



# STEVE MEISNER

205 N. Hazel Street, Whitewater, WI 53190-2119 (262) 473-7184 (e-mail) "MeisnerS@cni-usa.com"  
web page at "www.stevemeisner.com"

## **STEVE MEISNER BIO**

01/22/2004

*Born: April 17, 1961*

*1966, Began study of Piano Accordion at age 5 and performing on stage at age with father Verne Meisner.*

*1967-68, Won 1st place 2 years at Whitewater 4th of July talent contest ages 6 & 7.*

*1970, Began study of Cornet at age 9 and performing with the Washington Grade School Band.*

*1973, Began study & performing on Bass Guitar at age 12.*

*1974, Began study & performing on Button (diatonic) Accordion at age 13 performing with Verne Meisner.*

*1975, Featured on first recording with Verne Meisner "Autumn Leaves" and won 1st place 2 years at the Chicago & Milwaukee Button Box Competitions at age 14 & 15.*

*1976, Performing full time at age 15 with the Verne Meisner Orchestra and the New Frontier Dance Group. Began study of Tuba at age 15 performing with the Whitewater High School Band.*

*1977-78, Performing at age 16 with the Spike Micale Band, and age 17 with the Joey Klass Band. Won 1st place in Solo and band competition and at age 16. Began formal Piano lessons & music theory at age 16 performing on recordings.*

*1978, Organized and orchestrated the Steve Meisner Band at age 17 performing together for more than 25 years. Regular performances with Verne Meisner.*

*1985, Married Barbara Lindl May 19th at age 24.  
3 Children: Whitney, Lindsey, Austin*

*1988, Began study of Drums at age 27 performing on stage and recordings.*

**Professional Performance Credits:***Steve Meisner Bio, page 2*

Verne Meisner, Myron Floren, Frank Yankovic, Joey Miskulin, Walter Ostanek, Jimmy Sturr, Lynn Marie Rink, Johnny Vadnal, Louie Bashel, Jeff & John Pecon, Frank Kramer, Kenny Bass, Hank Thunander, Spike Micale, Joey Klass, Don Gralak, Bob Timko, Jeff Winard, Russ Allan, Kenny Brandt, Jimmy Monsen, Bob Doszak, Eddie Rodick, Bob Jonas, Bill Savatski, Jerry & Gordon Hartmann, Eric Noltkamper, Joe Fedorchak, Gary Seibert, Matt Cartsonis, Steve Burrows, Tracy Lords, plus dozens of sidemen.

**Recording Performance Credits: 18 LP/CD Releases, 6 Single Releases & 7 Video Releases**

**Steve Meisner:** *Lu Lu Belle & Wild Flower Waltz - Single - Blue Ribbon Records - 1979*  
*Girl I Love You So & Loves Cheating Ways - Single - HG Records 5019 - 1983*  
*Songs of Love - LP - HG Records 5015 - 1983*  
*Songs of Love - LP - re-released HG Records 5038 - 1986*  
*Meisner Magic - LP - HG Records 5029 - 1984*  
*Jammin Polkas - LP - HG Records 5045 - 1988*  
*An Ivory Romance - LP - HG Records 5044 - 1988*  
*A Meisner Mini Concert - CD - HG Records 5058 - 1991, 2 CD Rerelease 2002*  
*A Six Pack of What Made Milwaukee Famous - LP - HG Records 5013 - 1982*  
*Some of the Best - CD - HG Records 5060CD - 1991*  
*Deep Polka - CD - Smithsonian Folkways 40088 - 1998*  
*Here Come the Polka Hero's - CD - Heritage/Cleveland International 2001 - 1998*  
*Forever Christmas - Meisner Mansion Music MMMFC2003 - 2003*

**Verne Meisner:** *Polka 76 & Mimi Polka - Single - Bright Productions - 1976*  
*El Rio Drive & Waltz #3 - Single - HG Records*  
*Old Loreda & El Rio Drive - Single - HG Records - 1989*  
*Autumn Leaves - LP - Bright Productions - 1974*  
*El Rio Drive - LP - Bright Productions 1016 - 1978*  
*Verne, Verne, Verne - LP - HG Records 5042 - 1987*  
*A Meisner Mix - CD - Leo Phillips Productions 1503 - 1996*  
*Meisner Magic 50th Anniversary (Vol. 1 & 2) - CD - VM Productions VM2001 - 1999*

**Russ Allan:** *Shaky Business - LP - American Artists AAEA1000 - 1977*

**Kenny Juricic:** *Single - HG Records - 1987*

**Movie, TV & Video Performance Credits:**

<p><b>Chump Change</b> - (Miramax Films) Cameo performance and original song sound track feature 1999, DVD 1/04</p> <p><b>Red Betsy</b> - (Lang Films) Original song sound track feature 2002, theatrical release 9/03</p> <p><b>The Pick Up Polka</b> - (by Chris Collins) Supporting cast role and original song feature 2002</p> <p><b>In Search of America, A 4th of July Celebration</b> - Hosted by Peter Jennings - ABC Network - July 4th, 2002</p> <p><b>Polka 2000</b> - 1999 1-hour feature, Wisconsin Public Television</p>	<p><b>Meisner Magic, A Musical Journey</b> - 1995 1-hour feature, Milwaukee Public Television</p> <p><b>Polka From Cuca</b> - 1994 2-hour feature, Wisconsin Public Television</p> <p><b>Polka Time</b> - 3 Shows, Green Bay, WI</p> <p><b>Polka Varieties</b> - 2 Shows, Cleveland, OH</p> <p><b>Breakfast Show</b> - 6 shows, WITI, Milwaukee, WI</p> <p><b>Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show 7 &amp; 16</b> 1994 &amp; 2003 Ohio Public Television, Cleveland Cable</p> <p><b>Wisconsin Public Television</b> station ID's 1995</p>
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**Video: Steve Meisner:** *Steve Meisner Band - 1989 2 hour live performance*  
*Polka Thrill on the Hill - 1995 1 hour live performance*  
*Meisner Magic, A musical journey, featuring*  
*Verne & Steve Meisner - 1995 1 hour feature*  
*Polka from Cuca - 1994 140 minute feature*  
*Polka 2000, Old songs for a new generation - 1999 60 minute feature*  
*Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show 7 & 16 1994 & 2003, 2-hour feature*

