

# Rebecca Johnson Band

Rebecca Johnson-Bass & Vocals – Con Settineri-Drums – Mark Johns-Guitar

For the past 12 years The Rebecca Johnson Band has brought world class musicianship to any venue they perform at. The band includes Con Settineri (drums), and Mark Johns (Guitar) and RJ (Bass & Vocals) Rebecca is renowned for her unique bass playing technique and has been compared to Mark King (Level 42) and Flea (The Red Hot Chilli Peppers). Over the years she has played and toured with numerous artists including Richard Clapton, Margaret Ulrich, Ian Moss, Vanessa Amorosi Jenny Morris, GANGgajang and many many more.

Con Settineri (Drums)who started playing at the age of 12 and has not stopped since! He has played all over Australia and recorded with international acts. Con has been a regular feature at Sydney`s 'Basement' with Andrew Oh, Round Midnite, Doug Williams, Jeff Duff, Mark Williams, Erana Clark, Barry Leef and Craig Calhoun & The Brothers of Oz. Con has recorded with an African Band, 'Bu-Baca', Jeff Duff Orchestra, Doug Williams & The Black Mass and also toured and played with Jenny Morris. Along with Rebecca they form a powerhouse "bottom end" that has to to be seen and heard.

Guitarist Mark Johns' whose credits include playing with Jeff Beck, Sting, Tina Turner, the late Whitney Houston, Holly Johnson (Frankie Goes To Hollywood), So Solid Crew, Faith Hill, and Ray Davies (The Kinks). Do not miss this opportunity to see a truly magnificent guitarist - you will be stunned and be either dragging you bottom jaw off the floor or trying to bottle the "energy " coming from the stage.

Performing as either a trio or 4 piece, the Rebecca Johnson Band play music for all tastes, from 'easy listening laid back classics' to having the dance floor pumping with songs from 70's funk to today`s contemporary hits as well as soul, r & b, rock , reggae and latin rhythms.

Interaction with her audience comes naturally to Rebecca, and years of live performing experience shows when requests for favourite songs are played on the spot.

Sample of just some of the broad range of songs include- Stevie Wonder John Mayer Jessie J Macy Gray Jamiroquai Ben Harper Prince Beyonce Joss Stone and many more.

Their original songs, a collaboration of all the musicians, are featured on their CD, 'Handbrake Free Zone', and orders are coming from many countries around the world, as well as their local followers and audiences at their gigs. Sound samples of the tracks can be heard on CD Baby, Soundcloud, Reverbnation etc

# (No Treble) Spotlight Media Interview

A few weeks ago, we shared bassist **Rebecca Johnson** and her band in our [daily video feature](#), and reader feedback was terrific. So it was easy to pick Rebecca as our bassist in the spotlight for the week of August 9, 2011. Meet bassist Rebecca Johnson...

## **Bio:**

Rebecca Johnson is a bass player/singer with 29 years professional experience in the music industry. Rebecca's aggressive, funky and percussive slap technique has become her playing trademark. She has toured and recorded with many bands including major Australian recording artists like Ian Moss, Margaret Urlich and Richard Clapton. The Rebecca Johnson Band is her own project which has been constantly gigging for the last 9 years. The RJ Band CD *Handbrake Free Zone* is her greatest achievement and her band is currently working on a follow up CD.

## **Day gig:**

I'm a full-time bass player and singer and never had a day job, ever! Luckily for 29 years I've always done live gigs, and my band is the busiest we've ever been. I guess you could say my 'day job' is always making sure we have gigs in the book. My band doesn't go through an exclusive agent-we get our own gigs.

## **Years experience:**

Been gigging live for 29 years. Playing all-up for 33 years.

## **Bands & Gigs:**

I have been playing exclusively in my own band The Rebecca Johnson Band for nine years now and we do a lot of gigs all over Sydney, Australia. We also have a strong following in Newcastle which is two hours north of Sydney and has a great live music scene so we travel up there almost weekly. I am lucky to have the most awesome players in my band – Con Settineri on drums and Mark Johns on guitar. Con and I were playing together in another band ten years ago, and it was he who suggested I front my own band and be the lead singer as well as the bass player. So we got the RJ Band happening back then and have been gigging constantly ever since. We've had some incredible players play with us both live and on our CD. Mark has played guitar with us now for 3 years. The musicianship of these guys is world-class. We have all done heaps of big gigs and tours over the years which is great for your resume, but the three of us like being a part of something solid and have our CD to show for it. We also add other players if the gig requires a bigger line-up. With the music scene the way it is today, to survive and work a lot we do most of our gigs three-piece, but we do add keyboards, percussion etc. Of course we would love to do some gigs in other countries.... Any tour managers out there? :-)

