

## IDIOT for December 2011

### PAPA G

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

Gerald, but my grandchildren started calling me Papa G a few years back and the name seems to have stuck.

#### **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?**

I think I've always enjoyed singing. I remember singing at churches, community events, and outdoor festivals as early as 5 years old. Mother played the accordion, two sisters and I did the singing, brother played the guitar. Usually it was I who sang harmony. Because I could.

After a while, the older siblings moved on to other vices and interest faded. I sang in the church and school choirs in my early teens. Several years go by, and in the midst of a pretty destructive party phase, I managed to get hooked on karaoke. Memories from this part of my life are somewhat hazy, but when it cleared up a bit I was homeless, divorce papers in hand, and the only possessions I had were the clothes on my back, and the keys to a truck I didn't own any more. So, I start over. Its a few years before I started singing again occasionally, strum a guitar from time to time, (over the years I'd learned a few chords).

Then I met the most perfect woman. She's smart, beautiful, the mother of my children, and she is the driving force behind everything good that I am. All the crap I shouldn't do I do perfectly well all on my own. Honey encouraged me to sing more and so in 2006 I started buying a little gear, a Behringer mixer and interface, bundled with Kristal, Kristal forum, which is how I eventually found TTM.

#### **Q.4 Can you list your top 3 music genres?**

Country, Classic Rock, and a little bit of everything else.

#### **Q.5 Of the three, which do you associate with mostly?**

Country

#### **Q.6 What is your talent? Don't be modest.**

Not sure if I've mentioned singing. I write some songs that I, and maybe a few others, like.

#### **Q.7 Of the talents you have not listed, which would you like to do most?**

Fly. Actually I've got the flying down to an art, it's the landings I still struggle with...lol Seriously though, to actually be able to play the guitar.

#### **Q.8 Yes we've read about your attempts to fly from high buildings. Does your day job entail much roof work?**

It used to. Recently my career has changed to something a little more administrative. Probably won't do much flying any more with both feet on the ground...

#### **Q.9 I agree with you.(Q6). Singing is your talent and I am not alone in recognising that your voice resembles a certain 'red haired' country artist of quality, namely Willie Nelson. Is this coincidence or have you worked on it?**

Too funny, Dave. I chuckle every time I hear that. It is merely coincidence. If anything, I've worked at not sounding like Willie.

#### **Q.10. I note, that like a few of us, you have had some trauma in the past but you are now, happily, over that. Do you think that these life experiences make for good song writing and or**

**singing. What feelings do you get when doing either?**

For me, I think real life is the best source for writing material. I need to have a personal connection with a concept for me to build it into a song. If that connection is missing it becomes nothing more than a bunch of words. Usually, if I don't feel it, I don't write it. And I don't push myself to finish writing songs any more for that reason. They end up being just a bunch of extra lyrical fill to get 3 minutes.

As a singer, that same connection is important to me. I believe, with a little practice, anyone can sing any song. Granted, some may do it better than others, but, I think the one who believes in the lyrics, has made that personal connection with the passion in the concept of the lyrics is ultimately the best song. It comes down to personal truth. You won't sell it if you don't believe it. I still think its OK to try anyway.

**Q.11. Would you tell us a little more about your stage work? I know that you have recently done a couple of gigs.**

Not much to tell, really. I played and sang along with my backing tracks at a few outdoor shows this summer. It seems it was received well enough; I got a few offers for paid gigs.

The stage can get pretty big and lonely, when you're a one man band, trying to sell yourself to the people who would rather watch a real live band.

**Q.12 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)**

Each member has got that unique "something" that no one else has. I try to learn from everyone.

**Q.13 Have you ever collaborated with another member or members on a recording.**

I've done a little something with almost everyone here.

**Q.14 Which of your colabs did you enjoy most and why?**

I've enjoyed all of them the most, but to choose only one..."Cries of War" with Joom.

**Q.15 Have you a favourite mix from our band room? (Could be one of your own.)**

I don't think I'm qualified to comment on any mix, but to choose a favourite song from the band room - I'm Going Home - Dino Wodini. Nobody does harmonies like Dino.

**Q.16 What is your ambition both musically and personally?**

Musically- To keep it real. To sing and play songs that touch people's lives. If only for that moment.

Personally- Can a man ever become a good enough husband? I'm gonna try!

**Q 17 Do you belong to any other indie websites and will you name them?**

KAEF and TTM KAE. Mostly I just poke my head in for a quick look. TTM is home for me.

**Q.18 Where do you see TTM in 5 years time? What role can you play in it's development?**

Difficult to say what will happen in 5 years but I hope it grows without losing the sense of belonging that one gets here.

**Q.19 Who is your next choice for the IDIOT?**

Jim50

**Thanks Gerald for you honest and interesting answers. Another enjoyable interview with one**

**of TTM's most popular talents.**