

## IDIOT for October 2011

### COMBOBOB

#### **Q.1. What is your real name (optional) or the name you would like to be called?**

Bob

#### **Q.2. What is your age group? 20 - 30. 30 - 40. 40 - 50. 50 - 60. Over 60.?**

40 - 50

#### **Q.3. How did you get started in music?**

My earliest musical memories are singing along to the radio as a kid (1960's). Mostly the Beatles and other Britpop bands. And I remember being the "Little Drummer Boy" in the class Christmas production when I was about 6. My parents got me into the "recorder" class in year 6 (about 10yo) and that year I started learning the recorder and cello. It turned out to be a good combination because it taught me to read both treble and bass clef music and I started learning piano about then too. In year 7 I started to teach myself guitar and continued the cello.

In High School my interest in the bass started and as I had been reading bass clef I started to teach myself the bass guitar and stopped playing the cello. After that I just got an office job and played my bass in bands at night. After about 10 years of playing the bass guitar I bought a double bass and started having lessons on that.

I then got retrenched from my office job and went to Uni to study a Bachelor of Music on classical bass. That was a great experience. Playing bass in orchestras, musicals, operas...the whole range of places the instrument can be used. Practising for hours a day and getting my reading to a high standard. I couldn't find enough regular jobs to feed the family though so I completed a Graduate Diploma in Education and qualified as a music teacher. I spent some time teaching in London and when I returned couldn't find any teaching work here so returned to office administration.

Now I am back to an office day job, playing my bass guitar in an Eagles cover band for fun and writing and recording my own songs at home on computer.

#### **Q. 4. Did you see your musical career running parallel to Harry in Dire Straits' "Sultans Of Swing"**

Um, this is going to sound stupid but I don't know the story behind that song

*And Harry doesn't mind if he don't .....make the scene*

*he's got a daytime job...he's doin alright.*

#### **Q.5. Can you list your top 3 music genres?**

I mostly taught myself bass by playing along to Led Zep and the Brit Rock / Art Rock bands of the 70's. Later I got into softer, vocal harmony music. I have probably developed a slightly country feel now from playing in the Bald Eagles.

#### **Q.6. Of the three, which do you associate with mostly?**

Anything I can sing a harmony line to. Pop I guess.

#### **Q.7. What is your talent? Don't be modest.**

Playing bass and backing vocals

#### **Q.8. Since you list backing vocals as one of your talents, I wonder why you don't try lead vocals?**

Well, I do sing lead on my own songs but I don't get too many other offers...

**Q.9. Of the talents you have not listed, which would you like to do most?**

Being a bass player, when I started recording my own material I found it hard to get lead instruments into my songs. So I started experimenting with slide guitar and that is something I would like to explore more. Song writing and home recording are areas I have been working on for the last few years.

**Q.10. On a humorous note (or maybe not)? I notice that musicians who play cello are generally female. Would you agree and would you have any comments on why this is so?**

I don't necessarily agree with that...tell that to YoYo Ma. At the age I started playing it I was growing very quickly. I was almost 6' tall when I started high school and have large hands. I think the cello was perfect for me at the time and the bass for the same reasons.

**Q.11. If you were offered a job playing classical music (say cello or stand up bass) in a full orchestra, would you be interested and would you enjoy doing that?**

I would love it but I haven't got the chops any more. It would take a lot of work (years probably) to get back to a high enough standard to even be offered a gig like that. So realistically, that isn't going to happen. I am content to keep playing music I like to play as an amateur. Playing live for me now is as much about the camaraderie with the other muso's as it is about the music.

**Q.12. Have you dabbled in production of music video and, if so, can you link us to anything you may have done?**

I have put much of my music on hold this year learning about video editing and have completed a promo DVD of 10 songs for the Bald Eagles, some of which may be viewed on our Facebook Fan Page. I also have a You tube page where I have several short music videos and a few instructional videos on using Kristal Audio Engine. And I have my own web site <http://combobob.com> where I have different pages for my songs and videos, photo's and links.

**Q.13. From the list of members you know, who interests you most and why?**

**(Doesn't have to be because you think they own the best talent)**

I find the other members to be an eclectic mix of talents and styles. I probably associate mostly with Dino, as he has a laid back style and great harmonies.

**Q.14. Have you ever collaborated with another member or members on a recording.?**

Yes, several. I have either provided a bass part or in some cases taking over the full production...(sorry Al, a grade)

**Q.15. Which of your colabs did you enjoy most and why?**

I was fortunate enough to get (take) total control of Onetrackminds song "What's the World Coming To" for a Kristal Forum Challenge and I spent some time negotiating with Al on the parts I would do. I really liked the end result. It has his catchy song style with a Bob twist...he even let me leave the slide guitar solo in!

**Q.16. Have you a favourite mix from our band room? (Could be one of your own.)**

I haven't been listening to much other music lately. I have been going over my own work trying to improve it.

**Q.17. What is your ambition both musically and personally?**

My priorities are supporting my family, so my personal ambitions are to keep working my way up in my day job, pay off the house, cumulate some super'. Musically, I want to continue to develop as a writer, (home) producer and player.

**Q 18. Do you belong to any other indie websites and will you name them?**

I am a moderator at the Kristal Forum and keep a few songs on Mixposure. I am actually scaling down my on-line activities and trying to focus back on my playing and recording.

**Q.19. Where do you see TTM in 5 years time? What role can you play in it's development?**

As I said, I love the eclectic mix of personalities and interests here. We help each other in a friendly and unselfish way and I would hope that others out there with similar interests would come in and join the party. I have started helping out as an Admin on the TTM KAE site and am happy to help JOOM out in any way I can to ease his load.

**Q.20. Who is your next choice for the IDIOT?**

Has GC Downie been and idiot yet?

**GC Downie has not had the dubious pleasure of these interviews but I will ask him. Thanks Bob for the insight into your life. I enjoyed the trip and I'm sure the members will also.**