introduced their esteemed guest. After a rockin' "Ball & Chain", she took a sip of water, and smilingly held up the bottle and said to the crowd "don't think this is water. Tonight it's straight Southern Comfort." Then she looked my way, smiled, and toasted me with whatever it was she was drinking.



BIG BROTHER & THE HOLDING COMPANY – James Gurley
Dave Getz Peter Albin Sam Andrew with Melissa Ethridge 6.2.96



PAUL
LIBERATORE

Melissa does Janis, almost

WAS Melissa Etheridge a little over the top in her imitation of Janis Joplin at Maritime Hall on Sunday, when she sat in with Big Brother and the Holding Company?

"Some people thought she was almost too much," said Big Brother bassist Peter Albin of Novato. "I thought she was just right."

Etheridge's appearance was a singing audition for a Janis Joplin movie that's in the works. Director Mark Rocco was in the audience, checking out Melissa's voice and moves on three Joplin classics: "Ball & Chain," "Piece of My Heart" and "Down on Me."

"It was uncanny," Peter said. "She really did the Janis thing. She had the motions, the gestures, the phrasing down. In the Monterey Pop Festival movie, at the end of 'Ball & Chain,' Janis' voice cracks a little bit. She did it just like Janis did. It was one of those experiences I don't think I'll easily forget."

Melissa can sing, granted, but can she act? That's the only question the guys in Big Brother had. Apparently, Melissa is getting some advice on acting from Gary Oldman, who played Sid Vicious in "Sid & Nancy." I understand that Courtney Love and Lili Taylor are also interested in playing Janis in the bio-pic.

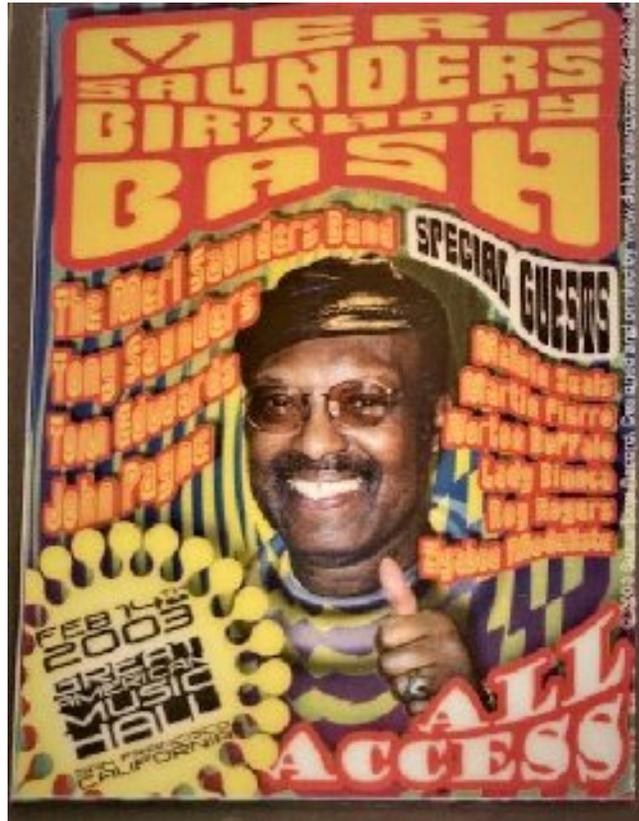
Everyone knows that the real Janis was a serious hang-out person. If Melissa really wants to get inside her character, she needs to work on that part of her game. When Peter and the guys in the band asked her to have dinner with them, she politely declined.

