

BLACKJACK PRODUCTIONS

2011 Entertainment Brochure

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Blackjack Productions can ensure that your event will come off smoothly and successfully! Whether your needs are large or small, Blackjack will give professional attention to every detail, the expertise of proven leaders for well over 30 years in the entertainment business, and the biggest bang for your buck!! A capable, courteous staff is thrilled to be of service to you so just give us a call.



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Blackjack Productions provides the highest quality entertainment available today. Our entertainment roster is comprised of highly skilled and reliable professionals with whom we have long standing working relationships and direct involvement. In addition, we have access to many other quality acts through the numerous industry contacts that we have cultivated during our many years in the entertainment business.

SOUND SYSTEMS

At **Blackjack Productions**, our experience in handling events of all sizes enables us to provide you with the most appropriate sound system for your event. We have state-of-the-art equipment that must undergo a stringent testing and checking program before it ever leaves the warehouse. Our technicians are all trained professionals and we provide at least two techs at all but the very smallest of our sound events so as to ensure the best possible sound reproduction! The only "feedback" you will hear is from your guests telling you what a wonderful time they've had!

STAGES AND LIGHTING

Blackjack Productions has provided stages and lighting for thousands of area festivals and events. We will help you determine the exact stage(s) necessary, whether or not a canopy is needed, and what lighting arrangements will be appropriate and safe.

THEME PARTIES

Having a theme party? We can help!! At **Blackjack Productions** we can customize a theme for your event, set it to music, and do it within your budget! Here are a few of our most popular themes...

Beach Party - Even indoors in the middle of a bitter Midwest winter, you can walk barefoot in the sand, get wet, and enjoy the music of the 50's & 60's, surf tunes, island music, reggae, or any other type of music that you love to hear at the beach! We can provide games, limbo contests, even a pig roast!! You don't have to wait for spring break or go to Florida to enjoy a fun-filled time at the beach!

Blues Party - Would you like a star-studded blues fest review complete with beer and Bar B Que? Or do you prefer the ambiance of a small intimate blues club, or the rowdiness of a roadhouse? Whether you like vintage traditional blues, rockin' blues, or funky modern blues, we can create it just the way you want it right in the comfort of your own hometown!!

Formal Party - Planning something elegant? We can provide ice sculptures, floral arrangements, champagne fountains, balloons, or any decorations to suit your taste! And don't forget about music! We can provide well-groomed, well-dressed musicians including harpists, strings, solo pianists, or any size band (from a trio to a full orchestra), to give your event just the right touch of class and style!!

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the Associates

The Associates are *the* premiere Motown and variety band in the Midwest, and demand for their services is very high. To quote WMAQ TV's **Art Norman**, the Associates are "Absolutely Fantastic!!" Featuring some of the finest vocalists and musicians in the Chicago area, the Associates always deliver an exciting high-energy performance. Their crowd-pleasing repertoire includes thousands of well-loved tunes from many genres including Motown, Classic Rock, Blues, R & B, Swing, Jazz, Country, and more!! This band is versatile enough to handle virtually any request and they absolutely *love* to include audiences in their shows. Please book early so you won't miss out.

"We're what you wanna hear." www.associatesband.com ♠ <http://www.blackjackbands.com/associates.htm>

JUKE BOX BAND

ROCK R&B BLUES C&W ETC

The always crowd-pleasing **Juke Box Band** can play virtually any pop tune and shift easily from modern pop to classic rock to blues to country to 50's-60's to jazz, etc. This charismatic band involves its audiences in sing-alongs and group dances and by taking requests. Every show is different because the *crowd* picks the songs!! Playing exactly what the people want to hear shows that the Juke Box Band knows how to please an audience!! The hard-working Juke Boys has been together since 1982 and has an astounding average of over 200 performances a year! This band *always* leaves their crowds drained and entertained!!

<http://www.blackjackbands.com/jjb.htm>



Breeze

A solid rhythm section, a hot saxophone master, and a smokin' guitarist, combined with the soul flavored hits of Grover Washington Jr., the lite jazz of Kenny G, and the timeless classics of Duke Ellington, makes for a fun, user friendly, jazz experience. Along with a vast repertoire of contemporary jazz favorites and popular standards, **Breeze** performs fresh and clever arrangements of pop tunes from the Beatles, Steely Dan, and Stevie Wonder. The wide variety of songs and music styles, interpreted by the highest caliber musicians anywhere, make Breeze a must see, concert series highlight!!

