

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 2006, he brought his family and musical talents to Boulder, Colorado. He has played professionally for over 35 years and currently performs playing guitar, bottleneck & lap slide guitar, 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 trios have opened shows for national artists *Koko Taylor*, *Richie Havens*, *Subdudes* and *David Bromberg*. Felonius also enjoys bringing the tradition of the blues' heritage to schools in the community - with performance and discussion providing students insight into how the blues became the father of American popular music.

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



J. Scott Johnson

Since relocating to Boulder in 1991, bassist/sousaphone player 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. You'll also find Scott playing sousaphone with local Balkan brass band stalwarts, Gora Gora Orkestar as well as fronting his own New Orleans style jazz bands, The Rampart Street Stompers & Uptown Messaround. You can reach Scott at: shackdaddybass@yahoo.com



Steve Sheldon

Originally from Des Moines, Iowa, Steve began his musical career more than 20 years ago in Colorado and has also performed extensively in Chicago and Montana. It was the harmonica playing of Sonny Terry that sent him down the road of acoustic country blues. His love for old-time blues and American roots music grew even stronger during his tenure with *Washboard Chaz* and *Bleecker Street* in the 1990's. He also explored New Orleans funk, zydeco, and cajun music with *Tony Trahan and the BlueKrew* for over 10 years. Steve has recorded with the legendary *Taj Mahal* and opened for *Hot Tuna*, *John Hammond*, *Keb Mo*, *the Radiators*, *Anders Osborne*, *Sonny Landreth*, *Marcia Ball*, *Junior Brown* and many more. His influences include *Sonny Terry*, *Sonny Boy Williamson (I & II)*, *Little Walter*, *Charlie Musselwhite*, *Gary Primich* and *Johnny Sansone*.