

www.brucehastell.com

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# Bruce Hastell's Biography

Bruce is an accomplished guitarist and lutenist versed in musical styles ranging from classical to rock and roll. Motivated to play since age 8, he began touring professionally at age 17 and has been presented with multiple gold and platinum RIAA record awards for participation in performance and production with various musical groups.

Bruce has performed with internationally renown musicians, including **Bobby Kimball** (*Toto*), **Nick St. Nicolas** (*Steppenwolf*), **Howard Leese** (*Heart*), **Dan Toler** (*Allman Brothers*), **Frank Toler** (*Allman Brothers*), **Randy Meisner** (*Eagles*) and with Beatles legends **Denny Laine** (*Moody Blues and Wings*), **Pete Best** (original *Beatles* drummer), **Len Garry** (*Quarrymen*), **Roy Young** (early *Beatles* pianist), **Joey Molland** (*Badfinger*), **Lawrence Juber** (*Wings*), **Steve Holly** (*Wings*), **Billy Preston** (*Beatles*), **Louise Harrison** (sister of Beatle George Harrison) and **Neil Inness** (*The Rutles*). He was also featured in the Cleveland Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in a display of photos, costumes and stage props used while a member of the 70's and 80's funk/pop group *Sun*.

Bruce is experienced in all aspects of the professional music industry – production, management, promotion, composition, recording and teaching. He continually seeks to grow musically, spiritually and personally. Following is an overview of his musical history.

### 2002 Artist, Performer (Guitar, Lute and Vocals)

- Performs on acoustic and electric guitar and lute as a soloist and guest artist in the Chicagoland area. Plays throughout the Midwest with the Bruce Hastell / Steve Ball Project.
- Serves as guest instructor and lecturer for Project Experience, a Midwest multi-media children's camp promoting hands-on experience with playing, recording and performing various types of music.



• Teaches private guitar lessons, performs session work and continues to study exotic stringed instruments, including the lute, solene and Indian sitar.

#### 2002

#### Entrepreneur Consultant, HTH Vintage Guitars



- Consults with HTH Vintage Guitars.
- Known for having one of the largest vintage guitar collections in the United States. Featured in several national and international guitar publications. Has sold vintage guitars to well-known rock and roll artists, including Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood (Rolling Stones), John Fogerty (Creedence Clearwater Revival), Bruce Kulick (Kiss), Howard Leese (Heart) and others.
- Has been granted professional product endorsements from companies such as D'Addario strings and picks, Taylor guitars and Soldano amps.



#### 1994 – 1998 Owner, Producer, Manager, Guitarist, Vocalist, Composer Crosstown Management & Artist Relations and Mountain Tracks/ Desert Tracks Studios, Seattle, Washington & Las Vegas, Nevada

- Owned Crosstown Management and Mountain Tracks Studio, a 32-track digital recording studio and artist management company, Desert Tracks Studio and Starlight Vintage Guitars. Made rock and roll history at Mountain Tracks Studio where Joey Molland's Badfinger "Timeless" CD was recorded in 1995.
- Endorsed HML Guitars with Howard Leese (Heart) and provided creative input for some guitar models (including two models which Bruce co-designed) that were featured in several publications, including the 1996 "Blue Book of Guitars".