<http://www.blackjackbands.com/breeze.htm>



Jonathan Devin & New Country

Country songs are about good time boot scootin' fun, lost love, or the average man (or woman) against the world - truly the music of America. **Jonathan Devin & New Country** play your favorite country hits from the traditional classics of Hank Williams, Roger Miller, and George Jones, to the "outlaw" classics of Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Johnny Cash, to the dance-floor friendly country pop of Garth Brooks, George Strait, and Alan Jackson. Devin's songlist also includes liberal helpings of rock n' roll, rockabilly, oldies, southern rock classics, and the inspirational music of America's Heartland!! New Country's harmonies are

exciting and polished, and the music is tight and well rehearsed. The show is good clean fun family entertainment that you most definitely do not want to miss!!

<http://www.blackjackbands.com/newcountry.htm>

Chicago Dixie Marchers

The **Chicago Dixie Marchers** (parade version) / The **Chicago Dixie Band** (stage version) play Dixieland music in the Chicago tradition (playing Dixieland Jazz as well as Big Band Jazz in the Dixieland style) as well as the New Orleans tradition. The band's versatility allows them to play the Dixieland standards ("When The Saints Go Marching In", "Bill Bailey", and "St. James Infirmary" for example) and then venture into "big band era" swing tunes such as "All Of Me", "In The Mood", and "It Don't Mean A Thing". Every Chicago Dixie Marchers / Chicago Dixie Band show features the music of such Jazz and Dixieland luminaries as Louis Armstrong, Bob Crosby, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Pete Fountain, and countless other Jazz and Dixieland hall of famers. This "Little Big Band" is known as the "Big Little Band" as they average six feet - five inches in height and weigh over 1300 pounds with only five guys!!



<http://associatesband.com/5464/CDB-CDM/>



Motor City Music Machine

The **Motor City Music Machine** is Detroit's premier Motown, R&B, Blues band. Featuring the sweet tenor vocals of "Blue Jay" and the big energy of the Music Machine, MCMM rekindles America's love affair with Motown's golden era of hit music. On any given MCMM show, you will hear from such legendary artists as The Temptations, Smoky Robinson, Marvin Gaye, and Steve Wonder. The songs you will hear are all time classics such as "Soul Man", "Stand By Me", "The Thrill Is Gone", and "When A Man Loves A Woman". This decidedly family-oriented show is an entertaining and enlightening experience. Audiences agree, a Motor City Music Machine performance is a nostalgic and

awe inspiring trip down memory lane. Let's welcome them to Chicago!! www.associatesband.com/5464/MCMM

Chicago Mike

Possessing a powerful voice, dynamic stage presence, and a diverse repertoire of more than 500 songs, **Chicago Mike** has developed a loyal following on two continents. Whether performing solo, with his acoustic duo Big Eyed Beans From Venus, or with his full Electric Beans Rock & Soul Revue, audiences return again and again to enjoy his high-energy live performances. Mike's performances include forays into rock, soul, blues, and country, including compelling originals, classic rock favorites, stirring soul standards, and guilty pleasures!!



http://associatesband.com/5464/Chicago_Mike/



The Jolly Jester

The **Jolly Jester** combines his original songs with old favorites and a huge helping of audience participation to create a show that youngsters just can't get enough of! The Jolly Jester has entertained countless children at parks, schools, and parties. Children of all ages love to sing along with the Jolly Jester and giggle at his Jolly antics. When the Jolly Jester is not entertaining youngsters, he masquerades as Jon Novi, a music teacher and a 1st rate keyboardist, saxophonist, and clarinetist for many Chicago area bands that play for slightly *larger* children!!

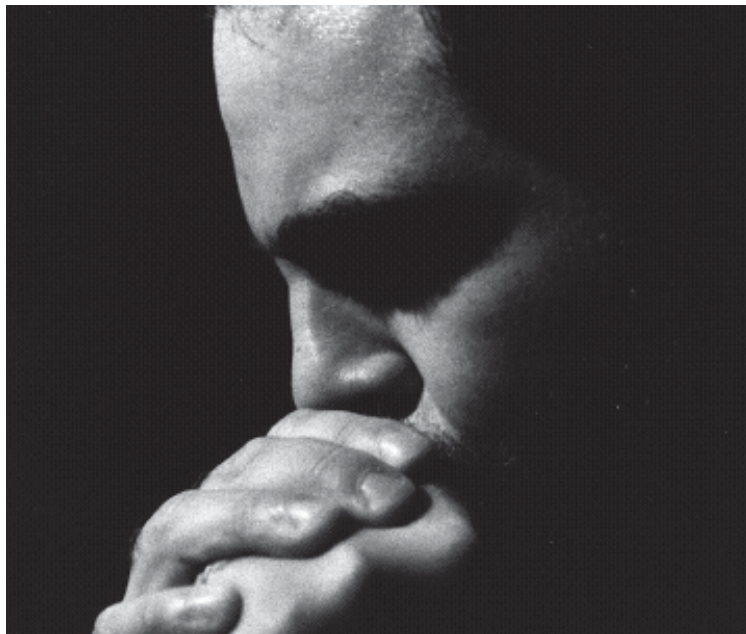
http://associatesband.com/5464/Jolly_Jester/

