

PROLOGUE

The act of making music hooks you. No matter what kind, once you've made music, it's always there. For some people, the memory of singing or playing with schoolmates, friends, family provides the hook. For others, music takes over their life. And for those who become professional musicians, life is exciting, challenging, adventurous, and hopefully rewarding.

But like a romance, making music is sometimes a heartbreaker. If you try the life, and have the chance to really go for it, without a doubt, you'll get hooked.

I've played in a band and I'm a writer. I've lived a life, got married, divorced, went on adventures, had lots of experiences, but the question I get asked most often is "What was it like playing in a band?"

The question comes from young kids and old geezers, with or without musical experience. They have a curiosity about bands, and no doubt they've heard a few stories, but each band's story is different and each one is interesting. The stories are about people who've had the chance to hook up with other people and make music. You, me, the neighbor, your cousin. Just people.

My dream of making music began in 1970. That was before cell phones, way before digital recordings. Vinyl LPs, 45s, and 8-track tapes were what we listened to. MTV hadn't been born yet, and music videos hadn't even been imagined. There was no Internet. Literally a world of difference from today's life.

Today, the music business is controlled by economics. On one hand, getting to the top is a lot harder now. The market is tighter and the record companies are afraid to take chances on untested and unknown artists. Additionally, it's tough to get record executives to come to see new talent unless you pay their way! On the other hand, for a select few who are thrust into the spotlight, success comes knocking. It's all about having the right connections and the cash to keep the project going. And then there is the impact of the electronic world, where downloading music onto personal computers is taken for granted and amateurs are in direct competition with big label recording artists. This changed everything, but hey, it's still music!!

Don't get me wrong, I'm no history professor or music scholar, I'm just a guy who gave the band world a shot. So, to all of you who've requested it, and to those who have done it, are living it, or dreamed of doing it, here we go with my personal "band" story!