

Tim Kleinschmidt – Lead Vocalist



As longtime front man for the classic cover band “Depot Express”, Tim Kleinschmidt was born in small town Two Rivers Wisconsin on July 19, 1962.

He spent the earlier part of his musical career singing in his church choir and acting/singing, performing in such productions like “Jesus Christ Superstar”, “Godspell”, and other famous musicals in the community theatre setting.

Tim then decided to expand his musical talents into the rock and roll band scene by joining a few of the current band mates in forming “Depot Express”. During the past 12 years of combining classic rock, with funk and pop music, Tim found that he was able to utilize his acquired theatre skills by adding his funky outfits to the show and becoming one of the area’s top show men in the local cover band world. The band has soared to new heights after performing at bars, weddings and festivals, including Wisconsin State Fair and have even opened up for “Head East” at Beach Bash in his hometown of Two Rivers. Tim’s unstoppable energy on stage combined with his precise tone and range, has helped make Depot Express the premier, must-see cover band of Southeastern Wisconsin.

Let’s Get Funky!

Gary Grode - Guitarist



Coming from a musical family Gary Grode was handed a guitar at the young age of 7. He preceded to take lessons from some of the greatest jazz guitarist around, including Joe Schott (ch 4), Don Momblow and the famous George Pritchett (Buddy Rich's guitarist).

He joined his first band at age 9, which consisted of a drummer, 2 accordions and Gary on guitar. And at age 12 he joined a 25pc big band.

In the 70's he attended the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Although he technically was jazz trained, thanks to Ed Sullivan and the Beatles, Rock n Roll became the music of choice. He played countless rock and country bands around Wisconsin and neighboring states, while still holding down a fulltime job at Briggs and Stratton as a Production Supervisor.

He enjoyed playing thousands of clubs, parties, weddings and festivals, including over 30 performances at our own Summerfest! Some of the bands he played with were: The Monacos.....Sierra.....Rumors...Springwater.....Medallion.....Strictly Hearsay...Fever.....Wild Nites....Front Page News.... Room To Move...Noyz Boyz & Girlz horn Band ...and of course now... Depot Express

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In 1998 Gary formed a corporate band from Briggs and Stratton called the Briggs Bluesbusters.

- That band OPENED for: (in order) Smokey Robinson - Village People - Journey - Weird Al Yankovic - Al Green - The Beach Boys - James Brown - Inxs (FPN) - The Neville Bros(FPN) - Ray Charles - The 4 Tops - Little Richard - The Moody Blues - Blood Sweat & Tears - Joan Jett and The Blackhearts - The Crickets (Buddy Holly's Band) - Alice Cooper - The Go Go's - Boozer(Sha Na Na) - Lindsey Buckingham(Fleetwood Mac) - Ben E King - and Jethro Tull.
- He flew down to Louisville Kentucky and OPENED for: Paul Revere and the Raiders - Marshall Tucker Band(also joined band on stage to play "Can't You See") and 3 Dog Night.
- Garys highlight of his musical career was in 2001...2002...2003. He played at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland Ohio! That event was sponsored by Fortune Magazine, Gibson Guitars, Toyota and the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame

Gary now enjoys his retirement by spending his evenings with students, as a professional guitar instructor, in his own guitar studio in Waukesha, WI., along with practicing and playing with this awesome cover band – “Depot Express”

Gary is also a huge supporter in animal rights and has 2 dogs himself - Cosmo and Teddy.

Life is Good
"God gave us Music So We Can Pray Without Words"
"Live Music is Best"



Well, some might call her Ivory Annie and some might call her Little Organ Annie. Either way, Ann is the best darn keyboardist this side of the Mississippi!

Ann started her music career back in first grade, taking piano lessons with a beautiful Catholic nun named Sister Paula, who loved music and loved her students. A personal and musical inspiration to Ann, she followed her tutelage throughout grade school learning to play organ as well and accompanying several church choirs in the process.

After attending St. Mary's Academy and becoming glee club president and accompanist, she spent a year at Cardinal Stritch university studying music. It was there that she discovered that even though classical training was very beneficial, she desired more. So, she transferred to Marquette University and received a BS degree in Psychology.

Ann promptly married the love of her life Barry after graduation (drummer for Depot Express) and together they raised 4 wonderful children while continuing her musical journey in church and church choirs. Within that journey, some of her church friends decided to start a band, opening her horizons up to new and exciting things. She has played with several classic rock bands throughout the years including: Exposure and Night Shift.

Ann loves the classic rock band life almost as much as she loves her grandkids, enduring the equipment hauling, setup and take down of every show. She not only enjoys the music that we play, she takes special joy watching our audience dance and developing friendships along the way. She chooses to look at what we do, as a ministry of sorts, providing joy to others, and creating a pleasant distraction from personal and world challenges.

Depot Express is her band family which includes all of the things that go along with a family like disagreeing, apologizing, laughing, crying, but most importantly, supporting and praying for each other. Her goal for the band is to become the best band we can be while balancing band life and personal life.

Turn up the Keys!!!