

Mark Kotaska, bass player, originally from Manitoba, Canada, has spent most of his professional career on the western coast of the United States. As most musicians, he grew up surrounded by music, playing music, leading him to Grant McEwan University in Edmonton Alberta, Canada, with an emphasis on Jazz performance. His career took him to San Diego, California, furthering his education at Southwestern College, music still his focus.

Mark is quite diversified in his approach to his professional career and has enjoyed performances in Musical Theater, as well as the main stages, working with some of the greatest artists through Art Laboe / Pacific Concert Group Artists; Beverly Hills, California. The roster of artists included super stars like Al Wilson, Atlantic Starr, Bloodstone, Heatwave, Peaches & Herb, and numerous others. International Recording artists include Carl Gardner's Coasters, Chris Montez, The Four Lads, The Cascades and The Contours.

One can not be in the business in recent decades and not have worked with a tribute artist or two...or three...or many...along the way. There's quite a list of those he's shared the stage with, from Art Vargas' Bobby Darin, to Trent Carlini's Elvis...Johnny Potash's Charlie Daniels, Rob Garrett's Neil Diamond, as well as various tribute show compilations, with a line-up of super star tributes.

Mark's musical theater days began in Canada and moved south, continuing to Las Vegas a number of years later. Wonderful comedies, such as "Menopause," "Best Little Whorehouse In Texas," "Nunsense," "A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Forum," "The Sopranos," and "Grease," name just a few.

Mark plays 4 and 5-string bass, and Brenda knows she's never thrown anything at him that he backs away from. The bass line of "GRANNY'S GOT A TRAMP STAMP!" is the ultimate driving force, and it's all about that slap, thump, funk sound, mixed with a little bit of country, rock and roll, and jazz, weaving in, out, and around, paving the way for the manipulating chord progressions, ultimately dictating the energy level by capping it with a flaming hot horn section, giving the lead vocalist all the support he needs to take the tune into the Stratosphere and beyond.

The quiet persona of Mark must not be confused with the wheels in his head that are constantly turning. One of Mark's favorite quotes sums him up nicely: "When you lose, say little. When you win, say less." ~ Anonymous. Very profound, Mark! You know we've gotta keep you around for your warped humor, though. You certainly know how to break the ice when it's getting just a bit too thick!