

# Join the Band

June 2005

Join the Band/John Mizenko 818-345-8950

Summer

## Special Interest Articles:

- ♫ Private Lessons
- ♫ Are you in tune?
- ♫ Rhythm...Can you feel it?
- ♫ Quest for Tone
- ♫ Tommy can you hear me?

Did you know?  
Join the Band  
Band Members have  
performed over  
700 songs!  
Check out the song list on  
the web site.

JointheBandToday.com

### Music Funnies

- 1) How do you make a duck into a soul singer?
- 2) What was the epitaph on the blues player's gravestone?
- 3) How many guitar players does it take to change a light bulb?

See page 4

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## Summer Session Starts June 27th!

We have our regular ensembles available and special classes and clinics for the summer:

**Improvisation Workshop** – Get beyond “licks” create melodies when you solo.

**Rhythm Workshop** – Learn how to count rhythms and apply them to your playing. Rhythm is one of your most important skills. Become a groove monster.

**Singers' Performance Workshop** – Singers pick your own songs and rehearse with advanced JTB Band Members!

**Music Theory** – Learn the language of music. We will cover all of the major keys.

**Guitar Effects Workshop** – Learn how to use those “toys”... chorus, wha, flanger, distortion, compression etc...

**Guitar Chord Clinic (Beginner)** Basic chords and techniques to get you started.

**Guitar Chord Clinic** - For the experienced guitarist who needs work on his or her chord forms... You know who you are! ☺

**Special Clinics** – To be announced!

### JTB CALENDAR

#### Summer Session Starts June 27<sup>th</sup>

Summer Session Concert Date:

\*Weekend of August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

#### Halloween Session Starts August 30<sup>th</sup>

(Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> is Labor Day will be rescheduled)

Halloween Session Concert Date:

\*Weekend of October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Holiday Session Starts October 24<sup>th</sup>

Holiday Session Concert Date:

\*Weekend of December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

\*(Concert dates subject to change subject depending on how many bands are playing)

**818-345-8950**

**Come to our 42<sup>nd</sup> Concert at Cozy's  
June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 6pm  
see page 2**

## JTB Studios are ready to rock!

My ambitious predictions for having the studios ready in January were a little premature. I'll spare you the details. However, I am happy to say that the end is in sight and all of the studios should be completed by mid June. I want to thank everyone who has helped me get the JTB studio ready. **Todd Homchick, Carlos, Juan, Scott Gilbertson, Miguel, Greg Clark, Scott Bern, George Hunter, Michael Gunderson, Rick Calderilla, Brian Fulkerson, Tony Geraci, and everyone else. (Sorry, if I missed your name)**

Studio A and B will be available for rehearsals with a complete back line of professional equipment.

Our smaller studios will be available to rent as practice and teaching rooms.

## Busy Year... so far!

Since January we have seen a big increase in our enrollment of bands. Our current session has 21 bands! This is the first time we've had to split the concert up into two performance dates. **Come to the show!** Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:30pm to 6pm at **Cozy's** in Sherman Oaks! I want to especially thank **Ryan Gelber** for his help with teaching and doing miscellaneous work for me. You Rock Ryan!

*“There are fewer pleasures in life greater than doing that which so many people fear and avoid. Learn, practice, perform... You'll be amazed at the effect it will have on you!”*  
JTB Band Member Marshall Waller (See Student Spotlight pg. 5)

*"JTB was my first experience in playing music with other musicians. It has been such a valuable experience for me! I have had such a great time and I have learned so much. I can't wait to sign up again!"* **Lisa Shankar** JTB Drummer

### JTB Numbers

We've had over 379  
Band Members  
Learned over 700 songs  
We've had 461 Bands

168 Guitarists  
62 Drummers  
40 Bass Players  
17 Saxophonists  
38 Keyboardists  
36 Vocalists  
6 Trumpeters  
1 Trombonist  
1 Flutist  
1 Violinist  
1 Bongo Boy  
1 Mr. Tambourine Man  
3 Harmonica "Jammers"  
8 Kazoo Maestros

We've performed  
42 Concerts!

