

Biographies



Felonius Smith

Fascinated by old blues recordings from the 1920's and 30's, Jeff "Felonius" Smith creates a powerful sound using National resonator guitars, reminiscent of the colorful tones of the great Southern bottleneck blues players.

After having played Dobro lap slide guitar for 12 years, Felonius experimented with bottleneck style on a metal body National guitar. He was immediately taken by its unique, bluesy tone – piquing his hunger to learn all that he could about the old slide guitar blues music. Under Bob Brozman, the modern day King of the National Guitar, Felonius studied slide guitar and rhythm. The songs and styles of historic blues artists like *Tampa Red*, *Robert Johnson* and *Mississippi Fred McDowell* provide his inspiration. Felonius Smith's use of polyrhythmic, percussive and unusual finger picking techniques invokes intrigue in his captivated audiences.

Felonius Smith performed his brand of acoustic Roots-Of-The-Blues music in his native San Francisco Bay Area for over 15 years. In January 2006, he brought his family and musical talents to Boulder, Colorado. He has played professionally for over 25 years and currently performs playing bottleneck slide guitar, lap slide guitar, 6-string, 12-string, and mandolin. He also has more than 15 years of experience as a drummer and has recorded and performed in a wide variety of musical genres – including Blues, Rock, Folk, Bluegrass, Celtic, Reggae, and Afro-beat. His versatility and talent has earned him a growing reputation as an accomplished sideman for local singer-songwriters' performances and recordings – including recordings by *Jayme Kelly Curtis*, *Ellen Silva*, and *Karen Stern*.

His trios have opened shows for national artists *Koko Taylor*, *Richie Havens*, and *David Bromberg*. Felonius also enjoys bringing the tradition of the blues' heritage to schools in the community. He speaks about and performs examples from the history of blues guitar, providing students with insight into the times and circumstances of the old bluesmen and their songs, as well as the fascinating history of the National (resophonic) guitar.

"The pre-World War II 'country blues' was exciting in its often fun, light hearted lyrics and variety of styles and grooves, and I try to offer my audience that same fun, excitement and variety" says Felonius. "Besides being fun and challenging music to play, I like to surprise listeners with rare, unheard gems and keep this traditional music alive in the hearts of blues and American roots music fans".



J. Scott Johnson

Since relocating to Boulder in 1991, bassist J. Scott Johnson has been an active participant in the Front Range music scene. Past groups include *Chicago Skinny*, *The Homewreckers* and *The Honky Tonk Hangovers*. Currently you can find Scott performing with local surf legends, *The Beloved Invaders*, as well as the roots rock of *Marty Jones & The Great Unknowns* and local Honky Tonk/Western Swing stalwarts, *The Cowboy Dave Band*. Scott has shared the stage with *Junior Wells*, *The Blasters*, *The Derailers*, and *Dick Dale*. You can reach Scott at: shackdaddybass@yahoo.com



Jeff Gagliardi

In 1974 Jeff Gagliardi taught himself to play harmonica while driving a cab in his native New York City, working night shift while attending college at the School of Visual Arts. Between fares, Jeff worked out familiar riffs from his blues influences – *Paul Butterfield*, *John Mayall*, *Steve Katz* (*The Blues Project*), *Little Walter*, *Sonny Terry* – and tried out a few tricks of his own.

Jeff makes his home with his family in Lyons Colorado where he owns his own graphic design business www.gcreativedesigns.com and still creates some rather unusual visual artwork as well: www.jeffsketch.com.