"She wanted to stay in her hotel room and meditate," Peter

In the 21st century I also booked
The Sun Kings
Just Cream
Heavy Petty
The Linda Imperial Band
Quicksilver Gold
Led Zeppelin Live
Skynnyn Lynnyrd
Chris Cain
Gentry Bronson
The Manzarek-Rogers Band
Too Slim & The Taildraggers
Carlos Reyes
Danny Click & The Hell Yeahs!
Papermill Creek Rounders
Nick Gravenites
Zebop!
Uncle Buffett
Keystone Revisited
Big Brother & The Holding Company
It's A Beautiful Day
The Unauthorized Rolling Stones
The Blues Mothers
Otis Redding Legacy
Chicago The Tribute
The Refugees
LunaFish
Tazmanian Devils
Reckless In Vegas
Raymond Victor Band

I continued my longstanding bookings for
Barry "The Fish" Melton Band.

In 2002, Merl Saunders suffered from a stroke that paralyzed one side of his body, and curtailed his musical career. The long standing San Francisco tradition of celebrating Merl's birthday on February 14th continued. Merl was everyone's Valentine.



At a tribute to Merl Concert on September 3 2004, Merl asked me to sit at his table, which I was honored to do. His speech was impaired, his walk feeble, but his spirit bright and shining.



Merl Saunders Steve Keyser Wavy Gravy Bonnie Raitt Larry
Brilliant Max Gail Jr Great American Music Hall 9.3.04

MERLE SAUNDERS
SMMH 9/3/04

GUEST LIST	MUSICIANS	STAFF
MICHAEL BARTLEY +1	LARRY BATESTE	STOVE FASSER (STAFF)
JEANNE ROBERTSON	DEWITT HILL (MUSICIAN)	WAGGONER
GENOM SCATTE	BOBMY & JERRY	LIZ SUGLEN (STAFF)
JORDAN BRANDELLIN	DOCK BRIGHT +1	EDWIN BISHOP, SOUND
LEONARD BYRD	MARTIN HIGDON	WYTHAM HIRBY
DEITY CARTER (MUSICIAN)	WAGGONER	MICHAEL WEINBERG (STAFF)
KEN CALISE	ROSSCO GALLS	TOMMY WAREHAM, MURPHY
MARNA CULVERAN	WEE WELPPE	SHANN MOBA, WAGGONER
MARY CONNER +1 (AND HER S. WALT BOON)	DREW SOLS	WELLS HIGDON, PHOTO,
ROAM COPLAND	DAVE BREWSTER	OLIVER WARDON, VIDEO
WAYNE DEWAN (MUSICIAN)	GLEN WYHAM	KATHY WARDON, PHOTO
ANNETTE FLOWERS +1	MICHAEL HIGDON	SHIMMO SIEGELMAN (STAFF MEMBER)
IBONDA GALLS	ALICE LAWSON	
MARY GRAY	HILLY LEWIS	
BOB HAWTON	CARL JOHNSON	
CHET HIGDON +1	TAT MARRL	
BLEN & KIM HENTON	LARRY MILTON	
LEE HUGHES	SCOT MORGENTHAU	
BENEF JONES +1	MARIA MULLAUM	
PAUL LEATHER (MUSICIAN)	BONNIE RAYT	
MARK MARSHALL	GAIL WILSON	
PAT MCGEE	ALICE WYHAM	
JACK & LESLIE MURPHY	ETHEL PATTERSON	
NONA PELLEGRINI	BENNY PATTERSON	
SCOTT SCHLESINGER +1	DAVE ROACH	
JOEL SELVEN	DREW SCOTT	
BREAN SWANE +1	RON STALLING	
MARTIN THORPE (MUSICIAN)	GLEN STOVALL & CHUCK	
MICHAEL GILBERT +1	JOHN TURS	
JUDY TOMASSO	LARRY VANNI	
CHRISTINE TURNER	GLENN WALTERS	
TYRONE TURNER	BOB WEIR	
VINCENT TURNER	FAT WILDER	
FLOYD WESTERMAN		
DARY WILLIAMS (STAFF)		
MARK YOUNG		

At one point he asked me to help him to the stage. I held his arm as we slowly worked our way thru the packed house. As the band was finishing their tune, Merl's partner Debra and I helped him up the 4 steps to his beloved B-3 organ. I pulled out the bench, helped him around and stepped back. This was the last time one of San Francisco's musical favorite sons entertained the audience he had loved for most of his life.