*"John, I've never had so much fun  
in my life!"*

#### **Vincent Nelson**

14-year-old JTB  
Rock and Roll Guitarist

*"I couldn't have done as well  
without you and the JTB players"*

#### **Justin Kopczyński**

Jazz Guitarist

*"Join the Band helped me. Books  
and tutorials only go so far. There  
is no better learning tool than  
experience."*

#### **Tad Piecka**

JTB Guitarist and Drummer  
Currently enrolled at the Berklee  
College of Music

## Private lessons... What should you get out of them?

Learn the fundamentals.

All the great teachers I know focus on them. What are they?

1. **Rhythm** - You have to learn how to count time with a metronome and keep a steady beat at a variety of tempos.
2. **Technique** - Holding your instrument correctly and playing in a relaxed manner will allow you to play more musically and efficiently. Remember to BREATHE.
3. **Learn to read music** - Learning to read music will speed up everything. You will be able to learn songs, scales, chords, and exercises much faster and with less effort than someone that doesn't read. The ensembles with music readers learn their songs much faster and easier than the non-reading bands.
4. **Ear Training** - Learn how to recognize and sing pitches and rhythms. Like music reading this is often neglected. Remember, music is a "hearing" art. When you understand what you are hearing you can learn music faster and communicate easier with your fellow musicians.

## Cozy's has hosted 21 "Join the Band" Concerts!

Most of you playing in the program are well acquainted with Cozy's.

It has been our home for our concerts for the last four years. Steve (the owner) has been very supportive of JTB and our shows run very smoothly at his club.

Did you know that Cozy's books the best blues and R&B bands in Los Angeles? Treat yourself to a great night out.

Cozy's is located at 14058 Ventura Blvd in Sherman Oaks.

You should also go to Cozy's for the Monday Open Jam. John Marx is the host for the evening. John is probably the best blues guitarist in Los Angeles. Listening to him play is like taking a lesson in how to play the blues.

**Our next JTB concert** is Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:30pm to 6pm on both days! Don't miss the fun!

## Teacher Spotlight – David Ferguson

**David Ferguson** is a man best described as a jack of all trades. The good news is he's master of just about all of them. Equally at home playing Chet Atkins style, classical, swing, country or jazz, he's been a featured bluegrass guitarist with Tom Corbett for the last 5 years.

In 1986 Hal Leonard published David's first book, *Country Fingerpicking*, and followed the next year with *Fingerstyle Blues*. David is currently working on a series of fingerstyle books demonstrating his considerable skill as an arranger and spotlighting the best composers of the 30s and 40s.

He has been a very popular teacher for the last three decades and divides his time between teaching, playing with the Tom Corbett band and performing as a solo guitarist.

David has been playing with singer/songwriter Robert Tepper (Into The Night) since 2004 and the two of them have just completed a CD of Swing tunes titles, "Boppin' With Suzie."

I am very pleased to have David teaching at the JTB studios. If you are interested in lessons with David call 818-345-8950 and I will get you scheduled with him right away.

## Are you in tune? Are you sure?

Tuning. It sounds so simple, so basic. Then why do you sound out of tune after you “just tuned up?”

Make sure your instrument is set up properly. A poorly adjusted instrument will not tune well.

Music is a “hearing art.” Your eyes have nothing to do with pitch. Using a digital tuner is great for speed but it doesn’t train your ear to hear the notes. Many times I’ve watched (listened) to students tune up with a digital tuner only to tell them they are not in tune. The response is always the same... “But I just tuned up!” They are using the tuner incorrectly and are not using their ears to listen to the pitch. I can hear an out of tune string right away. It doesn’t matter that you “just tuned up”. Out of tune is out of tune.

I’ve seen many frustrated faces on students using digital tuners. Inexperienced musicians always blame the tuner. “Let’s cut the baloney.” Digital tuners work if you use them correctly. They only fail if they are defective (very rare), the battery is low or dead (does happen), or human error (most likely). Ask your teacher for help in using a digital tuner correctly.

Try these exercises:

Can you sing any note you play?

Play random notes on your instrument and sing the pitch.

Sing the scales and melodies you are practicing.