Maddrum Soñando

Maddrum Soñando or "Maddrum" for short, plays a variety of Tropical, Caribbean and Latin-American Music Styles: Cumbia, Vallenato, Rumba, Mambo, Cha-Cha-Chá, Bolero, Guaguancó, Plena, Timba, Toque, Bomba, Merengue, Bachata, Guajira, Latin Jazz and more!! While you may not be familiar with most of these styles, you might recognize some of the artists that Maddrum covers. Included in a typical show would be music from Tito Puente, Prez Prado, Desi Arnaz, Carlos Santana, and Jimmy Buffett. Tunes range from Oyo Como Va to Black Orpheus to Margaritaville. Maddrum showcases the very best musicians from this genre. The performances are as entertaining as they are educational. A Maddrum show is a great opportunity for music lovers and families to enjoy a very high quality, musical and cultural experience!!



<http://associatesband.com/5464/Maddrum/>



Mr. Blues

The **Mr. Blues Band** puts on a dynamic, exciting show featuring a brilliantly entertaining vocalist, a hard-hitting rhythm section, a sizzling guitarist, and, of course, the renowned harmonica playing of its illustrious leader. Mr. Blues is a veteran performer and bandleader with a unique charm that endears him to an audience. Drawing on the vast experience of both leader and band members, The Mr. Blues Band delivers no-nonsense grooves from all corners of the blues idiom, including traditional and contemporary Blues, R & B, Swing, Jazz, Funk, and Rock. Whether you are a hard core blues fan, or just someone who enjoys a great show, you will love the Mr. Blues Band.

CW Wilde

CW Wilde is FOUR shows in one: Johnny Cash, Country, Rock, *and* Blues!! This talented performer brings Johnny Cash back to life with his deep voice and precision guitar playing. His faithful renditions of songs written and recorded by Johnny include: I Walk the Line, Folsom Prison Blues, Big River and Get Rhythm. Also included in every show are other songs Johnny made famous such as: Ghost Riders in the Sky, Orange Blossom Special, A Boy Named Sue, and Ira Hayes. CW can also do a complete Country Music Review. Artists covered range from Hank Williams, George Jones and Willie Nelson to George Strait, Randy Travis, Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson, Brad Paisley, Tim McGraw, Toby Keith, Keith Urban, Kenny Chesney, Trace Atkins, and Travis Tritt. CW has a rock show that covers all the best tunes from the 50's - 60's, classic rock, and 80's thru today. Elvis, Chuck Berry, Beatles, Stones, Eagles, Doobies, Police, REM, U2, Sugar Ray, Jason Mraz are some of the artists you will hear. Blues greats BB King, Albert King, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Robert Cray and Little Milton are all part of CW's Chicago Blues Experience.



http://www.associatesband.com/5464/CW_WILDE/



Head First

Head First is a Classic Rock & Popular Covers Band, Performing in the Chicagoland Area. The band been performing "OLD SCHOOL" Classic Rock, Popular Cover Songs, Alternative and Blues Covers At Clubs, Parties and Festivals in the Chicagoland Area for over Seven Years. Head First brings decades of experience together to form a High-Energy interactive show. The band's main objective is for EVERYONE to have a Great Time!

http://www.associatesband.com/5464/Head_First/

THE REST OF OUR 2011 ENTERTAINMENT ROSTER

———— *The Blues Less Traveled* ————

These days many bands claim to play the blues, but **The Blues Less Traveled** delivers. They play authentic Chicago Blues the way that only veterans of the Chicago Blues scene can — and that's only the tip of this particular iceberg. "The whole idea behind this band" says bandleader and drummer, Jeff Lisk. "Is to play good music that hasn't already been played to death." They succeed admirably in this endeavor, playing hard-core blues, spiced by a blend of rock, funk, and other surprises that borders on schizophrenic. These guys are the genuine article!

