



Promotional material for Press and Media
From Mark Swanson Trio
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Thank you for your interest in the Mark Swanson Trio. We hope your visit here stirs your interest in having our group play for your function, event or concert in the future. Please write if you have any questions or comments, we will get right back to you.

Please feel free to look in at our Youtube channel (www.youtube.com/c/MarkSwansonMusic), and listen to some of our music on our webpage or that channel. It's the best way besides hearing us in person to get a feel for what we do! We specialize in playing familiar songs that you should recognize, and some others that will be new to you. Everything we play is meant for listening, we do not focus on dancing and we are not what you would think of as a “dance band”. We play quieter, adult contemporary acoustic-based music. We do our best to tailor our musical presentation to the situation, we feel that is important.

We carry and use our own sound system, and we are a self-contained band. We have played throughout the midwest and further, and over the course of 40 years have played a whole lot of events, so you can feel confident that we will do our best and play a good show for you!



Mark Swanson – Guitars and Vocal

Mark began playing professionally at 20 years old, and began playing with the Grand Rapids-based group **Horsefeather**. The band went on to record an album, and receive radio and television airplay as they played throughout the Midwest. In 1989, he began a solo musical career and played up and down the coasts of Michigan for the next ten years. During this period, Mark also took on the role of **Luthier**, a builder of stringed instruments. Mark builds all of the instruments he plays as well as instruments for many other musicians including the **Dixie Chicks** who used one of his mandolins on one of their albums which ultimately won five Grammy awards.

With the new millenium, Mark teamed up with singer/songwriter **Ken Bierschbach**. They played together until 2015, forming the band **13th Hour** in 2006. That group played until 2015 when Mark again struck out on his own, with the dream of forming the Trio now fulfilled.

Mark says of the current band, “This is what I have been hoping and working toward for many years! I am so pleased to have Kevin and Bob with me, and the musical connection that we feel when we play together is truly something special. The best is yet to come, and I look forward to playing for as many of you as I possibly can.”



Kevin Shell- Drums and Percussion

Kevin has played drums off and on for the last 45 years. He has performed with the **Early Blue Band**, **Country Roots Band**, **Straight Eight Times Three** featuring **Mike Kyle** and currently with the **Mark Swanson Trio**. Kevin also plays for his local church. Kev says “I just love playing music and I guess you could say it's in my blood”. Thanks Kevin, you are an important part of the band!



Bob DeCocq- Bass Guitar

I started my musical journey as soon as I figured out how to turn on the radio. I first started performing in the mid 1970's in the West Michigan music scene with a band called the **County Line Band**. During this period I first met Mark, and the rest of **Horsefeather**. By the late 70's I had begun working with singer-songwriter **Marshall Baker**, which resulted in the recording of our L.P "**Baker, DeCocq and Friends**" in late 1981. This period was followed by a stint in Texas working with singer-songwriter **Shake Russell**. Upon returning to Michigan, Bob co-founded the **Just Jake Band** in 1990. Just Jake performed together for the next 20 years specializing in festivals, opening for national touring acts as well as various venues state wide. In early 2011 he began working with Kentucky singer-songwriter **David Hardin** and in 2012 signed with Nashville-based Ride Records, resulting in two CDs, "**Miles of nowhere**" and 2016's "**Magnolia**". In 2018 he signed a songwriting and publishing deal with Phoenix-based Fervor Records. The highlight of 2019 was when two original songs were used in network television broadcasts on CBS and NBC. 2020 found Bob coming full circle to join his old friend Mark and new friend Kevin in the **Mark Swanson Trio**. Bob says, "in a nut shell, Music is what I do!"

MARK SWANSON TRIO

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