## **Gear:**

I have three basses. I've had my Music Man Stingray since 1988 – it was my main bass for 20 years. I still use it on a gig occasionally, but it's a 4 string and I prefer playing my 5 string Yamaha BBG5A which has been my main live and recording bass now for about three years. I also have a "lawsuit model" Ibanez Silver Series Jazz bass which is also a 4 string. I recorded 12 of the 14 songs on my band's CD using the Ibanez. For 20 years I've been endorsed by an Australian company named Labsystems, and I use one of their hand-built amplifiers – the SS-600 – and also their 4 x 10 speaker cab. I'm not really into lots of pedals and effects but my secret weapon is just the one killer pedal by Xotic Effects-the RC Bass Booster. I've always used Ernie Ball strings as they have a long life span. I tend to play really hard which kills my fingers but the strings stay bright at least.

## **Why I play the bass:**

My father, Keith Johnson is a bass player and my mother, Mandy Johnson is a singer. I've been raised in a family of musicians and all I ever knew as a kid was listening to great players on albums that my parents would always play. I used to pick up my dad's bass and teach myself to play. I had piano lessons for six years but always preferred practicing on my dad's bass. Around the age of 12, I discovered funk bands and wanted to learn how to play bass like Larry Graham, Marcus Miller, Jaco Pastorius, Rocco Prestia, Mark King etc. That was heaps more inspiring to me as a young kid than practicing scales on the piano.

## **My bass superpower/claim to fame**

My biggest "claim to fame" is the dedication and commitment of my own band. Having released our CD *Handbrake Free Zone* – that's my biggest "bass superpower" as it documents my playing/singing/writing and pretty much shows what I'm about as a musician. I've done amazing live gigs, clinics, sessions, toured with big name Aussie artists and had endorsements over the years which is all good, but really I think my true "bass superpower" is yet to come... The new tracks on our upcoming CD are really exciting for me both in the playing and singing departments. Can't wait to get our new stuff out there! Oh yeah, and meeting Richard Bona after his Sydney gig last year.

## **My influences**

I'm not only just influenced by bass players. I listen to so many drummers, keyboard players, guitar players and singers as well. I'm basically always just listening and learning from players and music that GROOVES... If I really had to choose bass players they would be Marcus Miller, Richard Bona, Abe Laboriel, Pino Palladino and many others. I've recently been listening to killer bass players like Henrik Linder, Rochon Westmoreland, Cornell Williams, Doug Johns and Gianni Serino, who all deserve more recognition.

# Rebecca Johnson Band Repertoire

The Way You Make Me Feel	Michael Jackson
In The Summertime	Thirsty Merc
Mo Hippa	Jon Cleary
Live Louder	Nathaniel
Car Wash	Rose Royce
Le-Freak (Freak Out)	Chic
Come On Come Over	Jaco W/Sam & Dave
Happy	Pharrell Williams
Get Lucky	Daft Punk
Peg	Steely Dan
Price Tag	Jessie J
Keep Forgetting	Michael McDonald
I feel Good	James Brown
Cissy Strut	The Meters
Don't Change Horses	Tower Of Power
Love The One You're With	Luther Vandross
Single Bed	Noosha Foxx
Chevrolet	Robben Ford
Steal My Kisses	Ben Harper
Super Duper Love	Joss Stone
Play That Funky Music	Wild Cherry
Express Yourself	Charles Wright
Red Red Wine	UB40
The Way You Do The Things You Do	UB40
I'll be your baby tonight	UB40/Robert Palmer
Buffalo Soldier	Bob Marley
Stir It Up	Bob Marley
Broadway	George Benson
Stitched Up	John Mayer
Waiting On The World To Change	John Mayer
After Midnight	JJ Cale / John Mayer
Just Kissed My Baby	The Meters
Kiss	Prince
Why Didn't You Call Me	Macy Gray
Signed, Sealed, Delivered	Stevie Wonder
Bird Of Beauty	Stevie Wonder
Living For The City	Stevie Wonder
You Haven't Done Nothing	Stevie Wonder
Higher Ground	Stevie Wonder
Boogie On Reggae Woman	Stevie Wonder
Change The World	Eric Clapton
Tore Down	Eric Clapton
Dock Of The Bay	Otis Redding
Black & Gold	Sam Sparrow
Sexual Healing	Marvin Gaye
Wishing Well	Terence Trent Darby
Little L	Jamiroquai
Thank You	Sly & Family Stone
Hand Jive	Eric Clapton
Use Me	Bill Withers
Georgie Porgy	Toto
Aint No Sunshine	Bill Withers
Slippery When It's Wet	The Commodores
Shaky Ground	Renee Geyer
Alright Now	Free/Jon Cleary
Proud Mary	Credence Clearwater
Burning Down The House	Talking Heads

And Many More....