

Greg Schaber took up the guitar 42 years ago--at age 11--in his hometown, Alexandria, Kentucky. He was originally inspired by the music he heard on the radio, at the Methodist Church, and on television shows such as WLW's "Midwestern Hayride." But the Beatles opened the window to a wider world-view, the guitar playing of Eric Clapton opened the door to blues, and a late 60's Public Broadcasting production featuring Albert King knocked the door completely off of its hinges. Greg played with numerous rock, folk-rock and jazz-rock bands throughout college, then spent the next 15 years playing whatever paid the rent--from wedding receptions to solo jazz gigs--all the while making various attempts to form blues-oriented bands.

These numerous and varied experiences turned into a long-term advantage: Greg's ability to handle a broad stylistic range, from the diverse, down-home acoustic blues styles of players like Son House, Gary Davis and Lightnin' Hopkins to urban electric blues, swing and even singer/songwriter-type material--and to infuse those styles with honest soul--sets his work apart.

All of which has not gone unnoticed. When the Cincinnati Enquirer sponsored its short-lived Cincinnati Area Pop Music Awards (CAMMYs) from 1997 to 2004, Greg was recognized twice as Best Blues Instrumentalist and once as Best Blues/R&B Vocalist (making him the first area musician in any genre to win CAMMYs as both an instrumentalist and vocalist).

And he's also been successful as a bandleader. His group, The Greg Schaber Band (formerly Greg Schaber & High Street) is one of Greater Cincinnati's longest running and most respected bands and racked up two CAMMYs for Best Blues Band as well as a Cincinnati City Beat Entertainment Award for Best Blues Band. Over the years, the band has recorded several CDs made up almost entirely of Greg's original material, including 1998's "Gypsy Moon" and 2000's Greg Schaber & High Street "Live at the York Street International Café." Both of these were produced by James Webber, whose credentials include managing blues/rock legend Lonnie Mack and R&B giant Robert Ward.

And there are plenty of other highlights as well. As a solo act and as a bandleader, Greg has opened shows for a virtual laundry list of blues and roots music greats, including Buddy Guy, Johnny Winter, Koko Taylor, Robert Cray, John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers, Coco Montoya, Debbie Davies, Little Charlie and the Nightcats, Chris Smither, Keb' Mo', Chris Duarte, Olu Dara, Buckwheat Zydeco, Eddie Pennington, Bill Perry, Darrell Scott, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band and Tommy Castro.

In December 2001, Greg Schaber & High Street served as house band for the blues portion of a September 11 relief benefit staged by rock legend Peter Dinklage and Clear Channel Entertainment. Schaber served as music director for this segment of the show, in which Mr. Dinklage joined the band for an onstage jam. In March 2002 at the CAMMY Awards, Greg Schaber & High Street served as the house band for the R&B portion of the King Records tribute that closed the show. Greg again served as music director for this segment of the show, which included a wonderful performance by Otis Williams and the New Charms and a 20-minute "Hide Away" jam in which the band mixed it up with

Lonnie Mack, legendary King session drummer Philip Paul and country/jazz guitar great Scotty Anderson.

Most recently he was juried into the Kentucky Art's Council's *Arts on Tour Directory 2005-2006* and was one of 35 artists selected to perform at ArtsMarket 2004 in High Point, North Carolina. He has also appeared on such radio broadcasts as Morehead State Public Radio's "Americana Crossroads Live," the Kentucky Theater Project's "Kentucky Homefront" and Northern Kentucky University's "Studio 89," and in 2005 twice performed at the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in Renfro Valley.

Early in 2006, Greg broadened his range once again, performing as part of an old-time/blues/bluegrass trio with longtime Cincinnati fixture, singer/guitarist Ma Crow, and bassist/mandolinist Larry Nager, former music writer for the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

In late 2004, Greg released the live-in-the-studio, solo acoustic "Blues from the Mysterious Licking River Delta." A second disc in the same format, but with a broader stylistic range, is completed and will be released in early 2008.