

Trilogy MUSICIAN'S INITIATIVE



Mark Levy – Vocalist

Mark began performing in 1948 and continued through high school, Cornell University, and the infamous medical school shows at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. While a resident in Ophthalmology at the University of Chicago and his practice in Troy New York, Mark continued in community theater and weekly vocal lessons for the next forty years.

Eleven years ago, Mark retired from the practice of medicine and moved to the New York City area to pursue musical theater. He studied at the Manhattan School of Music and was admitted to the elite Professional Musical Theater Workshop of Paul Gemignani, the famous Broadway musical director. Mark then began performing with the Mark Janas Salon at the historic Algonquin Hotel on 44th Street and at the Lincoln Center with the world-famous University Glee Club of New York City.



Jeff Kropp – Guitarist Vocals

Jeff's career as a guitarist started back in the 1960's during his college days. While attending Seton Hall University, Jeff played in mostly fraternity gig rock bands and the highlight of this era was performing with a group named 'The Tony Asero Band'. Back in his college days Jeff played rhythm & some lead guitar throughout his musical career.

While performing in the Late 60's early 70's his influences included The Beatles, Eagles, Steely Dan, Dan Fogelberg & John Denver, which of course were the most all popular bands of that era. Jeff moved to Aspen, Colorado after graduating college. But as history would tell, in order to move on and grow in the late 70's, he had to sell his guitars in order to leave Aspen and move back to Jersey. The exciting part is that Jeff is back for a fresh start with his new guitars and a redeveloped passion for music after joining TMI.



Harold Becton – Bassist

Harold was born and raised in Memphis Tennessee. He started playing Bass Guitar and learning music at the early age of 12. At this young age, he was blessed to *always* be around and learn from some great musicians, including his very close Aunt – the multi Grammy Award winning singer, KoKo Taylor "Queen of the Blues". By the time Harold reached his late teens, he was working at local and national music venues with well-known recording artists. He was a session bassist at many studios during his time in Memphis, including the famous STAX Recording Studio.

In 1975, Harold moved to the Washington DC area where he continued to work as a part time musician until 2006. During that 30 plus year period, Harold was a successful bandleader for more than ten years and was on the first-call list of many top music agencies/agents. He also played electric and upright Bass, as a backup musician, for many touring artists. He feels fortunate and thankful to have had the opportunity to work with many fine musicians and some famous national and international artists over the years.

Disclaimer: The audio on the first several songs has an occasional high-pitched squeal (feedback). This does not go on throughout the concert and it is a product of getting too close to the stage speakers with the microphone. It took a few minutes to correct during the live concert and we apologize for the short-lived problem.

Thank You
TMI

PLAYBILL®

Trilogy Event Center

Trilogy MUSICIAN'S INITIATIVE

... NOT JUST YOUR USUAL SUSPECTS ...

Fall Concert
September 29th 2018
7:00PM



Trilogy

MUSICIAN'S INITIATIVE



Bill Stewart-Lead Guitar

After attending a music show at the age of 12 watching Elvis Presley with Hank Snow and Jerry Lee Lewis, Bill bought a second-hand guitar and taught himself how to play. By the time he was 15, he was playing with a group called the Crowns at Sock Hops throughout the state of Indiana for the local radio station WIBC.

In 1961, he continued his musical career playing in local night clubs. After moving to LA in 1964, Bill launched his professional career with a band called the Soul Machine. The band recorded several records and one was released through Kammy Records. During his time in California, he backed up several big stars such as Charlie Rich and Sonny & Cher. After living in California for three years, he made a move back to Indiana. He continued to play in local clubs with different bands and worked a full-time job. Upon Bill's return to Indiana, he was asked to back up many legends to include Charlie Rich, Dolly Parton and many others. He has also had the honor of traveling with Rock-A-Billy legend, Art Adams all over Europe playing lead guitar.



Ken Botelho - Drums

Ken started his musical career on drums when he was only six years old. He continued his studies playing drums through elementary, junior high, high school and college receiving several awards at the Rhode Island State Solo and Ensemble music competition for three years running. Ken studied with two incredible percussionists George Goneconto and Ray Santini for 12 years. Ken was selected to the All-State Band & Orchestra during all four years of high school while at the same time joining several bands beginning with the 5th Dimension, The Mozart's and Hashbury Fog.

