

THE MASON RACK BAND

Mason Rack originates from Southport on Queensland's sunny Gold Coast. With his outstanding vocals, guitar and Weissenborn lap slide guitar, Mason delivers high impact performances to audiences everywhere he and his band appears. Mason is a local artist with incredible talent and passion for his music! Together with his band, Mason feels most comfortable playing blues, alt-rock and original live music.

Mason was born in the Southport Hospital, Queensland, and started performing at the tender age of 6 playing to charmed audiences with his dad. His father BILLY RACK was a multi-talented jazz musician, an awesome muso and all round legend. Mason said "he was the nicest man I ever knew, a lovely guy, I've always been around his music". Mason was raised on jazz, rock and surfing. He looked set to have a career in surfing, but the lifestyle he was living had other ideas. After a visit to re-hab, music was the saving grace...

His influences include: Tom Waits, Tex Perkins, Jeff Buckley, Ben Harper, Violent Femmes, Dave Mathews, etc. Songwriter/performer Mason Rack is a natural entertainer, from a tapestry of slide guitar, deep broken glass vocals and story fuelled blues rock. In his own words "I just want to bring the best, meanest, horniest, rockin', swampy, smokey music to my audiences" "It is a show, more than just the music, it's a visual experience too".



He has played alongside artists like Phil Emmanuel, Tex Perkins, Lisa Hunt, Renee Geyer, Xavier Rudd and Jimmy Barnes. Invited to the 2008 Adelaide International Guitar Festival, and again for 2010. In March, they supported Jimmy Barnes and this year also playing at The Byron Bay Bluesfest, Great Noosa Camp Out, Cairns Blues Festival, Saltwater Festival, Blues On Broadbeach, as well as many more, plus another tour of festivals in Canada.

Mason's guitar chops and performing skills are recognized Australia wide. Mason's shows are spell-binding! Canada festivals request him for return visits. His Australian fests include Woodford Folk Festival, Blues On Broadbeach, Mitchell Creek Blue's Festival, East Coast Blues & Roots at Byron Bay, Australian Blues Music Festival-Goulburn, "The best new blues/roots act ever seen" - Toyota National Gympie Muster.

He pumps out his music and people can't help but stare.... Mason Rack excels on Weissenborn lap slide and "Marilyn" the blonde guitar, to pour out tunes influenced by blues, southern stomp, swamp, classic rock and alternative music. Their music is a collection of rock/blues/roots with flashes of Tom Waits and Hendrix, melting towards Ben Harper, with screaming slide, big bass, big drums, big interactive show, and, wait for the surprise in the latest performances - a drum trio/duel thing involving all three band guys in a moving percussion display - it's stunning. Hard to describe - see it for yourself! ... Mason also does this drum thing in the audience, where he plays on the tables, chairs, walls, bar etc, only to return to the stage to duel it out with apocalyptic drummer extraordinaire, Mick Sippell,. It is a must-see thing!



Mick Sippel

PERCUSSION / BACKING VOCALS

Michael "Mick" Sippel is a drumming powerhouse with over 20 years of experience in the music industry. He's played everything from blues to rock to country and pop, and has worked as a freelance drummer, multi instrumentalist, and music tutor in both commercial and community settings. Mick's talent on the drums is so impressive that some say he can make a triangle sound like a full-blown symphony! When he's not busy perfecting his craft, you'll find Mick sharing his musical wisdom with aspiring musicians. He's taught students of all ages and skill levels, and has a knack for making even the most complex rhythms seem simple. But don't let his serious side fool you - Mick's also got a great sense of humor. He's been known to crack jokes mid-performance and even sneak in a drum solo or two when the band isn't looking. So if you're in need of a talented drummer and a good laugh, look no further than Michael "Mick" Sippel, the man who can make music magic Down Under.

Vini Melo



BASS / GUITAR / PERCUSSION / BACKING VOCALS

Vinícius Melo is a live and studio musician, arranger and producer.

