

THE FAB5[®]



A desire to recreate the spirit & enthusiasm of the British Invasion and America's subsequent retaliation led to the formation of The Fab 5 in 1990. The Fab 5 is a Houston, Texas based Beatles Tribute Band performing the greatest hits of THE BEATLES, and the Pop Beat music of The 60's and 70's! With their timeless tunes, 60s period Beatles suits & Carnaby Street Fashions, authentic Hofner, Rickenbacker, Gretsch and Ludwig vintage Beatles instruments, vintage British valve VOX amplification, style and humor representative of the times packaged in tight, production based performances, The Fab 5 have gained recognition as a leader in the fun-oldies tribute market. The Fab 5 has been a fixture to the Houston Music Scene for over 28 years. It is a sincere dedication, professionalism, & attention to detail that have become hallmarks of The Fab 5, as evidenced by their impressive client list. Relive the days of BEATLEMANIA each time you see The Fab 5. They are not only a BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND, but one of the BEST 60s TRIBUTE BANDS in the nation. In October 2007, The Fab 5 were also featured in The New Musical Express in England as one of the Top Beatles Tribute bands in America (look under Fab Articles for Fab 5 Cover Story). Keep in mind not only do they dress up like The Beatles, they REALLY do sound like the Beatles and play these timeless songs note for note (listen to their sound samples) and use the exact instrumentation. And to top it all off, Joe's toured with "The Cast of Beatlemania" now you've got One of The Best National Beatles Bands Around Town!

The Fab 5 have had the good fortune to share the stage with national acts as: Billy Gibbons (ZZ TOP/ Moving Sidewalks), Foghat, Blue Oyster Cult, Motley Crue, Three Dog Night, Steppenwolf, The Beach Boys, America, The Turtles, The Temptations, Peter Noone & Herman's Hermits, The Grassroots, Johnny Rivers, Tommy James & The Shondells, Chubby Checker, Gary Lewis & The Playboys, Little Richard, Paul Revere & The Raiders, and may many more through the years. Whether it's a festival concert, private corporate function, high school reunion or a nightclub engagement, The Fab 5 consider it a great pleasure to bring to life some of the best music of the 60s, & 70s and to rekindle those special memories. To enjoy these anthems live and in color is what audiences of all ages have twisted, shimmied, and shook to for over 27 years (but who's counting?). Remember, The Fab 5 will always be "WHERE THE ACTION IS" and we look forward to seeing you at our next "SHINDIG".

Joe Baiardi - Electric Bass Guitar/Guitar and Vocals

Joe originally hails from New York City. Joe started playing professionally at the age of 12 (beginning in an Italian wedding band). His first love was playing the drums but soon taught himself to play the guitar, bass, & piano. He took a few lessons at "The Music Box" in Flushing, NY. Joining up with friend Omar Sanders, Joe began playing in various high school bands in the 70s like "Reaper", "Centaur" & "Exctasy". By 1979, he formed "Rubber Soul" (1979-1983), a successful Beatles tribute band. Joe always wanted to perform Beatles music ever since he met John Lennon in June 1977 on Broadway & 52nd street in Manhattan. "Rubber Soul" toured up and down the east coast playing Beatles conventions, Festivals, and dinner theaters in the early 80s. Joe and Rich Testa (who portrayed "John" in "Rubber Soul") also began writing together and wrote lovely pop songs like "She's Changed" which is featured on the 2004 FAB 5 CD.

In 1983 "Rubber Soul" disbanded, Joe joined "The Elevators" (1984-1987), a new wave original pop group in Manhattan which penned and recorded original dance music. The band played all the Manhattan's hot spots like The China Club, CBGB's and The Bitter End. One of the songs "Whatcha Gonna Do" was featured in the 1984 movie "Perfect" starring John Travolta and Jamie Leigh Curtis. It helped that their lead singer Brant Mewborn was also a senior editor with Rolling Stone Magazine. We hung out with the likes of RuPaul and Michael Musto. "The Elevators" were chosen to be signed to EMI's new "MANHATTAN" label, but were beat out by "BALTIMORA" (who had the hit "Tarzan Boy"). In April 1988 Joe relocated to Houston, Texas. Brant Mewborn died in 1989. Rest In Peace my old friend.

Joe took a break while starting a family while concentrating on writing and home recording. In 1992 he answered an ad in The Houston Press and joined "Troy Hess & Dangerous Livin'" (1992-1996) and continued on with Troy Hess in "Zebra Three" (2000-2002). In 1999, he was offered the "Paul McCartney" role in the national Beatles tribute act "Come Together". This also led to performing with "The Cast of Beatlemania" as their "Paul" fill in for original cast members Mitch Weissman and Lenie Colacino. Joe has done "Cast" shows in New York, Detroit, Boston, Florida, Seattle, Oklahoma, Dallas, and Minnesota. His love and appreciation for Music of the 60s will always remain his first true love, which is what led him to be asked to join "The Fab 5" in February 2003. That magical musical chemistry between the current line up makes "The Fab 5" one of The Premier Party Bands in the nation!