Practice ear training exercises with your teacher. He or she can help you determine if you are hearing pitch correctly. Ear training and rhythm training (see article below) are the most fundamental music skills for any musician.

## Rhythm...Can you feel it? Can you count it?

“I don’t have to keep time...that’s the drummer’s job.” This is absolutely the silliest thing I hear students say. Neither the drummer nor any other band member can make you play in time if you have no concept of tempo yourself.

Everyone in the band is equally responsible (including you singers!) for developing rhythm/timing skills. Let me repeat that... *Everyone in the band is equally responsible (including you singers!) for developing rhythm/timing skills.*

Do you have a metronome? Do you use it? Why not? ... Sorry, no excuse will do here. ☺

Practice your lessons with a metronome. Don’t rely on playing with the recording. Although playing with the recording is great practice you don’t want to “lean” on it to keep tempo. You can easily make tempo mistakes and just play when you find your place.

Using a metronome will clarify your timing. Ask your private teacher for help with different techniques for practicing with one. If you use it steadily for even just one week you will notice an improvement in your timing.

## The Quest for TONE!

Why doesn’t my instrument sound like yours?

The best way to improve your tone is to improve your technique. Invest some time in private lessons. Your tone is like your fingerprint. Most of the tone you produce comes from your hands. The way you play, (posture, technique, attitude, etc...) influences your tone more than a new instrument, amp, effect etc...

I’ve had many students ask me to play their guitars. They are always quite surprised by the sound of their guitar when I play it. “Why doesn’t it sound like that when I play it?” is a common response. The answer is simple. “Because, YOU are playing it.” If I give them my guitar to play it will sound like them and not me.

Improve your technique and your tone will just get better. Listen to your favorite players. Can you identify them by sound only? Most likely you can. I can identify students the same way in the ensemble classes by just listening to their sound.

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## Join the Band How to find us.

JTB Studios are at:  
14801 Oxnard Unit A  
Van Nuys, 91411

Send Correspondence to:  
Join the Band  
PO Box 18943  
Encino, CA 91416-8943

Phone:  
818-345-8950  
John Mizenko

Email: [Funmusic@  
JointheBandToday.com](mailto:Funmusic@JointheBandToday.com)

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### We're ON the Web!

See us at:

[JointheBandToday.com](http://JointheBandToday.com)

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Special Thanks:  
My wife Lynn and my  
son Johnny, I love you  
both!

Ryan Gelber  
For all your help!

David Stephen-lane  
and Mike Taylor for  
helping fill the drum  
chair when needed.

## “Tommy can you hear me?”

Peter Townsend “The Who” from the rock opera “Tommy”

**Earplugs.** Do you have them? Do you use them? Peter Townsend of the rock band “The Who” suffers from severe hearing damage. Once your ears are damaged they can't be repaired. Earplugs are cheaper than hearing aids.

Constant exposure to loud sounds will affect your hearing. Musician's earplugs can be bought from any audiologist. Many JTB students have gone to: Frances Miranda 310-237-1031.

Ringing in your ears is called tinnitus. Tinnitus is an indication that damage is occurring. Don't be foolish. Be smart about protecting your ears.

High sound pressure levels don't just come from rock bands. Classical and Jazz musicians have the same problems with sound levels. Have you ever sat in front of a brass section? A brass section is very loud.

Any loud sound in an enclosed environment can cause hearing damage. Car stereos can easily reach levels of 100 to 120 db. 120db is the threshold of pain.

You can pick up information on hearing and earplugs at the JTB studio.

## About Join the Band...

*“The goal of the Join the Band Music Program is to place students in a professional and supportive music environment.”*

“Join the Band” has been placing musicians of all ages in bands for over ten years. We promote live music performance as a way for students to work on collaborative skills to fulfill a common goal...performing as a band for family and friends.

Join the Band is an excellent way to apply what is learned in private lessons. All students are encouraged to take private lessons to maximize their experience in JTB.

All the teachers for JTB are experienced professionals. They read music and know how to rehearse a band in an efficient manner. Although some students can't read music, chart reading is encouraged for all students.