In his condition he was struggling to communicate from his head, but expressed himself perfectly as his heart and soul traveled thru his fingers and captivated the adoring fans.



Merl Saunders Steve Keyser Bonnie Raitt Max Gail Jr 9.3.04

In 2008 Merl Saunders passed away. At his funeral on October 29, I met Merl's high school band mate Johnny Mathis.



Merl Saunders And The Educated Men with lead singer Johnny Mathis. Top left Johnny, Merl Saunders...4th person top row Lionel Hampton.

I walked up to him, shook his hand, and said thank you. He smiled and asked me what I was thanking him for. I told him that he was of great assistance to me in my teenage years. I would go over to a girlfriend's house, down to the basement, and put on his record album. Listening to "Chances Are" and "Twelfth of Never" would always get her in the mood, and his silky smooth voice serenaded many make out sessions. Johnny noted that I was not the first man to tell him that.



I helped to organize and served as Stage Manager for The Slick Aguilar Wellness Concert at San Francisco's Great American Music Hall on February 24 2013. Slick needed a liver transplant, and his friends were most helpful in raising funds. The lineup included:

Big Brother & The Holding Company

David Crosby

Marty Balin

Country Joe McDonald

Jefferson Starship

SLICK AQUARIUM
WELLNESS FUND CONCERT

PRESENTING A MUSIC SERIES
FEATURING

PAVLO STROY
MARY BALIN
BIG BROTHER
THE HOLDING CO.
COUNTRY JOE
McDONALD

FRANCIS PAIN
DORIS
STEVE
GLEN
CHRIS
AND TRACY

SUN FEB 24
7 PM

GREY AMERICAN MUSIC HALL

PAUL ALBANI

WELLNESS FUND CONCERT



Pete Sears David Freiberg Slick Aguilar Marty Balin
David Crosby 2.24.13

Sam Andrew passed away on February 12 2015. A few days later I met with his widow Elise and band mates Peter Albin & Dave Getz to discuss a memorial concert.

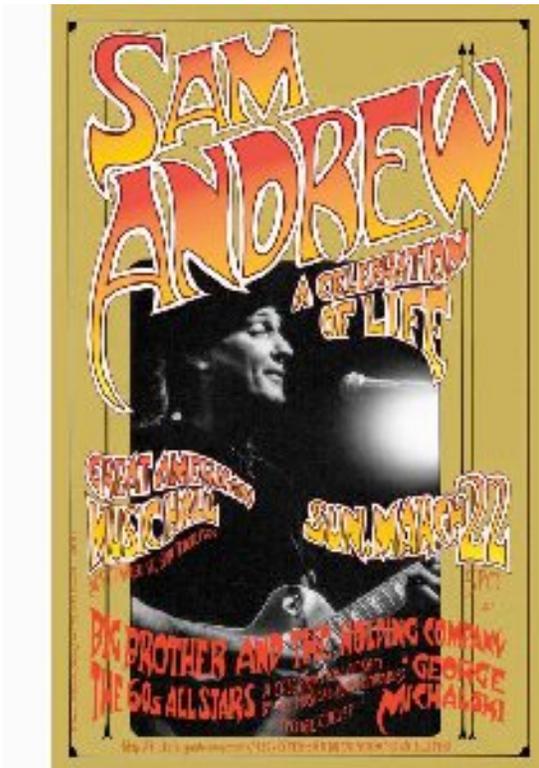


Peter Albin Elise Piliwale Dave Getz 2.17.15

I then helped to produce and served as Stage Manager for The Sam Andrew Celebration of Life on March 22 2015 at The Great American Music Hall in San Francisco. Musicians and speakers saluting the late great guitar player and singer for Big Brother & The Holding Company included:

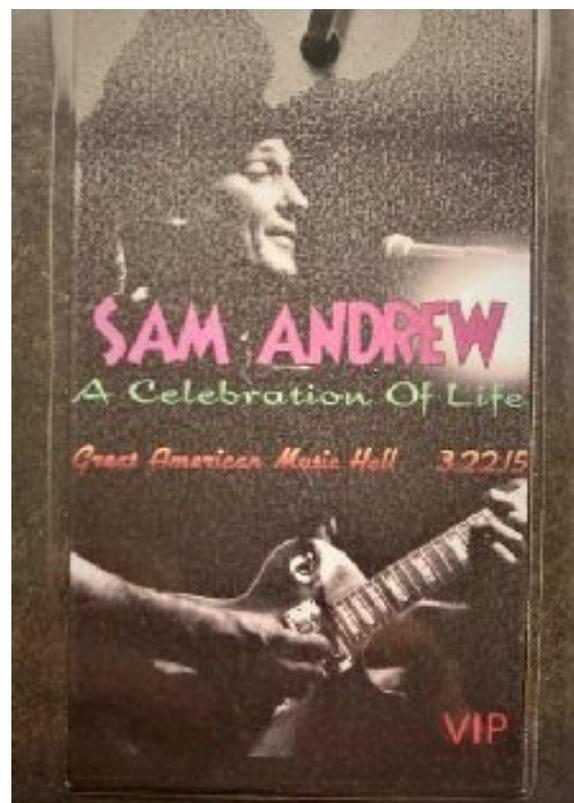
Peter Albin (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Dave Getz (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Stefani Keys (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Nick Gravenites (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Kristina Kopriva-Rehling (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
David Aguilar (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Mari Mack (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Lisa Mills (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Ben Nieves (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Tommy Odetto (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Sophia Ramos (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Kate Thompson (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Jim Wall (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Lisa Battle (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
John Byrne Cooke (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Tom Finch (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Darby Gould (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Nick Gravenites (Big Brother & The Holding Company)
Snooky Flowers (Kozmic Blues Band)
Kurt Huget (Sam Andrew Band)
Bill Laymon (Sam Andrew Band)
George Michalski (Sam Andrew Band)
Barry "The Fish" Melton (Country Joe & The Fish)
Banana (The Youngbloods)
Roy Blumenfeld (The Blues Project)
Linda & David Laflamme (It's A Beautiful Day)

Peter Lewis (Moby Grape)
Brad Jenkins (Lester Chambers)
Paul Wells
Steve Keyser





Sam Andrew All-Stars 3.22.15





With Janis' siblings Laura & Michael Joplin 3.22.15



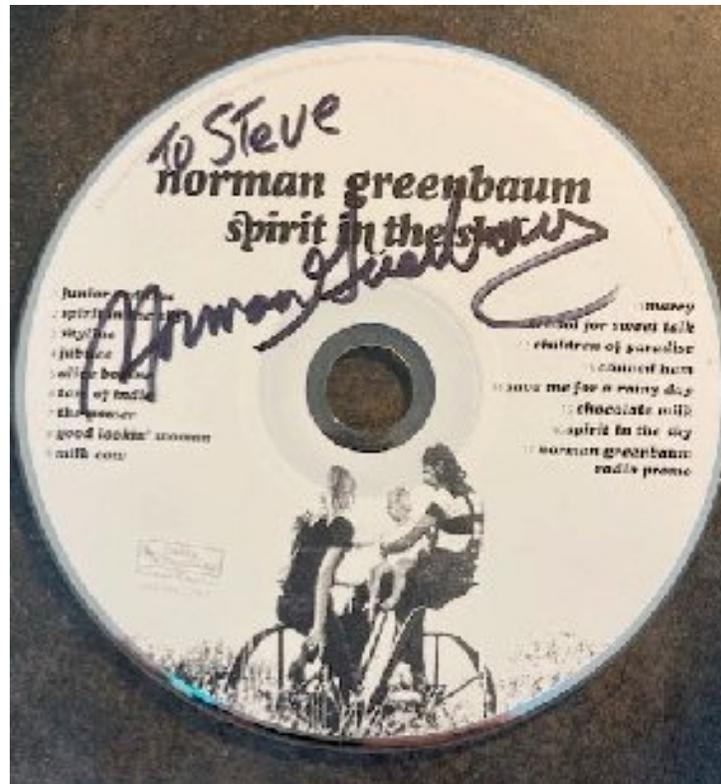
Peter Albin/Karen Lyberger's Wedding Reception 9.13.15



