

Resume and Discography - Kristofer Keltgen

Kris and The Riverbend Dutchmen

Professional Biography

Kris Keltgen has been performing old-time music since the age of four years old when he made regular appearances with his uncle's band "Inside Straight" singing "Apples Peaches Pumpkin Pie" at local service clubs. Encouraged by his family, Kris began playing the drums and later took up the piano. Once out of high school, Kris began playing with "Double Shot", and later the "Plum Crazy" band. At the age of 29, Kris began playing the concertina, an instrument Kris always appreciated and enjoyed. Practicing several hours a day, Kris became proficient at the concertina and formed the Riverbend Dutchmen in 2009 after playing the concertina for only 2 years. Kris now plays the concertina exclusively in addition to singing with the Riverbend Dutchmen.

The band's schedule continues to get busier every year as the band becomes more and more popular. The Riverbend Dutchmen are regular performers at numerous festivals across Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. The band has made multiple appearances at the Minnesota State Fair in addition to many community celebrations and festivals. The band has had numerous nation-wide television appearances on the popular Mollie B Polka Party program on the RFD-TV network, appearances on KEYC-TV's (Mankato) Bandwagon program, and numerous local broadcasts in Minnesota.

The band released his first album in 2012 entitled: "Smile", and released a second album in 2014 entitled: "Partners, Brothers, and Friends". In 2014, the band also released a DVD of the band's performances. In 2012 Kris was awarded a Traditional Folk Arts Grant by the Minnesota State Arts Board to apprentice with Master Artist Karl Hartwich to refine his playing techniques and abilities. This grant was extraordinarily helpful and was successfully completed. The band released its third album "Enjoy Yourself" in July of 2017 – which has received accolades as the most innovative Dutchmen style album in 25+ years.

The band continues to be in high demand at Ballrooms, Festivals, and Oktoberfests across the upper Mid-west. Kris has performed all over the United States and also internationally. Kris's energy and upbeat tempo have proven to be a successful combination for him as he has brought happiness and pleasure to thousands of loyal fans!

Musicians and Hometown

- Kristofer Keltgen (Madison Lake, MN) - Band Leader, concertina, vocals.
- Crystal Malek (Meservey, IA) - Percussion.
- Rick Keane (Pine Island, MN) - Trumpet, flugelhorn, trombone, vocals.
- Jens Jensen (Lomira, WI) - Trumpet, flugelhorn, trombone, vocals.
- Myron Muehlbauer (Chaska, MN) - Tenor sax, clarinet, trumpet.
- Mike Budin (Montgomery, MN) - Tuba, Bass Guitar.
- Jason Dobritz (Rochester, MN) – Tuba, Bass Guitar.
- Jerry Kahle (Cologne, MN) - Tenor sax, clarinet, trumpet.
- Mark Heinz (Onalaska, WI) - Tenor sax, clarinet, piano, trumpet, vocals.
- Steve Moran (New Ulm, MN) - Trumpet, piano, trombone, vocals.

Kris Keltgen Professional Experience

Percussionist	Double Shot Band - Mankato, MN	1996-1998
Keyboardist	Plum Crazy Band - Kasota, MN	1999-2008

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Concertina Artist

Riverbend Dutchmen - Mankato, MN

2009-Present

Discography

- 2006 - Music CD - "Plum Crazy"
- 2012 - Music CD - "Smile"
- 2012 - Video DVD - "Old Time Barn Dance" (For KRSQ Radio).
- 2012 - Music CD - "Treasure Chest of Old Time Music" (For KCHK Radio).
- 2013 - Video DVD - Bandwagon TV Program.
- 2013 - Music CD - "Live Musician Friday Program" (For KCHK Radio).
- 2014 - Music CD - "KDKK Radio Interviews".
- 2014 - Music CD - "Partners, Brothers, and Friends".
- 2014 - Music CD - "Musicians Come and Play" (For KASM Radio).
- 2014 - Video DVD - "Riverbend Dutchmen at Mollie B Polka Party".
- 2014 - Music CD - "How 'Bout That One" - KNUJ 65th Anniversary Album.
- 2017 - Music CD - "Enjoy Yourself"

Grant Work Notable Regular Performances

- 2012 - Folk and Traditional Arts Grant - Minnesota State Arts Board
- Minnesota State Fair - St. Paul, MN: 2011, 2013, 2015
- Clay County Iowa Fair - Spencer, IA: 2015, 2017
- Steele County Free Fair - Owatonna, MN: 2013, 2015
- New Ulm Oktoberfest - New Ulm, MN: 2010 - 2017
- LaCrosse Oktoberfest - LaCrosse, WI: 2012 - 2018
- German Culture Day, Hjemkomst Center - Moorehead, MN: 2015, 2017
- Hobo Days - Britt, IA: 2017
- Kato Ballroom - Mankato, MN: 2009 - 2018
- Pla Mor Ballroom - Glencoe, MN: 2009 - 2018
- Brown County Fair - New Ulm, MN: 2016
- Grand Casino - Hinckley, MN: 2014 - 2015
- Paramount Theatre - St. Cloud, MN: 2016
- Lago Mar Resort - Ft. Lauderdale, FL: 2013
- Itasca County Fair - Grand Rapids, MN: 2016
- 3M Corporation - Minneapolis, MN: 2015
- Swift County Fair - Appleton, MN: 2016
- Bavarian Blast Celebration - New Ulm, MN: 2011 - 2015
- Stump Lake Festival - Lakota, ND: 2013 - 2017
- Turner Hall - Monroe, WI: 2015 - 2018

**Numerous other community festivals, fairs, private parties, corporate engagements, and ballroom performances.*

Band Member Awards and Accolades

- 2009: Steve Moran - Inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame.
- 2012: "Smile Album" - nominated for best polka album by International Polka Association.
- 2016: Jerry Kahle - Inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame.