

MikeHamiltonBand

301-980-7087

MikeHamiltonBand.com

MikeHamiltonBand@comcast.net

"Imagine hearing a band, finding yourself singing along, and you don't even know the song. That's the Mike Hamilton Band."



Americana - a blend of rock, folk and country with a touch of reggae.

MikeHamiltonBand's music will seep into your heart and soul.

Picture the stories portrayed in their original songs:

It's about you or someone you know ([The Cry](#), [Judy J](#)).

It's about the world's troubles and challenges ([White Rasta](#), [Blind Avenue](#)).

It's about loves trials and tribulations ([I Know You](#), [Those Words](#), [Where Are You](#)).

It's about high-octane performances ([Family Reunion](#)) and compelling harmonies ([Might Change My Mind](#))

The Mike Hamilton Band was formed to perform and record their original music. Mike (vocals, mandolin, guitars) played solo for many years before moving to Maryland in the '70s. Melinda Hamilton (vocals, keys, mandolin, guitars) and Tom Owens (vocals, bass) played and recorded with Mike in previous bands. Dexter Keane joined the MHB in 2015 (vocals, drums, percussions). MHB often travels in unexpected directions, telling stories performed with traditional and untraditional instruments.



Mike Hamilton

(Guitar, Mandolin, Harmonica, Vocals)

Mike Hamilton grew up in Titusville, a small town in the mountains of Northwestern Pennsylvania. In the 1960s he was listening to Jimmy Rogers, the Carter Family, Hank Williams, Stanley Brothers, Bob Dylan, the Beatles and the British Invasion. Mike started playing music in high school and formed a band and began writing songs. In the 1970s his music was heavily influenced by The Band, Jefferson Airplane, Joni Mitchell, CSN&Y, John Prine, David Bromberg and The Eagles.

Throughout the 1970s, Mike Hamilton toured as a solo act performing his original music at concerts, festivals, clubs and special events. He was often referred to as “Mr. Energy” because of his high energy performances. In 1978 Mike moved to the Washington, DC area.

He formed the band DESIRE which evolved into the band NO DOUBT CRYPTO, recorded the NO DOUBT CRYPTO album featuring original music and founded the Joe Bag O' Donuts (BMI) music publishing company. In the next decade he turned his talents to producing and engineering his own music and regional acts around the mid-Atlantic region. He was the chief engineer for Roar Productions Recording Studios in Columbia, Maryland and founded his own production company, BigHouse Productions. Mike opened Mission Road in 2003 to record his original music and engineer and produce projects for independent and regional label releases. Working in the recording studios Mike was heavily influenced by an endless stream of talented musicians and diverse musical styles.

After No Doubt Crypto Mike performed on bass and vocals with the Blues Attitude and Torchers before resuming his solo artist career. Between 1995 and 2013 Mike recorded and released the following CDs: Beggars & Poets, Appalachia, Open Book and Pardon My Confusion, Can You Direct Me To The Other Side Of Nowhere?. In 2014 Mike renewed his love affair with the lead guitar and continues to explore it's mysteries. Later that year Mike formed the Mike Hamilton Band as a vehicle to perform and record original music. He considers himself to be the luckiest guy in the world to have had the musical experiences he's had and the wonderful friendships he's developed through the universal language of music.

From his life experiences and influences it's no wonder Mike is as much a storyteller as a songwriter. It's also no wonder that the subjects nearest and dearest to his heart are reflected in his songs of the working man's everyday life with its struggles and triumphs, fears and joys.

Melinda Hamilton

(Rhythm Guitar, Vocals, Mandolin, Keyboards)

Melinda fell in love with the guitar at age 10. The folk/rock music of the 60s was perfect for learning to sing and play guitar. She loved the sounds of Peter, Paul, and Mary; Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Carol King, James Taylor, and Joni Mitchell. In the 70s and 80s she was heavily influenced by the group vocals performed by bands like The Beatles, The Eagles, CSNY and Fleetwood Mac. It was a magical time for music and formed the basis for her musical style.



In 1981 she met Mike Hamilton and fell in love with his music. Melinda and Mike formed the bands Desire and No Doubt Crypto and were quite successful performing in the mid-Atlantic region throughout the 80s and early 90s. She has performed on all of Mike's solo albums and live performances and was a key contributor to the album No Doubt Crypto.

Melinda's sense of harmony is key to MHB's vocals. She has been exploring other musical instruments including piano, organ, synthesizers, mandolin and octave mandolin. She brings a unique and original style while performing on these instruments.

Melinda continues to play many types of music with a variety of musicians and her experience and talents are reflected in her work with the Mike Hamilton Band. This is an exciting period for her musical growth.

**Tom Owens**

(Bass, Vocals)

Tom began his musical journey in his teens as a drummer and guitarist. He grew up in Maryland and played with local bands: Neurotics, Technosound, Tight Fit, Chrystal Tower, and No Doubt Crypto. In the 90s Tom formed the band BFD and released the album "Looking Ahead, Moving Along" in 1998 which showcased Tom's vocals and songwriting abilities. Tom reunited with BFD in 2014 and wrote most of the songs on the album "The World As I See It" due out in 2016. Not only did Tom use his vocal, drumming, guitar and songwriting skills on the album, he produced, arranged, recorded and mixed the album in his home studio.

With the Mike Hamilton Band Tom reunites with Mike and Melinda (former No Doubt Crypto band mates) as a song writer, bass player and singer. His passion for music is evident in his bass guitar and vocals, and his talent for songwriting is unmistakable in songs like "Wasting Time", "Where Are You" and "Her Father".

Tom's musical experiences and talents are essential to the Mike Hamilton Band sound and identity.

Dexter Keane
(Drums, Vocals)

Dexter's hometown is Cocorite, Saint George, Trinidad and Tobago. He grew up listening to steel drums, Calypso and Soca music. He currently lives in Baltimore, Maryland, but is known to travel the world recording and performing on drums, steel drums and percussions, and singing music of a variety of styles including Soca, Reggae, Hip Hop and R&B. Dexter performs regularly at Caribbean festivals around the world including Trinidad, New York, Miami, Toronto and Baltimore. With the success of his latest release "Reveler's Time" Dexter was invited to perform in London and while there was the featured artist for a radio broadcast interview about his career and the song "Reveler's Time."



Dexter played drums and sang with Uprising, the number one Reggae band on the USA East Coast in the late 80s. He composed "Living In Paradise" and "Grab The Wheel" featured on Uprising's "Temptation Fire" album. Dexter has recorded with Mike for over twenty-five years and finally partnered with the Mike Hamilton Band. This has broadened his talents to include country, folk and rock. Because of his musical influences, Dexter brings a unique flavor to drums and percussion to MHB.

His talent and musical philosophy is grounded in the idea that music is freedom and joy without boundaries. Dexter is truly International.



HopeFest2 - Virginia - 2016

"The Mike Hamilton band headlined our yearly Hope Fest Music Festival this year and they were absolutely fantastic, incredible musicianship and fun! We are looking forward to having them back." Kendall Krishna



New Deal Cafe - Greenbelt, Maryland - 2016

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