**Verne Meisner:** *50th Birthday Celebration (Vol. 1 & 2) - 1988 2 hour live performance*

**Production Credits: 6 Audio & 4 Video Recordings, Co Produced: 9 Audio & 2 Video Recordings, Mixing Consultant on 2 Audio Recordings. 1 remastering credit.**

**Performances in:** Wisconsin (weekly) West Virginia  
Illinois (monthly) New York  
Minnesota (annually) Massachusetts  
Michigan (annually) Florida  
Ohio (annually) Nashville, TN  
Pennsylvania (annually) Missouri  
Maryland (annually) Kansas  
Arizona (annually) Iowa  
Los Vegas, NV (annually) Wyoming  
Colorado (annually) Montana  
Branson, MO (annually) Oregon  
Indiana California  
Washington North & South Dakota  
Washington, DC Hawaii  
Connecticut Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, & Holland

**Hosted:** 2 European tours, (Germany, Switzerland, Austria, & Holland)

2 Hawaiian Islands tours

1 Mexican Riviera Cruise

2 Caribbean Cruises

Numerous tours to Branson, MO, Las Vegas, NV and many Polka Festivals nationwide.

**Average Annual Performances:** 225 (2001 = 200)

**Awards & Nominations:** Iron World Minnesota Polka Hall of Fame (1999, 2001, 2002 Hall of Fame Nomination)

Wisconsin Polka Hall of Fame (Band of the Year 1998)

And Recording of the Year (1997 Nomination)

Bar Street Journal Awards (Favorite Band 1997)

Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame

Musician of the Year (2 Nominations)

Recording of the Year (1997 Nomination)

Wisconsin Area Music Industry Award (WAMI)

(Favorite Polka Artist 1989-1st year of category, 1996 & 2001)

Wisconsin State Solo & Band Competition (1st place)

Badger Button Box Competition (1st place 1975 & 1976)

Whitewater 4th of July Talent Contest (1st place 1967 & 1968)

**Notable Original Compositions:**

"I Love You" featured on Grammy nominated recording.

"Meisner Magic" featured in Red Betsy (motion picture sound track), and on TNN's Crook & Chase show. 1st place accordion championship duet piece. Chosen for the Smithsonian "Deep Polka" release and Cleveland International's "Here Come the Polka Heroes" release. Total's more than 60,000 pressings.

"Tundra Serenade", "Mysterious Stranger", and "Jeffery's Polka" featured in motion picture "Chump Change" sound track.

"Pick Up Polka" featured in short film Pick Up Polka.

Chosen by the Wisconsin Arts Board to represent Wisconsin for the Sesquicentennial Celebration at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC (June/July 1998) and again in Madison, WI (August 1998).

Featured performances at the Lawrence Welk Theater in Branson, MO and the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas

**Text Book Features:** The Illustrated History of Wisconsin Music, by Michael G. Coerenthal (c) 1991

Down Home Dairyland, by James P. Leary and Richard March (c) 1996

Wisconsin Folklore, by James P. Leary (c) 1998

The Wisconsin Blue Book 1999-2000 (c) 1999

Between The Lines, by Anna Marie Lux (c) 2000

**Captions:**

The long awaited release of "**Forever Christmas**" is now a reality. This CD features 19 seasonal original and classic selections including the original composition "**Tundra Serenade**" from the movie *Chump Change*. Many guest artists shared their talents on this recording.

An update on "**Chump Change**". The multi award winning motion picture boasting a host of stars, and featuring Steve Meisner and his music is on it's way to domestic distribution. Miramax Films has just announced a high profile DVD release date of January 20th, 2004. You can pre-order at [www.blockbuster.com](http://www.blockbuster.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). The (sold out) 1,200 seat Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee hosted the premiere on November 7th. Check [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com) for photo's and stories.

A deal was signed with Clear Songs of Manhattan, NY for the use of "**Meisner Magic**", an original Steve Meisner composition, in a new motion picture called "**Red Betsy**". It made a first succesful screening at the **2003 Wisconsin Film Festival** in March and premiered in Delafield, WI September 19th, 2003. It is currently showing in and around Wisconsin at many Marcus Theatres. Check [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com) for photo's and stories.

A new short film features Steve Meisner and his original music called the "**Pick Up Polka**". It was warmly accepted by a sold out crowd at the **2002 Wisconsin Film Festival** in Madison, WI and was invited to Milan, Italy, LA, Texas and Aspen for film festivals. Chris Collins, (writer, director), has high hopes for this light hearted film and is working now on a full length feature version.

Steve & Verne Meisner appeared on the **ABC Network July 4th, 2002** in a program called "**IN SEARCH OF AMERICA - A July 4th Celebration**". Hosted by Peter Jennings, the program focused on a variety of music including the traditional "**Meisner**" **4th of July performance** in Whitewater, WI.

**"Meisner Magic"**, one of Steve's original compositions totals close to **80,000** audio pressing's!