The JTB Studio has two rehearsal rooms and a full back-line of professional sound equipment. You don't have to worry about hauling amps, drums, stands, etc... Everything you need is at the studio. Just bring your instrument (except drums) and you will be ready to play.

We have bands that cover a wide spectrum of music. JTB bands have performed Rock, Jazz, Blues, Heavy Metal, Punk, Ska, Reggae, Country etc... We also have bands that have dedicated their entire set to one band. We call these are “Clone Bands”, bands we have cloned in the past include, The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Robin Trower, Heart, and many others.

Stop wondering what it would be like to play in a band on stage. Call us today and we will place you in a band, so you can perform like a rock star for your family and friends.

818-345-8950

John Mizenko

Join the Band

“Music Funnies” answers from the front page”

- 1) Put him in a microwave until his “Bill Withers”.
- 2) “I didn't wake up this morning...”
- 3) Ten – One to change it and nine to say, “I could've done it better”.

## JTB Band Members have been busy!

Check out what your fellow musicians have been up to.

### Phone Numbers:

#### Join the Band

818-345-8950  
Band classes, Lessons, Clinics...  
Rehearsal rooms and private practice rooms.

#### Baxter Northup Music

818-788-7510  
Sheet music, Repairs, Lessons

#### Ear Plugs

Frances Miranda  
310-237-1031

#### Amp Repair

Greg Granieri  
818-425-1053

#### Guitar Repair

Bruce Nelson  
818-999-3334

#### Amp Shop (Tina)

818-386-5500

#### Renson's Guitar Shop

818-761-4766

#### Eric's Guitar Shop

818-780-7191

Tell them  
Join the Band  
sent you!

#### Matt Wilson *JTB Rock Guitarist*

Matt Wilson performed on Friday, May 20th, at The Beach Boy California Landmark Event in Hawthorne, at the site of the Wilson family home where Brian, Carl, and Matt's grandfather, Dennis, were raised, and where the group recorded their first tunes in the garage. A handsome monument was installed at the site. Matt played a song written by Dennis, and was joined on stage by former Beach Boys David Marks and Billy Hinsche.

Thousands of fans were in attendance, from all over the country and around the world, including several hundred from England. Original Beach Boy Al Jardine was there. Justyn and Carl Wilson, sons of brothers Carl and Dennis, performed with their group, "In Bloom." Brian Wilson, Matt's great uncle, sang two songs and received a number of standing ovations. On Saturday night

Matt joined a dozen or more musicians in a concert at the Heritage Forum in Anaheim where the salute to The Beach Boys, and to music of the 60's and 70's, continued. Among the performers were Marks and Hinsche, Matt Jardine, John Walker, Eddy Medora, Bobby Figueroa, Eddie Bertrand, Buzz Clifford, Michael Angeloff.

#### Justin Kopczyński *JTB Jazz Guitarist*

John, Some news for the fans: As you know, I was accepted by the Los Angeles School for the Arts (LACHSA) as an incoming freshman in their Jazz Program. There was some stiff competition in that 37 guitar players, of all ages auditioned and I received the highest score of 94 from the director of the program Mr Jason Goldman; I couldn't have done as well without you and the JTB players. I am currently jamming on Wednesday nights at the Sportsmen's Lodge with the 4 piece pro-house band, these cats really know how to play and make you feel welcome. We are looking forward to a fun summer of music, surfing and sailing in anticipation of a very serious upcoming freshman year at LACHSA.

As to the summer session, I'm going to take a break after the last two years of nonstop JTB sessions. But never fear I will be back!!!!!! Be cool, keep strummin' and let us know when the BIG Studio Opening Party is, my dad insists on bringing the case of bubbly. Justin.

#### Marshall Waller *JTB Guitarist and Singer (Day job...Attorney)*

"This will undoubtedly sound a little corny, but in truth very possibly one of the most fulfilling moments of my life was the achievement of a goal of mine since I was 15: actually performing live on stage, in front of an audience. It might not seem like such a big deal, and I am of course very proud of the many other achievements in my life, but the realization of this goal, literally 30 years in the making, represents a source of tremendous satisfaction for me. Until now, I doubt that John realized the effect he has had on my life or how much I have enjoyed his mentoring and his friendship. Thanks, John! Keep on rockin'!"