———— *Blue Suede Lou & The Cadillac Ranchers* ————

Blue Suede Lou & The Cadillac Ranchers play the greatest hits of rock 'n roll's golden age with a distinctively vintage sound. This group's hit parade includes songs made popular by Elvis, Dion & the Belmonts, the Everly Brothers and many other idols of the 50's & 60's. The Leader of *this* Pack lives and breathes the music of the 50's & 60's and when Lou drives up to the show in his '61 Bubbletop Chevy, you'll know he is as authentic as they come!!

———— *The Bobby Sanders Orchestra* ————

The Bobby Sanders Orchestra is a tight, dynamic, big band featuring a fantastic vocalist. This big band authentically captures the essence of the pop hits of the 30's, 40's & 50's. While this music is tailor-made for senior citizens, it allows youngsters to go back in time and see what it was like when their grandparents were young! The Bobby Sanders Songbook includes the works of Glen Miller, The Dorsey Brothers, Duke Ellington, and many other big bands and big singers!!

———— *Dee Alexander* ————

Dee Alexander is a veteran performer with a stunning vocal style characterized by Down Beat Magazine as "Ella Fitzgerald with tinges of Billie Holiday". As a teenager, Dee was urged to "go pro" by Fletcher Henderson, her personal friend and mentor. Since then, she has appeared with Gene Ammons, Sonny Stitt, Count Basie, and numerous other jazz greats. Dee is currently living in Chicago and performing at selected festivals, as well as at the intimate clubs that gave birth to her great jazz heritage.

———— *Jimmy Johnson* ————

Jimmy Johnson's smooth professionalism, polished musicianship, and versatility all combine to make him among the most perennially satisfying blues artists in Chicago. His keening tenor is one of the most distinctive voices in all of the blues, his improvisational imagination is among the liveliest on the scene, and he's gathered around him sidemen able to complement his delivery with just the right combination of slick musicianship and blues rawness.

———— *Joel Frankel* ————

Meet **Joel Frankel**. Joel's unique and delightful music program combines his original songs with old favorites and plenty of audience participation. With an array of musical instruments, puppets, and even a touch of magic, Joel creates show that young and old are sure to enjoy. Formerly known as "The Partysaurus", Joel has entertained the children of notable celebs as well as parks full of highly charged neighborhood kids. Big or small, children of all ages will be humming and singing Joel's songs long after the show!!

———— *Kevin Adair* ————

Who does lively comedy while juggling 5 balls, pins, torches, knives, and Jell-O? Who does magic, walks the tightrope, unicycles, stilt walks, twists balloons, eats fire and performs Master of Ceremony duties with humor and flair? Why, he's none other than **Kevin Adair**! Ideal for virtually any event, Kevin can do a five to ninety

minute stage presentation or do table-to-table walk-arounds for the entire length of your event. And if this isn't enough, Kevin also does a variety of characters from Charlie Chaplin to Buddy Holly. Is there anything he doesn't do??

———— ***Mixed Bag*** ————

As the name implies, **Mixed Bag** plays a mixed bag of roots rock, blues, oldies, some newer stuff, and even a little country! The band blends well-loved favorites (Johnny B. Good, Sweet Home Chicago, Twist and Shout, etc.) with unexpected gems and b-side surprises to the delight of audiences everywhere. Mixed Bag features a fun-loving group of experienced musicians who absolutely love it when their crowds have as much fun as they do!!

———— ***Monkee Chow*** ————

The music of **Monkee Chow** is the music of the Baby Boomers; everything from the lite rock of Van Morrison to the psychedelic poetry of The Doors. Even better than a WCKG no repeat weekend, this fine group of musicians brings an exiting new energy to all of the nostalgic favorites that make up their vast repertoire. Monkee Chow and the timeless music they play is the ideal choice for a wide variety of audiences and age groups. Monkee Chow would love to help you make your event a success. Have you had your Monkee Chow today?!

———— ***Roots Vibration/Jah'nya Nas*** ————

Roots Vibration/Jah'nya Nas is one of the finest Reggae bands in the U.S. Their repertoire combines original and traditional songs in the true Rastafarian tradition, with the pop tunes of Bob Marley, Yellow Man, and a host of other Jamaican superstars. Roots Vibration has received the Marrietta award for Chicago's Finest Reggae Band.

