

Entertainer of the Month Jason Poff



Story by Nick Charles

Living in the Keys, you never know who is standing next to you. This is especially true for the artists and entertainers that migrate here for the beauty and inspiration that this chain of islands is famous for. Some of them you may have seen on stage, or even shared a cocktail with. They may be famous, should be famous, or have been part of a vast amount of projects that just might happen to be in your record collection. The latter is true with Jason Poff.

Poff is a man of several hats that include producer and live sound and recording engineer, along with being a phenomenal bass player. He has shared musical endeavors with Government Mule, Frank Zappa, Medeski Martin & Wood, Edgar Winter, Johnny Winter, Ted Nugent, Delbert

McClinton, Bella Fleck, Montgomery Gentry, Los Lobos, Derek Trucks, Greg Allman, Ryan Adams, Michael Brecker, Blood Sweat & Tears, Earth Wind & Fire, Clarke Terry, Ellis Marsallis, along with many more.

Now a proud Florida Keys resident, local favorites Steve Venini and Scott Youngberg, and new comer Lee Sharp have enlisted his talents. "These current projects are some of my favorite projects I have worked on," said Jason from his Islamorada home.

Born in Ashland, Kentucky in 1974, some of Jason's earliest musical memories revolve around the Pentecostal Church and "getting down for Jesus." However, it was the marching band that got him hooked when he watched a rehearsal of, "Georgia On my Mind." He joined the school music

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program in the fifth grade, starting with piano, and quickly switched to the french horn. Over the next several years, he worked his way down the brass section and settled on the tuba. That was until the school unearthed an upright bass. It was almost love at first sight. Attending college in Lexington, Jason studied performance and acoustics. While there, he began

participating in recording sessions in the area. It wasn't long before he landed an internship at Arddent Studios in Memphis, Tennessee. This studio played a major role in the famous label known as Stax. While he has played with countless others, one can not look past Poff's own adventure into original music with his Memphis-based

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Car Seat Safety and Education

The Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition has partnered with Centennial Bank to promote child passenger safety. Certified technicians recently inspected the car seats of any parent who brought their car, child, and seat to the Key Largo branch of Centennial Bank.

Techs and fire department personnel worked with parents to properly fit seats into their car, and the child safely into the seat. Many seats did not pass inspection and low cost, certified car seats were available to replace them. Firefighters destroyed the unsafe seats so they could never be used again.

Florida Keys Healthy Start and Centennial Bank want to educate parents on the following points:

- 3 out of 4 car seats are improperly installed
- Most car seats expire 5 to 6 years from manufacture
- All kids under 13 should ride in the rear seat
- Infants should ride in rear-facing car seats installed in the back seat
- After outgrowing regular seats, kids should ride in booster seats until they are 80-pounds

In addition to car seat safety the Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition offers many valuable programs and information such as a new mother support groups, grief resources, breastfeeding advice, and information for fathers. You can also find important news about recalls and other current parenting news online at www.keyshealthystart.org.

The mission of Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition is to ensure all parents and infants have access to resources and support to promote the health and wellbeing necessary for a successful pregnancy and a healthy start in life.



Above: Leslie, baby Sable & Rob Clift visited the recent safety check at Centennial Bank.

Below: Eric Fundora checked the seat of child Jordan Collins.



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