

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Inductee



Tom Ginkel

Inducted in 2008

Tom's first introduction to music was at age 10 when his parents bought him a clarinet. He despised it and at age 13, he traded it in for a Harmony flattop guitar. Again, it was hard to play and he despised it. So in 1963, he traded it in for Italian Noble electric. It was easy to play and he persuaded his buddies to purchase other instruments and they began their garage practices.

Tom played with a number of bands through the 60's and in 1972 formed a band Clover. By 1973, the gigs were so thick, he quit his day job and the band performed 200-300 times a year for the next 10 years.

In the mid 1980's, nightclubs and ballrooms started cutting back live music, so he returned to teaching math and played mostly weekends.

Today, Clover pays about 50 dates a year and the long road trips are few. Tom says, "Playing music was, and still is, a joyous, life-enhancing experience. I wouldn't change a thing."