- Invited by George Harrison (Beatles) to his estate, Friar Park, outside of London to personally meet with him and return a stolen master tape that Louise Harrison had recovered and asked Bruce to return to George for her. Was given a complete tour of the estate and massive grounds by George's brother, Pete.
- Met with Paul McCartney (Beatles) in London to discuss several business issues, including the potential for a *Wings* reunion tour.
- Worked closely with Louise Harrison (sister of Beatle George Harrison). Served on the Board of Directors of Louise's Drop-In Foundation, an organization founded to raise awareness and funds to help restore the planet and environment. Produced, co-wrote and narrated the theme song for "The Whee Family", an animated cartoon show based on Louise's childhood memories with George. Recorded and narrated the pilot episode at his Desert Tracks Recording Studio in Las Vegas.
- Produced the Richard Lush National Lecture Tour (Spring 1997). This multi-media tour featured the video "Abbey Road - An Autobiography of Beatles Recording Engineer Richard Lush" (released Spring 1997 - currently marketed through Beatle merchandising outlets), which was filmed at Bruce's Mountain Tracks Recording Studio in Seattle. Performed on and co-produced the video's music tracks. Served as tour manager, book consultant and music coordinator. Resided temporarily in London to conduct research and interview the private inner circles of Beatles greats, including George Martin (Beatles producer and engineer), Neil Aspinal (Beatles manager and Apple CEO), Ken Townsend (Abbey Road general manager), Chris Blair (Beatles disk cutter) and many others.
- Was asked by Joey Molland to become his personal manager in 1995 and signed an exclusive contract with Joey Molland's Badfinger to promote and reestablish Joey's career.
- Produced (associate producer) and promoted "Badfinger the Rise and Fall" (released Christmas 1996), a 40-minute video documentary produced in cooperation with Apple Corps. LTD, London. Received personal permission from The Beatles and Apple to release the video, making it the first-ever independent production to be granted this status. Was interviewed on London's BBC Radio Europe-wide broadcast and fielded call-in guestions about the Badfinger / Beatles





association. Also was interviewed by the author of the Badfinger book "Without You" and received several mentions in the final publication.

Produced, recorded, promoted and performed (electric and acoustic guitar) on a four song EP titled "Timeless", a rare collectable treasure featuring Joey Molland (Badfinger), Howard Leese (Heart), Ben Smith (Heart) and Richard Lush (Beatles recording engineer), which was done to position Joey for a new record opportunity with a major label.



• Co-founded and co-managed the World Classic Rockers, starring former notable band members Bobby Kimball (*Toto*), Nick St. Nicolas (*Steppenwolf*), Michael Monarch (*Steppenwolf*), Howard Leese (*Heart*), Dan Toler (*Allman Brothers*), Frank Toler (*Allman Brothers*), Spencer Davis (*Spencer Davis Group*), Joey Molland (*Badfinger*), Denny Laine (*Moody Blues and Wings*) and Randy Meisner (*Eagles*).

#### 1992 – 1993 Headline Performer, Las Vegas, Nevada



Signed to a two year contract and headlined two shows a day at The Excalibur Hotel and Casino, performing on classical guitar, acoustic guitar and lute. Was featured as Sir Lancelot in the Excalibur's nightly King Arthur Tournament Dinner Show. (Bruce is one of approximately two thousand professional lute players worldwide.)

### 1978 – 1992 Studio Musician & Composer, Los Angeles, Toronto & Minneapolis

Wrote original selections for major television and radio spots. Performed with top artists in the national and international music communities.

### 1975 –1978 Lead Guitarist, "Sun" (Capitol Records)

Signed with Capitol Records in 1975 and performed as lead guitarist for **Sun**, composed of *ex-Commodores* and *ex-Ohio Players* musicians. **Sun** toured with such notables as **James Brown**, **Chicago**, **Ramsey Lewis**, **Natalie Cole** and **Kool & The Gang** and produced two gold records. Bruce was introduced into the Cleveland Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as part of a special exhibit of **Sun's** involvement in the music scene of the 70's.



### 1972 – 1975 Lead Guitarist

Performed as lead guitarist for several major touring groups, including **The Raspberry Blues**, **Good Friends** and **The Leigh Carey Band**.



**Special interests:** In addition to his love for music, Bruce also enjoys sharing life experiences with his best friend and love of his life (DT), spending time with his dog (Keisha), communing outdoors with nature, collecting vintage guitars, reading history and spiritual books, working with the rehabilitation of injured wildlife, gardening and continuing his study of new stringed instruments and musical styles.

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