Graduated from CDMCC in Tatuí - SP (2006), worked as a music teacher at IGB Music School (affiliated with Souza Lima College & Berklee) in Franca - SP from 2009 to 2015. Attended several workshops and training courses hosted by musicians such as Egberto Gismonte, Hamilton de Holanda, Arismar do Espírito Santo, Filó Machado, Yamandú Costa, Laércio de Freitas, André Marques, Zé Barbeiro, Cléber Carrapicho, DuoFel, Daniel Maudonnet, Vitor Alcântara, Pedro Ramos, Ary Piassarollo, Douglas Fonseca, Zé Eduardo Nazário, Paulo Braga, Alexandre Cunha, Arthur Maia, among others. Recorded albums and DVDs alongside Arthur Maia, Chico Oliveira, Alexandre Cunha, Diego Figueiredo, Alex Reis, Alexandre Piu, Beto Sápio, Eduardo Machado and others. Worked as a sideman on cultural festivals, such as the Savassi Jazz Festival in 2009 - Belo Horizonte - MG, Femucic 2010 - Maringá - PR, Book Fair in 2011 and 2013 - Ribeirão Preto - SP, Book Fair 2013 - Franca - SP. In 2011, toured with a project funded by the Cultural Secretariat of the State of São Paulo - ProAC - "The History of the Brazilian Bass", from the proponent Eduardo Machado.

Besides the authorial and cultural work experience, has always worked as a freelancer for different artists and groups on various events, such as wedding parties, proms, social ballrooms, pub gigs and Carnival's "Trios Elétricos". In 2012, participated in an international tour that resulted in the recording of the album

"Eduardo Machado Quintet - Live in Birds Eye" in Basel, Switzerland, where they returned in 2014 and also toured Germany. Since 2016 Vini has been traveling as a sideman accompanying artists from all over the world such as Christine Andreas (USA), Jane Cho (AUS), Jonathan Johnston (IRL), Robin North (ENG), Vov Dylan (AUS), Michael Montgomery (AUS), Sally Jones (ENG), Ray Solaire (ENG), David Nevin (CAN), Camille Mesnard (FRA), Lukas Poost (USA), Alan Kavanagh (IRL), Craig Owen (ENG), Rob Lewis (ENG), The Opera Girls (ENG), Clare Langan (ENG), Dave Christian (ENG), Phillip Browne (ENG), Byron Johnston (USA), Gary Guthman (USA), David Howarth (ENG), Bernadett Nyari (HUN), Samantha Ivey (ENG), John Bowles (AUS), Francisco Yglesia (PAR), Gary Abuthnot (IRL), Alberto Sanchez (USA), Dominick Allen (SCO), Jeri Sager (USA), Stephen Clarke (SCO), Marien Meringolo (USA), Lovena B. Fox (CAN), Jamie Michael Stewart (ENG), Coleen Willianson (USA), Shirley Dominguez (URU), Mark Newsome (WAL), Doug Cameron (USA), Brenda Cochrane (SCO), Steve Stevens (ENG), Oli Nez (IRL), Martina Parenti (ITA), Hinsetzen Pause (GER), Michelle Murlin (USA), Chris Burke (USA), Mason Rack (AUS).

Mason says "I can remember the first song I wrote. I had just broken up with a girl and wanted to express just how I felt in a song, I don't play it much these days but I still like it, and still remember how it felt to write it.....A lot of songs have come from that space of hurt and heart break, for me it seems the pain helps to draw deep feelings, words, energy, momentum, and though heartbroken I feel relief to have expressed myself, to have unloaded the pain, to have voiced it, to have addressed it , and then to share it. Now though, my songs are not always about her leaving him or pain, today I like writing woven lyrics of life and success in hardship. Also, I like writing about a subject and bring it to life by calling it [the subject] she, or him...the connection between things in general and me [a human being] are very relevant, and some songs are just fantasy...I love getting lost in fantasy. REALLY..."

Mason Rack Band has 5 cd releases - *Night Train, Show Me Yours, Join Hands, Big Bad Machine*, - with award winning song "Dust" as heard on JJJ... and hot off the press: *Live In Canada* - double cd.

"Seen Her B4" is in finals for ISC Int'l Songwriting Competition in 2010 and Mason won the 2007 Q-Song Award "Best Blues & Roots Song" for "Dust" together with Sydney legend Steve Balbi.

Having just released the new double cd "Live In Canada" -from their third festivals visit across the pond in late 2009, it's time to bring out some new songs for a play - and Mason Rack Band "guarantees satisfaction" as one of the hardest working bands around.

"I think I've grown up a little bit in the music world. When I first started off, I was playing with my dad, playing drums and stuff, but then I got to my teens and my early 20s where I was in a heavy metal band. Eventually," he continues, "I came around to the blues and other music that's kind of in that genre, or a sister to that genre. I think it's a natural progression to get to that sort of place where there is a much wider demographic of people that like that music. We love it because we get parents bringing their kids, and kids bringing their parents to it. We like that kind of thing -- we love it."

New Release Jan 2010

"This recording really captures the energy of the band, and with top quality audio production to match. It makes you feel like you are there in the audience, and wish you were" John Ward. Only Blues Music.

THE MASON RACK BAND



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