June 12 2016 was the annual Haight Street Fair in San Francisco. On this beautiful Sunday, I rode my motorcycle into the City and parked right behind the stage. Walking up and down the street before the music started, I was thinking “this might be the happiest day of my life. Here I am in this beautiful place, surrounded by so many friends and musicians I have come to know over the past many years.” I felt so very fortunate and blessed.



And I was so looking forward to the bands. I settled right in front of the stage, and smiled as Quicksilver Messenger Service hit the stage. At the end of their rockin' set, the band introduced Norman Greenbaum, who sang his classic hit "Spirit In The Sky". As Norman sang, I began to cry. Tears streaming down my cheeks, I thought "Why am I crying? This is such a gloriously happy day!"



I just assumed those tears were tears of joy, as the song and set concluded. I walked away from the stage, awaiting the next set with Jefferson Starship. Then suddenly a voice in my head said “Go home”. Go home – that’s insane. Why would I leave now, on this most special of days? Again the voice said “Go home NOW!”

So I jumped on my bike and headed back over the Golden Gate Bridge. As soon as I got home, I looked at a text message from my sister – Call me right away. As I was calling I knew what Lynn was going to say. She told me that our mom had passed away. Mom lived in our hometown of Baltimore. She was 92 years old, in failing physical and mental health. I was filled with sadness and relief. I asked Lynn if she knew what time mom left us. She said mom’s caregiver told her a little bit after 4pm. I realized that, being 3 hours earlier here on the west coast, my mother had passed *exactly* at the time that Norman was singing his song.

Now I understood my tears. I was crying because my dear mother was leaving this earth. “When I die and they lay me to rest, I’m gonna go to the place that’s best”. A most intense moment for me.

The following Thursday Lynn and I flew back to Baltimore. My brother Fred flew in from his home. We met with the rabbi who would be officiating the graveside funeral on Sunday, talking about mom, so the rabbi would have things to say at the service. At the end of our talk, I told the rabbi about my experience with hearing Norman’s song and crying while my mother was transitioning. She (female rabbi) was very touched. At the end of the cemetery service, she recounted my story. Then she said “We will end today’s service by singing along to “Spirit In The Sky”. She broke into song, and everyone in attendance joined in.



mom and me

Suddenly my deep sadness was replaced by an amazing sense of peace and joy. I felt so complete in the process, and prayed for the eternal salvation of the woman who had raised me. Music is medicine.



David Freiberg Willow van den Hoek Bonita Kay Capps
Norman Greenbaum Joli Valenti Linda Imperial 6.12.16

A few months later, I saw Norman at a party. I told him and his lovely partner Bonita my Haight Street Fair story. They were both very touched, and gave me a loving hug. Norman mentioned that a few other people over the years had told him somewhat similar stories, but none were that dramatic.

On November 19 2016 I saw Ringo Starr & His All-Star Band at The Marin Center. What a thrill!



Ringo Starr 11.19.16



Ringo's All-Star Band with Todd Rundgren 11.19.16

In 2016 I started finding work for San Francisco Airship,
celebrating the music of Jefferson Airplane/Jefferson Starship.



Jeff Kaplan Chris Lockheed JoJo Razor Ronnie Vezzali
Marc Levine Tom Finch

Again I was working with music from the most favorite band of my youth! Along with numerous club and theater gigs, I got them booked at San Francisco's de Young Museum, for Earth Day 2017 at San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza. Also in celebration of the 50th anniversary of The Summer of Love, I booked the band to set up on the dugout roof for a pre-Giants game concert at AT&T Park.