In 1969 Ken's work as a drummer reached an all-time high with his rock band ARMY. Army was signed to a multi-record contract after being discovered during an eight-month stint at the Pharaoh's in RI. The original recording "Colors of a Nightmare" was a great success, along with Army's cover of "Season of the Witch" The success of their release led to Army signing to its first Album entitled "We Stand Alone". Army and Botelho's claim to fame was the opening band for Jefferson Airplane at the famous Fillmore in San Francisco. Army was featured as the major act at "The Rock Festival" at Lincoln Park and "Burr's Hill Rock Festival" among others. Botelho has played all types of music professionally from Rock to Big Band, Jazz and all other genres. Ken has taught music for many decades and has appeared as a studio musician for recording artists nationally. After an almost 20-year hiatus, Botelho is back giving his passion and love for music to his fellow musicians here at Trilogy



John Blaszkow – Guitar Vocals

John Blaszkow was classically trained on piano at an early age. He attended the Parker school of music where he performed in ensembles and as a solo performer. Later on, the acoustic guitar became the main focus and together with another local musician, they launched into what would be a successful act known as "Ohio" in upstate NY. He and his partner grew a loyal following of fans and performed on the small and large stage for many years. The team split up in the late 80's and John pursued a solo career where he had success as a local favorite in the Adirondacks. He also did a short stint as lead singer for the band Southpaw. Today, John enjoys playing with and for others and sharing the joy of music.



Jason (Chip) Meadows – Bass Guitar Vocals

Chip grew up in a musical family in a small town in West Virginia. His father played guitar and bluegrass fiddle, and as the county superintendent of schools, he regularly judged talent shows and local bluegrass competitions. He and his sister Melody would tag along as kids, and they developed a love of music. Melody was gifted with music from childhood (hence the name) and she went on to get her Ph. D. in organ performance and currently leads the music dept. at WV Wesleyan College. Her ex-husband Brad has been a career guitarist since he was 12.

Chip, Melody, Brad, Vickie (Chip's lovely wife of 34 years) and other high school friends, formed a southern rock cover band that played local bars and college venues - until life/school intervened and Chip had to get a "real job". Music has remained Chip's hobby for 40 years, and he has enjoyed adding guitar, bass and vocals in Praise & Worship bands at church during the "working years". Chip is excited to be part of TMI and is looking forward to many years of music and fun to come at Trilogy.



Carlos Barbera – Guitar Vocals

Carlos started playing guitar while in high school. Influenced largely by the Beatles, he still enjoys playing and singing their timeless music. The 1970's introduced a new blend of rock, country, and folk music which to this day influence Carlos' guitar playing style. "TMI has given us a new and promising outlet to share our musical interests"



Steve Hoffman – Guitar Vocals

As a music hobbyist, Steve has always appreciated learning music through a variety of teachers in public schools, church and from other musicians. Steve participated in vocal choral and ensemble groups from his child-hood years and through college. He played trumpet and guitar while in middle and high school, later tried his hand at percussions and studied piano while in college. Many of you know Steve from his performances in Trilogy's resident shows. He produced TEAC's Trilogy resident show entitled "Li'l Bit Country, Li'l Bit Rock and Roll" in November 2016. Steve still has his "day job". Steve is studying guitar and learning music theory from his teacher George Pjevach at The Music Store and participates in music performance through TMI and TEAC opportunities.



James Rivard - Guitar

Jim started playing when he was 12, during the height of Beatlemania. He picked up a Silvertone Spanish Guitar from Sears for \$20 and it so began. Jim played in a couple small bands in grade school and high school, but he did not play out in public again until the early nineties, the coffee house scene was hot in Naples, so we played some folk and other 60's classics. I started playing solo after that. Learned some fingerstyle techniques and various genres to go with my new experiences. Jim also played in a church band for about a year around 2011. He moved to Trilogy in 2017 and loves TMI.



Gwen Cox - Keyboards

Gwen started her journey in music as a classically trained pianist when she was only 6 years old. She has over 50 years musical experience and comes from a family of trained musicians. Gwen actually is an eight-generation classic pianist going back to her instructor's family 7 generations back being trained by Beethoven himself. Gwen competed in several solo competitions in High School, performed in a Bell Choir and traveled throughout the Southwest as a vocalist. She loves arranging music and has held several positions as church pianist. Gwen has also participated in the Voices of Trilogy chorus for the past three years as accompanist and music arranger. She loves all types of music from classical, pop, rock, religious and international.



Rich Vasko - Lead Vocals Harmonica

Coming from a professional background in IT, I decided to find what music had for me. With harmonica in hand, the Blues came easy. Now I enjoy all genres with zeal and enthusiasm. This is now becoming a very special part of my life and I work hard at my craft to improve each and every day. I am thrilled to be a part Trilogy and TMI.