———— ***Stephen Lee Rich*** ————

Singing, yodeling, guitar-picking, comedy, and story-telling make **Stephen Lee Rich** a one-man variety show. His music repertoire includes preposterous novelty tunes, traditional folk and country classics, blue grass, and some of today's Top-40 country hits. While Stephen Lee Rich has a comedic style that is in the best traditions of the Grand 'Ole Opry, his story-telling often evokes memories of the great Arlo Guthrie. And when he yodels, you can virtually see the tumbleweeds a-tumblin' 'cross the range!

———— ***Tony Bell*** ————

Tony Bell is an internationally known Jamaican reggae musician who has been entertaining throughout the Caribbean for years. He masterfully combines a splash of soca, calypso, jazz, ska, and R&B to make his sound unique and likable to a whole spectrum of musical tastes. Tony Bell is Chicago's most versatile reggae act.

———— ***The Wabash River Band*** ————

The Wabash River Band is a good-time, down-home Country & Western band, consisting of skilled professional musicians who enjoy working hard to ensure that each show is a fun experience for the entire family! The Wabash River Band boasts a repertoire that ranges from the classics of Hank Williams, to the contemporary hits of Brooks and Dunn, as well as a liberal sampling of old-time rock 'n roll, southern rock, heartland rock, and blues.

———— ***Word Jazz For Juniors*** ————

Inspired by the groundbreaking work of Ken Nordine, **Word Jazz For Juniors** combines children's stories and poems with music, to create an experience of excitement and awe-inspiring wonder. Word Jazz for Juniors breathes new life into classic children's fare while simultaneously introducing them to the world of jazz!

Here is a list of other quality acts available from **Blackjack Productions**
through our various industry contacts

- The Association - Nostalgia
- B.B. King - Blues
- The Bad Examples - Original Rock
- Big Time Sarah - Blues
- Bill Cochran - Elvis Impersonator
- Bill Cosby - Comedy
- Bill McFarland - Jazz
- The Blue Meanies - Original Rock
- Buddy Faith - Big Band
- Buddy Guy - Blues
- Cane Collier - Comedy
- Charlie Love - Blues
- Charmed Life - Original Rock
- The Chicago R&B Kings - R&B
- Chubby Checker - Nostalgia
- Chuck Berry - Nostalgia
- Clyde Stubblefield - R&B
- The Coasters - Nostalgia
- The Committee - Comedy
- CP Love - Nostalgia
- David "Honeyboy" Edwards - Blues
- Debi Defire - Reggae
- Del Shannon - Nostalgia
- Down Boy Down - Original Rock
- The Drifters - Nostalgia
- Eddie Kirkland - Blues
- The Four Freshman - Nostalgia
- Frankie Avalon - Nostalgia
- Gary Puckett - Nostalgia
- Jim Schwall - Blues
- John Kay & Stepenwolf - Nostalgia
- The Junction - Original Rock
- Kamau Bell - Comedy
- The Kingston Trio - Folk
- Larry Moran - The Funny Voice Man
- The Limelighters - Nostalgia
- Lisa Schreg - Harpist
- Little Anthony - Nostalgia
- Lonnie Brooks - Blues
- Lou Cristi - Nostalgia
- Mark Madsen - Vegas Style Jazz
- Matt Webber - Folk / Americana
- Michael Coleman - Blues
- Mickey & the Memories - Oldies
- The Monkees - Nostalgia
- Mount Pilot - Original Rock
- Pat Paulsen - Comedy
- Peter Noon - Nostalgia
- The Platters - Nostalgia
- The Poster Children - Original Rock
- Public i - Variety
- The Recyclers - Variety
- Rodgers String Trio - Variety
- Rokko & June - Variety
- Ronnie Rice - Nostalgia
- Roy Hightower - Blues
- Ruben & The Jets - Variety
- Sam Lay - Blues
- Spencer Bohren - Blues
- Stainless Steel - Steel Drums
- Steve Arvey - Blues / Roots Rock
- Strictly Strings - Classical
- Three Dog Night - Nostalgia
- The Tilden Strings - Variety
- The Tim Barton Trio - Jazz
- Tommy McCracken - Blues
- Tony Bell - Reggae
- The Turtles - Nostalgia
- Wax Lipps - R&B
- Wendy Morgan - Original Rock
- Wynona Judd - Country & Western
- Yabba Griffiths & Traxx - Reggae