Paul Byron - Keyboards, Percussion and Vocals

A native Houstonian – guitarist, bassist, keyboardist & vocalist Paul Byron™ has played the Texas club circuit in numerous bands for many years, covering everything from Blues and Classic Rock to Funk and R&B. His unique vocal style and range have earned him a respectful comparison to the likes of Delbert McClinton, Wilson Pickett and Joe Cocker. He is also very much at home behind a piano or B3 organ, providing keys and vocals for many local Blues, Rock and R&B legends.

Paul has also been front man for two incredible Houston bands - Love It To Death - The Alice Cooper Tribute Show and CRASH (Classic Rock All Stars of Houston). Both of these bands have made their mark on the Houston and regional music scene in recent years. He has also spent a couple of recent years playing keys and providing backup vocals for the legendary touring hard rock band, AXE (Rock N Roll Party In The Streets!). Paul joined "The Fab 5" in November 2011. It can be said with great authority, that everything he has done musically over the last 25 years has brought him to where he sits now, as member of Houston's best tribute act (according to the Houston Press and Houston Chronicle), The Fab 5!

Chuck Essick - Rhythm Guitar, and Vocals

At age nine, Chuck stuck his head into a stereo speaker to better hear "I Want To Hold Your Hand", and the rest as they say is history. His first bands in middle and high school won numerous talent show prizes and played at local venues all over town. In the late 70s he moved up onto the club and party circuit with his band "Crystal", a highly sought after Top 40 band touring the southeast. Chuck then took a 20 year hiatus from music while he earned a Master's Degree and began a career & family.

In 1996 he formed the legendary North Houston band "Strange Brew" (one of Houston's Best Classic Rock Bands). Chuck joined "The Fab 5" in January 2000, and his style of guitar playing was a refreshing burst of energy to the band. He is a certifiable lunatic onstage, jumping and dancing and frequently leaving the stage to party with the dancing crowds!

Danny Kristensen - Lead Guitar and Vocals

In 1969 musician Danny Kristensen (14 at the time) was playing in his garage band "Proper Circle" and signed with Picture records when he met Neal Witwer. The two hit it off and they soon formed with Phil Ochoa the band known as "1900 Storm" and were signed with Texas Revolution records. Throughout the next decades the "1900 Storm" became one of the most successful rock bands in Texas history. In 1976 Danny joined a group called "Circus" that had a rotating cast of characters including Richard Morant, Bruce Moody, Craig Beasley and drummer Dick Ross. Ross would later go on to play in Austin bands the Vendettas and F-Systems before a stint with Joe "King" Carrasco. From 1984 to 1991, Danny (along with Bruce Moody, Ric Plunk, and Rick Richards) formed Private Numbers. The band produced and released three albums, eleven music videos plus two television shows that featured the band's music videos as well as interviews. In 1990, the band wrote and recorded a wake-up song for the crew of NASA's Space Shuttle Discovery (STS-31) on the morning they deployed the Hubble Space Telescope. In 2012, Danny along with Richard Morant, and John McKay formed the Beach Boys tribute/classic rock band "Almost Endless Summer" and perform throughout Houston at festivals and major concert venues. The Fab 5 were thrilled when Danny joined in February 2018 and he works very hard at his craft to reproduce the lead guitar parts of those timeless Beatles tunes exactly as George did.

Rod Robert - Drums and Vocals

Rod was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, one week before the Beatles first performance on the 'Ed Sullivan' show. The son of a military man, he moved to Italy as a young boy during the period when much of the music he plays with "The Fab 5" was new. "I think that's why this music is so familiar to me--my mother loved the Beatles and all of the British Invasion bands. She played her records in our house, on base, all the time so, I got a good dose of it as a kid very early on. I think it was a connection to home, back in the states. She sang professionally at officers clubs, supper clubs--sang all styles--from big band tunes to all the popular hits of the day. She did a mean version of 'Whiter Shade of Pale'.

After returning from overseas, Rods' family opened a musical instrument store in Houston in the early '70's. Growing up and working in the family business, it seemed only natural that Rod would pursue music as a profession. It is performing on stage that gives Rod his biggest thrill--and there have been many stages spanning his 25 year career. From extensive touring around Texas and throughout the southern portions of the U.S. in the 80's to as far away as the United Arab Emirates (Persian Gulf) in '89 & '90 on what was described as a good-will tour of American culture.

Rod, who joined the band in March 1991 after a phone call from a go-getter who would turn out to be 'Hullabaloo' Bill, is responsible for the bands foray into costuming as he is "The Idea Man". "The Fab 5" is so much fun, the tunes are timeless, the camaraderie is great and like-minded with years of experience. When we play, I just embody that spirit. As the drummer, its got to groove to be Groovy Baby!" Rod's drumming influences include: Ringo's' musicality, Keith Moons' intensity, Mitch Mitchell's' style, John Bonham's' kick, Ian Paices' snare, Mel Taylor's' class, and Sandy Nelsons' "Let There Be Drums"!

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