San Francisco Airship performing at The deYoung Museum for the Grand Opening of their 50th Anniversary of The Summer of Love Exhibit April 8 2017

Datebook

WEEKEND

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE AND SFCHRONICLE.COM Thursday, April 8, 2010 | Section E | \$4/10 (10¢/copy)

WEEKEND AGENDA



PHOTO: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES

TODAY | F3

Flamingo Dancers' concert at 5:30 p.m.



FRIDAY | E3

Street Cents' concert with Salsoul and Dinosaur



SATURDAY | E4

San Francisco State's 50th anniversary

Summer of Love exhibition to take off with tribute band



PHOTO: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES

With all other efforts to stage a San Francisco anniversary Summer of Love concert in Golden Gate Park getting a thumbs down from the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Commission, the only officially sanctioned way to commemorate the occasion for now is the Summer of Love exhibition opening this celebration at the de Young Museum on Saturday, April 8. The program features artist talks, film screenings, women performing music, the 1960s era and a performance by the band The Flamingo Dancers.

Summer of Love Opening Day Celebration Friday, Saturday, April 8-9. Free opening ceremony and film. (504) 621-1000. De Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 3219 Geary Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118. www.sfmoma.org



San Francisco Airship performing for Earth Day April 22 2017



San Francisco Airship performing on the dugout roof before The Giants game celebrating the 50th Anniversary of The Summer of Love June 25 2017





Barry Melton sang the National Anthem that day

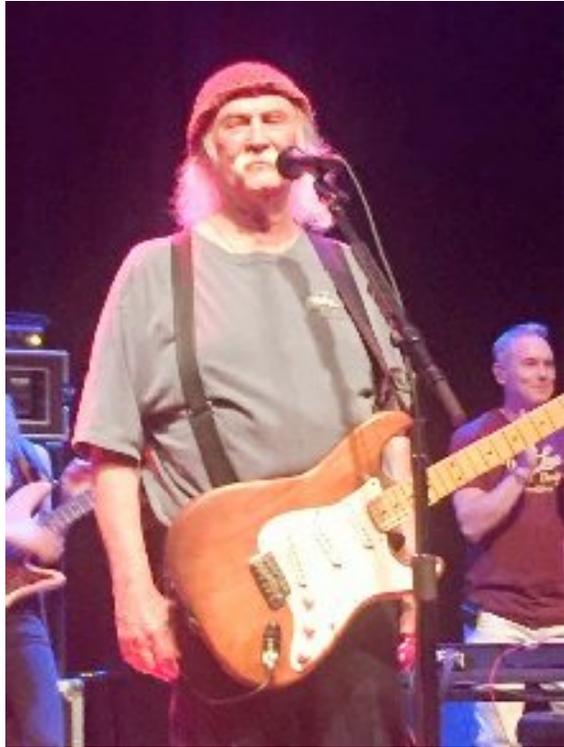


Tom Finch Jeff Kaplan Chris Lockheed JoJo Razor Marc Levine
Ronnie Vezzali 6.25.17

