

The Carpe Diem Band - "Still before the Storm "

"Still before the Storm CD" Biography and Introduction

By Donald T. Beuke

I can tell you all that I am not. I am not a trained musician, song writer, inspirational melody maker, spiritual guru. Life is a journey and I am somewhere in the middle and (hopefully) not near the destination. My life began so simple, balanced and normal but thru some twisty turns and disenchanting chapters, I escaped life's tragedy by the grace of God and ended up with a few songs to help prepare us all for what lies ahead.

I grew up as the oldest of 5 siblings in Indianapolis Indiana. My Dad is an Ironworker so we led a middle class life. Growing up in the 50s-60s couldn't have been better. The world was so big and I of course too small and too bright eyed to know what I can't do. Black and white TV was poor at the best - 3 stations and 1 fuzzy one. The Three Stooges was my favorite Saturday morning show - 8am prompt. I was a scientist of sorts always tinkering with making radios from old discarded ones. Radio was our way out of "cares and concerns" of adolescence. Being only 10 minutes from the center of downtown, I was exposed to a lot of blues and jazz from the black parts of town which were just across White river. Then came the Beatles which energized an already exploding music scene. In 1965 we lined Kessler Blvd to see them on their way for the first real Rock & Roll Tour in the USA. I was so inspired that Mike Hurst and Bill Prifogle and I formed a band - the Cobras. Instrumentation was basic and a 10 watt amp with 8 inch speaker was "state of art". We played songs like Louie Louie, Wipe Out, Wanna Hold Your Hand and some others which escape me. I really liked blues and jazz but we didn't have the talent for that. FM stereo radio was just coming on the scene and then came the 8 track player which allowed music to be mobile. We thought we were in heaven with new music called British Rock & Roll which was our personal music as teens and not accepted by adults.

Then came the 1970 and I went south to the University of Arkansas since that was just about all I could afford. It was either go to College or take my chances with my low "draft lottery" number. Vietnam was not a popular war because it was not winnable and we knew that. Bob Dylan and Crosby, Sill, Nash & Young were all singing about the war. I looked like a hippie with bell bottoms, granny glasses, shoulder length hair and a head band. "Make love not war", "find yourself", "do your own thing man" and "be cool" became the environment for drugs which soon invaded the college campus 1972-1974. Getting stoned soon gave way to apathy. So forget the pep rallies and school spirit. Life was an experiment in the early 70's. I didn't know where it was headed, but somehow I am going to have to get off the hippie wagon. I was both an Art and Science major - an oil painter and a chemist. Getting stoned didn't affect us in the Fine Arts Department. However, Chemistry requires an astute memory and I was failing fast. I flushed the drugs and regained my memory - thank God. Wendel Murray and I did a guitar duet of acoustic artists like Dylan, CSNY, James Taylor, Carol King, and a new guy Eric Clapton. I am not sure how good we were but we had fun and many of the GDI's connected.

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I discovered girls in 1972-3 and by 1974 when I graduated ended up married and moved to Pittsburgh, PA as a Chemist. I made a whopping \$9,800/year. The next 30 years were wonderful, while raising eventually 3 sons and 2 daughters. In those years I moved from Fayetteville, AR, to Pittsburgh, PA, to Los Angeles, CA, to Houston, TX and then to Bartlesville, OK – my first small town experience. Focus was on family. Obviously, my guitar playing and song writing cheered along for 30 years. I really enjoyed just playing for my kids and myself. I also believed and felt that Heaven was my audience, which sustained me for decades.

In 1991 I was decimated by a divorce. Lost my 5 kids, my job and while nearing bankruptcy, fortunately had no one to turn to but a smoldering relationship with God. I was all alone, turning 40, and with not much hope and definitely no prospects. I searched for some stability, some peace and near the end of my rope I found it in the book of Psalms. Psalms, which are poems of music describing King David's personal relationship with God, saw him through. These songs saw me through 2 years of the excruciating pain of abandonment.

I married again in 1993 and also ended in the tearing of divorce in 2001. However, I was grounded in a personal relationship with God the Father, God the Spirit and God the Son I was able to endure a failed second chance at love.

Love, divorce, abandonment, tearing of my soul, was met equally and even more powerful in my spirit fed by my Creator. This became the backdrop for the songs and lyrics of our first vocal CD "Still before the Storm". (Our first CD Carpe Diem Instrumental Vol. 1 was released in 2003.) I sing about my personal experiences since that's the only experiences I have. The Holy Spirit is my guide, counselor and teacher. He downloads the songs to my heart and mind and I just take notes – that's simple. No formula, no schooling, no science just a simple downloading into a man rejected by many accepted by few. I leaned by failed relationships to follow the humblest servant and greatest teacher by example to all – JESUS.

I have found that these songs are designed to encourage and prepare all people (that means you) to endure the storm ahead of us. I don't know when, where, or how all this worldly conflict will end but I know this music is essential for preparing us for what lies ahead.

Peace, Don Beuke