

IDIOT for July 2011

SMURF

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

I have gone by Smurf for so long I never answer to it any more!

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

50....ish

Q.3 How did you get started in music?

I had always beat on stuff around the house (or so Mom always said) so when I was 10 1/2 she bought me a drum set & put up with me learning to play them. At 13 I played my first pro (paying) gig at a local bar (I looked much older). By 16 I was on the road with my first "real" band for 3 months....after that it was all down hill for the next 40 years! LOL

(as a side note I look back and see all the sacrifices that Mom made for us kids & am just amazed....we take SO much for granted when we are young & invincible don't we....)

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

Pre 1990's Rock/Southern Rock

Pre late 1980's Country

Smooth Jazz

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

Rock

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

Being decent at multiple instruments and helping folks.....really

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

Write stronger lyrics

Q.8 I keep seeing: 'The JCS project' around your posts. Please tell us what the initials stand for and what it's all about.

Well, that is a double meaning...it is my fathers initials, and also stands for "Jesus Christ Saves" depending on the track it can stand for either one at this point in time!

Q.9 Where did you learn your mixing skills and how long did it take to get to the level you are at today?

I have always had a drive to learn the board, all those knobs just fascinated me early on. After my "first tour" I took up running a small Sunn 8 channel mixer for a local band, and just kept at it off and on over the years, tho playing was my love. It has only been in the last 5 years or so that I started getting serious about the "proper way" to mix & use effects....so I would say it has taken most of my life to get as bad as I am now! LOL

Q.10 From the list of members you know, who interests you most and why?

(doesn't have be because you think they own the best talent)

Tough one.....I would say Combobob because he writes some pretty intricate stuff.

Q.11 Have you ever collaborated with another member or members on a recording.

Yes, a lot!

Q.13 Which of your colabs did you enjoy most and why?

The Old Goat tribute song is the one that sticks out in my mind, if I remember correctly it was the first colab to be focused on a member!

Q 14. I don't remember that one, I guess it was from another site (KAE -maybe?) But I do remember a tribute to you from members of TTM, any other comments on that one Smurf?

Yes that was from the gud 'ol KAE forum. As for the one that was done for me....

It still blows my mind, even today....it was a shock for me to be thought of enough to have a group of folks do that.....it is a HUGE honour and at the same time a very humbling experience.

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

Not really, they all have their strengths & weaknesses, including my own.

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

Musically to just keep playing, personally to get back into writing & finishing original tunes.

Q 17. Any thoughts on another band, maybe jazz or lounge music?

I would love to get together with some folks to play straight ahead rock or classic country-jazz standards, but in my area musicians are few & far between. The 5 or so that I have met & jammed with the last year were more into the party than the music....so I guess for now any band will have to be cyber-based! LOL

Q 18. A cyber-based band? Do you ever see the possibility of such a band evermaking it ?

Hmm....another tough question!

"Making It" is such an outdated term any more IMHO....there are 100's of bands selling tons of product as indie artists thru sites such as Facebook, MySpace, and CD Baby that you never hear of....does that make them "un-successful" because they are not household names or on the cover of Rolling Stone (or whatever mag is "the one" at this point in time...I am out of touch!!!! LOL). If you are supporting your music thru your music, making a living at it, then you are successful in my book.

I feel that to be successful in this age of Internet promotion, an economic downturn, all you really need is to sell at a comfortable level to keep yourself afloat....again, this is all IMHO, and I say this because most everything you here on radio-see on tv-grab from the Internet that is considered "hot" is just a re-hash of what is "hot" at the moment, originality is not a necessity in a music world of "safe" & plastic lady ga-ga's...you know, what the entertainment industry tells us is "successful".

Now after that long way around, yes, I feel that an Internet based band, where members are scattered all over the globe, could be successfully in a monetary sense. All it would take is what it always has, strong songs that say something to a group of like-minded folks, and the will to work hard to put out the best product that you can. When I say this last part I am NOT talking about the most polished-best sounding audio in the newest eye-catching packaging, I mean that everyone has put 110% into the songs, really believe in them....that comes across no matter how the track sounds, people know an honest presentation.

Some of the "hits" from the 50's thru 70's had some pretty glaring production problems...out-of tune guitars, dropped drum hits, clicks-bumps-bad edits.....a close listen to our favorites with open ears will find a multitude of "audio sins", but the songs themselves are so good that they "flaws" never really bother us.

I hope that book answers part of the question!! LOL

Q 19 Do you belong to any other indie websites and will you name them?

The main one after TTM is the Musicians Collaboration Studio, It always has something going on to jump into. I have had some good collabs over there, and been rejected a ton of the also! LOL The advantage is that there is a lot of variety to choose from. Overall it is the most active one on the net that I still hit.

A recent one is Musicians Together, which is still in it's infancy. I have not really had a chance to work with anyone so far, but I keep checking in, just in case... The only other one that is still semi-active is the Christian Songwriter's Network, tho it has slowed down a lot over the last year on the collab side.

A large problem is that so many of the old ones have shut down as the "old guard" has left them, or because they have become too much labour to do any more, which is a shame....but I fully understand, it takes a LOT of time & energy just to keep things updated, let alone dealing with a ton of ID10T's on a daily basis BESIDES the ones in real life! LOL

Q.20 Where do you see TTM in 5 years time? What role can you play in it's development?

I see it as THE place to hang out, collaborate with lots of folks, trade info, and just enjoy. All I can do is promote it as much as I can & be an active part of it.

Q.21 Who is your next choice for the IDIOT?

A. agradeleous

Thank you very much Smurf for a very interesting interview. I especially liked your answer to Q 18. I know the other members who read this interview will love it too.