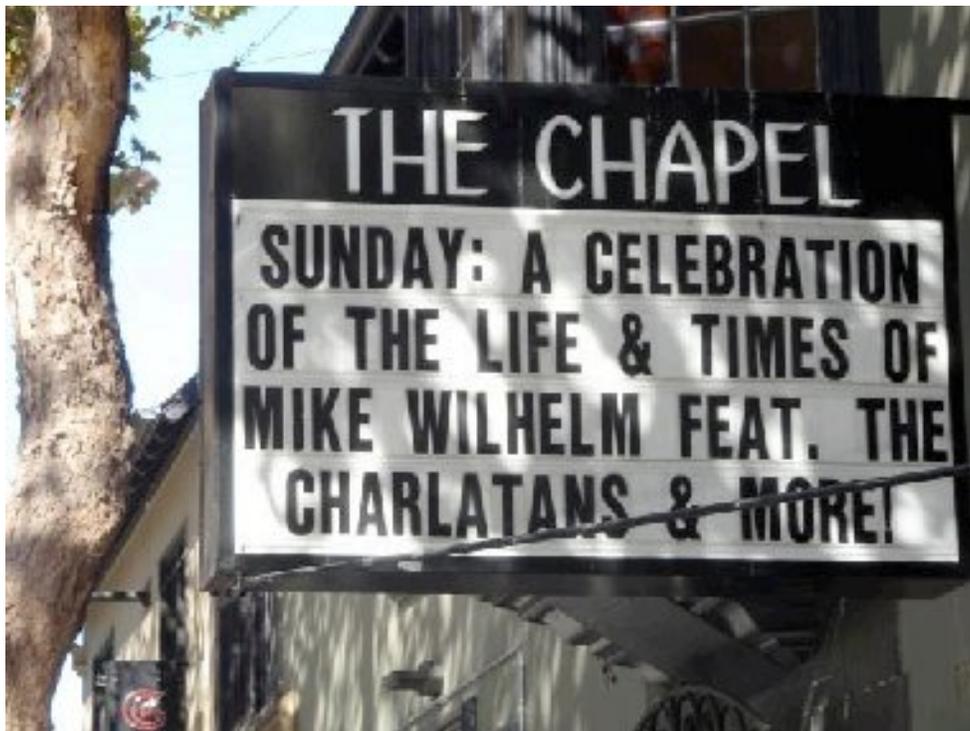


San Francisco Airship

On September 6 2019 I saw David Crosby & Band in Napa California. Loved the old classics, and a few new tunes. His son keyboardist James Raymond was in the band.



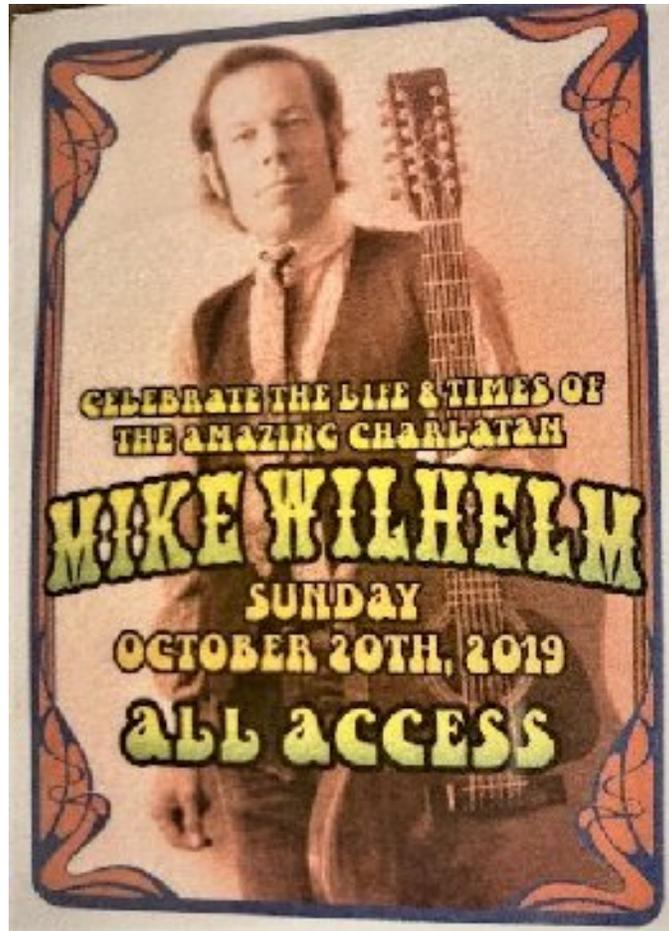
On October 20 2019 I attended The Michael Wilhelm Celebration of Life in San Francisco. An All-star salute to one of the founding fathers of The San Francisco Sound! Thank you Mike “Fan Man” Somavilla for the fabulous job you did producing this memorable event.