#### Tad Piecka *JTB Drummer and Guitarist*

Tad has been at Berklee College of Music (my alma mater) over the past year. He always brought a high level of energy to every JTB class he played in.

"Hi John. Berklee has been absolutely fantastic. I've never learned more in such a small amount of time in such a variety of subjects. It was definitely the perfect choice for me. As for JTB, I definitely think that Join The Band helped me. Books and tutorials only go so far. There is no better learning tool than experience. I will definitely drop by in the summer. Thanks for writing, and hopefully I'll talk to you soon."

## Random Riffs

“Be the change you want to see in the world”

“Learn to listen.”

“Give”

“Turn off your TV and go to the park”

“Discover everyday like a child.”

“Go to a museum and surround yourself with art.”

“I know it’s only rock n roll but I like it, like it, yes I do.”

“Lakers in 6!”  
*Trent Stroh*

“Happiness is your responsibility”

### **Tom Neely** *JTB Rock Guitarist (Day job...Motor Sports)*

Recently returned from Guantanamo Bay Cuba entertaining troops and prison guards at the infamous Camp Delta where over 500 Al Qaeda and Taliban are housed. His band, Bridge of Sighs played three shows while visiting the infamous prison island. **Trent Stroh**, a JTB teacher and **Mike Taylor** who sits in on drums for various JTB bands also made the trip as members of Bridge of Sighs. For a complete wrap-up of the trip and tips on playing guitar for prison guards visit [www.bosband.com](http://www.bosband.com)

### **Janet Kaye** *JTB Keyboardist*

JTB keyboard regular Janet Kaye kicked it up a notch in February at Rock and Roll Fantasy Camp, held this year at SIR Studios in Hollywood, a 5-day non-stop music extravaganza featuring rehearsals and jam sessions with 2 dozen professional and celebrity musicians, and a finale concert at the House of Blues, where campers' bands were joined on stage by the one and only Roger Daltrey. Janet's band, led by Camp Music Director Jack Blades, was also featured the following morning by live remote on Good Morning America!

Janet says, "The fun started the first day, with the first tune, at an 'audition' jam with the camp counselors. I played "Roadhouse Blues" with Elliot Easton, Gary Burr, Kelly Keagy, Jeff Pilson, Bruce Kulick and Simon Kirke. Thanks to John and the JTB program, I was ready.....halfway through the intro, the sound guy came over to the keyboard and turned me *up!*

### **Andrew Bryden** *JTB Rock Guitarist*

As for me, I'm finishing up school in San Diego. I'll be a college grad in May. I'm then going to hit the road with my band, same one (C24C). We're going to do a bunch of stops on the Warped Tour this summer. We're then going plan our own tour and travel all over the U.S. Really excited for that. We got our own Winnebago to travel in. We're also are going to have the opportunity to go to Japan for a couple weeks and play all over Tokyo. All expenses paid, plus a paycheck on top of that. Unbelievable.

### **Kasey Clark** *JTB Rock Guitarist*

Kasey Clark's band "The Downfall" is playing the Harmony Sweet in Simi Valley on Friday 27th and again on Saturday June 11th. The Downfall is a gutter punk trio playing original songs.

Kyle Clark, Kasey Clark and Steve Chun play the Harmony Sweet as "Lutheran Gun Club" playing a mix of new and cover songs. Harmony Sweet is located at 5710 E. Los Angeles Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93063 (805) 581-7167.

### **Joe Madden** *JTB Guitarist*

I recently received e-mail from an old JTB student Joe Madden. Joe has recently posted some of his songs on the web.

“I’ve finally gone public with some songs; they're up on the web at [www.smoothblackstone.com](http://www.smoothblackstone.com) <<http://www.smoothblackstone.com>> . Strictly homemade, but I'm happy with them. Check em out -- and, needless to say, if you feel like giving me a little publicity via the Join the Band mailing list, you're more than welcome to!

## *CODA*

I want to thank everyone that has helped make “Join the Band” such a fun and fulfilling program. This program would not exist without all of your support.

See you at the next show!

John Mizenko  
Join the Band