

the story...

Rhonda and Greg... have been recording and performing music together since the 90's. "We had an instant musical as well as soul connection", notes Rhonda, "We both remember the exact moment we saw each other. I felt like I had known him all my life! We were just friends and band mates for ten years before we got together; I think our friendship helped our relationship as well as our songwriting...we respect each other and that's what makes it work".

In 2007, Rhonda and Greg, under the band name SoulShine, recorded their first CD with the premise of bringing back the 70's horn band sound. For Soulshine, Rhonda wrote vocal melodies and lyrics over Greg's funky bass guitar grooves. "This was an interesting method of songwriting, not many albums use the bass as the focal instrument, so the final result was very unique, and it accomplished our goal: a funky 70's soulful sound", says Greg.

Rhonda states, "For this new project (Rhonda and Greg), we were ready to pull in, look to our spiritual roots, and create music that expressed our organic nature. We came to the realization that when we chose to listen to music at home, our collection consisted of Joan Armatrading, James Taylor, Carrie Newcomer, Simon and Garfunkle, Marc Cohen, Tracy Chapman, Sting, Jennie DeVoe, Mutual Cumquat...so we thought...'we should write some music that matches our musical tastes'...so we did."

"It came so natural", Greg says, "I picked up my acoustic guitar and music just poured out. I really couldn't stop it. I must have recorded 20 ideas in just a few days". Rhonda remembers "I couldn't keep up with him....he'd give me a tune to work on and then 10 minutes later he'd come back with another idea...I didn't even know he could play the guitar that well...I don't think he knew either. He inspired me to go back to my roots and write a few songs on the piano. It was very liberating...I love being creative and this felt great." Greg adds, "When we began recording the album, we started with the acoustic guitar and vocals and then added layers. We recorded all of the instruments ourselves in our home studio. It was very freeing and fun to be creative. This project was a long process, but we are proud of the end result. It represents our beliefs, musical taste and our hard work."

the bio...

Rhonda grew up in a musical family and began singing in front of people as a young child at Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren in Ft. Wayne. “I remember the church organist telling my mom that I should take piano lessons, which I began at age 9 and continued until I was in high school”. Rhonda has performed with several Indiana legends including Jimmy Ryser, Henry Lee Summer, and Carl Storie. She is also an accomplished songwriter with 3 CDs of original music to her credit, including a CD co-written with Greg under the band name SoulShine. Throughout her career, Rhonda has worked as a jingle singer in Indianapolis for Bennett Innovations, TRC studios, and Bushor Recordings. Recently, Rhonda earned a Masters degree and is in the process of finishing her Doctorate in Music Education from Jacob's School of Music at Indiana University with minors in both Jazz Vocal Performance and Ethnomusicology. While at IU, Rhonda studied jazz voice with renowned vocalist Rachel Caswell, improvisation with legendary jazz performer and educator David Baker, and jazz piano with the great J. Michael Lucas. For this project, Rhonda sings lead and plays piano, organ, & percussion.

Greg started playing guitar as a teenager and moved to bass guitar when he and his twin brother started their first band. “ I lost the 'rock, paper scissors' war – never choose 'the pencil!'”, advises Greg. For the past several years, Greg has played bass in many notable Indianapolis bands including Henry Lee Summer, Carl Storie, and The Why Store. In the 90's he was a member of the band Pod who was signed to Columbia Records and toured with Cinderella and Tesla. During his career, Greg has played bass on numerous recordings at several Indianapolis studios including TRC, September, The Lodge, and Static Shack (owned by Tom Griswald of the national syndicated morning radio program *The Bob and Tom Show*), including the first CD from Rhonda and Greg, recorded under the band named SoulShine. In 2007 Greg earned his Masters degree in Music Technology from The Jacob's School of Music at Indiana University, and while completing his Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies Education, Greg studied jazz improvisation with legendary jazz performer, educator and composer David Baker. For this project, Greg has gone back to his roots for his creative muse, writing and performing on acoustic & electric guitar, upright & electric bass, banjo, dulcimer, & percussion.