4:00 – 4:15 MIKE SOMAVILLA - ANNOUNCEMENTS
4:20 – 4:25 – GIRL GEORGE / PAUL POT
4:30 – 4:55 – NICK GRAVEMITES BAND
5:00 - 5:30 – FREDDIE KRC BAND
5:35 - 5:55 – JAMES FERELL & LARRY LEVY
6:00 – 6:30 – MIKE WILHELM TRIBUTE BAND
6:35 - 6:45 – INTERMISSION
6:50 - 7:05 – DAN HEALY
7:10 – 7:25 BARRY "The Fish" MELTON
7:30 – 7:40 – TORU & YOSHIKO
7:45 – 8:20 – FLAMIN' GROOVIES
8:25 – 8:55 – THE CHARLATAN5
9:00 - 9:45 – GREAT AMERICAN ROBBER BARONS
9:50 - 10:25 – BLONDIE CHAPLIN BAND



The Flamin' Groovies 10.20.19



I continued booking lots of bands thru the late twenty-teens. By early 2020 I already had 18 gigs on the books for that year. All but two never happened.

The last show I booked that actually did happen in 2020 was BananaFish, with Banana (from The Youngbloods) and Barry “The Fish” Melton. February 21, 2020 in Berkeley California.



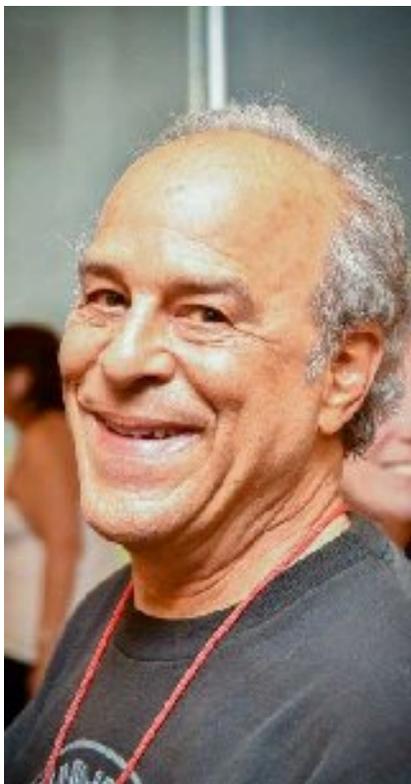
Banana & Barry "The Fish" Melton 2.21.20

After that, Covid shut live music down, as it remains. And I expect that live music, especially indoors, will be one of the last things to start back up.

As I look back on these past four decades, I am consumed with gratitude for the blessings I have had. Supporting the musicians I have cared about, many for much of my life, and helping to spread live music everywhere. Being a tiny, tiny part of creating that 3 hour concert refuge from our crazy lives, to let go into the magic and medicine of music.

I look forward to a time when it is safe again to congregate, hug, smile, dance and enjoy the language that everyone understands – Viva la Musica!





How many people get to work with many of their boyhood heroes? I have been one of the very lucky ones! This book travels thru my life from my violin playing in elementary school to my days on tour with some of the best known names in music.

Some readers wrote:

I've just started your incredible book. Every word brings me right into your scene. Steve, this is truly great reading. SO well done. I am blown away. Incredible writing. Incredible photos. Incredible life

What amazing story, you knocked it out of ballpark. At the end of the book you should write to be continued so you can add more. Thanks for sharing

I read the book and was thoroughly impressed with what you have accomplished. Honestly though, for me, it was just a joy to learn about what you have been doing for the last 50+ years. It truly sounds like you have led the life you were meant to have. Not many people are that fortunate

Thank you Steve, your book is pure awesome and historically significant to boot!! 👍🕶️ Great job 🌟

Needs to be included in a time capsule..... excellent!