



Groove Engine is an Okanagan based funk band delivering the greatest funk hits from the 70's including Stevie Wonder, Commodores, Earth, Wind and Fire, Kool and the Gang, Tower of Power, and more!

Based out of Kelowna, Groove Engine started in 2012 by Michael Garding, who took core members of the previous funk band, 'Soul Funktion' (back in 1998) and added new players to form one of the most *high octane*, energetic bands in the Okanagan.

With an extraordinary rhythm section, 3 amazing singers, and a sensational five piece horn section, this band has energy to burn!

We are definitely geared towards providing you with that solid '*feel good*' groove that compels you to want to get up and 'shake it', but also thrive on the technical excellence within the musical performance aspect of what we do.

Get your party 'revved up' with 'Groove Engine'.



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GROOVE ENGINE BIOS

Laura Lebbon: Lead Singer

Laura is from London, England. Laura has performed in bands of many different musical styles (pop, jazz, folk, soul and funk) as well as doing musical theatre. She is also an experienced studio recording/session artist and has been featured on a number of TV and radio commercials in the UK. Laura moved to Kelowna in 2011 and has been thrilled to find such a phenomenal bunch of musicians to play with on this side of the Atlantic.

Rachel Skinner: Backup/ Lead Singer

Rachel Skinner moved to the Okanagan after growing up in Alberta. Rachel has always had a thirst for performing. Eventually she took to the stage and has joined choirs as a means of gaining experience and training. As a fan of musical theatre, Rachel recently performed a variety of Broadway hits, specifically with solos "Hopelessly Devoted to You" and "On My Own". She has found a sweet spot in Groove Engine and is excited to take on the challenge of performing funky backing vocals.

Michael Garding: Alto Sax/ Band Leader

Michael Garding has been playing professionally for over 20 years. Originally from Winfield BC, Michael studied Jazz Performance at Grant Mac Ewan College where he was quickly recognized for his tone quality and his perfect pitch. Eventually Over the years Michael has performed with many different groups and is frequently called upon as for recording projects as he is a "one take" player. His jazz quartet has had a regular gig at Nineteen Okanagan Grill and Bar for the last 12 years. He is also the musical director of the 19 piece Michael Garding Big Band, a perennial favourite at the BC Interior Jazz Festival and winner of Best Instrumental Artist/Group of the year at the 2006 Okanagan Music Awards. His love of large groups is evident as he has also been a member of Soul Funktion, a twelve piece funk band, and The Salmon Armenians, a ten piece r&b group. He has also had the honour of sharing the stage with Tommy Banks, Big Miller, BC Read, Campbell Ryga, Bob Mintzer and Dee Daniels.

Colin Moorman: Tenor Sax

Colin Moorman has performed professionally since 1985. His dynamic ability on saxophone has landed him sideman stints with Bobby Curtola and Buddy Knox. He has been performing all over Western Canada displaying his diversity of style and ability. Starting as a jazz saxophonist with bands such as Cameo and the Robert Jay Trio, he has worked his way to being a pop rock musician, performing guitar, saxophone and singing with bands such as Three Wild Mice, Borderline Blue, McColl And Moorman, and Moni Funk and the Groovemachine. He also has recorded in several local studios and has credits with Robert Jay, New Life Ministry and Ray Grover. Currently, Colin is a sideman with many Okanagan bands such as "Moni Funk and the Groovemachine" and the Mike Brown band as well as being a music teacher/sectional instructor through World Of Music.

GROOVE ENGINE BIOS

Stan Sabourin: Bari Sax

Stan Sabourin is an Okanagan saxophonist, composer, and educator, living in Penticton. Stan has worked as a jazz and saxophone clinician in British Columbia and Washington State and is currently teaching music at KVR Middle School. Recently returned from studying jazz performance and composition at Washington State University with a masters degree in hand, Stan plays with Groove Engine, is working once again with Offramp, and sits in occasionally for Penticton's Thursday Night Jazz Band. During Stan's time at WSU he played saxophones in a number of small jazz ensembles, lead alto in Big Band One, directed Big Band Two and coached various jazz combos. Stan has had the pleasure of performing with Greg Yasinitsky, Fareed Haque, and Ed Calle among others. Since his graduation, a recording of Stan's big band composition, "Ozone" was featured in the fall 2011 edition of JAZZIZ magazine and has also been included on a WSU publication of recorded jazz music called, "Zoot Suit"

Bruce Dougall: Lead trumpet

Bruce is a former member of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment Military Band, and a current commercial lead trumpet player in numerous local music groups. He has been actively playing Big Band Jazz in the Vancouver BC area since the 70's, performing live concerts, touring, playing musical theatre pit orchestra work, back-up band work, and studio recording. Bruce recently recorded his first Trumpet Solo CD that won Instrumental Album of the Year in Canada. He plays a custom, hand made trumpet he bought from his mentor, Doc Severinsen. He currently very involved with many of Kelowna's top music groups including a brass quintet from the Okanagan Symphony. He is the current VP of the Kelowna City Concert Band. For lead trumpet work, Bruce is the go to guy in town.

Tim Benwell: 2nd Trumpet

Originally from England, Tim studied trumpet, composition and arranging at London's Guildhall School of Music & Drama. As a player his credits include the London Concert Orchestra, Bath Festival Orchestra, The Traveling Opera Company, The Millennium Jazz Orchestra, Harmony In Harlem and Chapter Eight. In the early 1990s he was a founder member of the EM Horns performing with the blues and boogie big band, Chicago Loop and some years earlier, as a young chorister, appeared on BBC TV's long running Songs Of Praise. Since moving to BC with his family he has been a regular fixture with the Dreamland Band and has also appeared with the Michael Garding Big Band at the BC Interior Jazz Festival, the Pops Orchestra and the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra.

Neville Bowman: Singer/ Keyboards

Nothing beats being on the best team, and in this case, that means Neville once again joins forces with Michael Garding and a host of other top rank artists to produce the Groove Engine. From his experience with diverse and multi award winning bands such as Just In Time, Jazz Cafe Quartet, Ten2Nine, Ryan Donn, and the Michael Garding Big Band, plus his own successful solo writing and performances, Neville adds his voice and hands to help create a sound unparalleled in the BC interior.



Nick Garding: Guitar

Born and raised in a small town in rural Alberta. Nick studied drums and percussion at Grant Mc Ewan College in Edmonton and graduated as a Performance Major with Honors. He spent years working behind the drum kit with original acts such as The Furies. After deciding to stretch into something new he transitioned into playing Bass with the Fighting Urges before discovering the desire to dig into the lifelong journey of learning what the guitar has to offer. The opportunity to play Funk music with Groove Engine ultimately satisfied the sonic and rhythmic yearnings he was really searching for.

Brian Wiebe: Bass

Brian started playing guitar and piano in 1974 and added drums and bass a few years later. By high school he had up to Grade 7 Toronto Conservatory piano and was bassist in original music garage bands, as well as Kelowna Secondary School stage band, jazz combo, and concert band, performing live on local television and CBC radio. He graduated with a District scholarship in Music and received a music minor at Briercrest College where he gained experience as a studio engineer, composer, and touring performer. In the 90s Brian performed as bassist, drummer, and guitarist, toured North America and Europe and recorded with such notable artists as David Ruis, Andrew Smith, Kevin Proesch, Darin Jarman, The Notorious Heffel Brothers, The Mammals, Norm Strauss, Daniel Powter, Dave Sinclair and Darby Mills.

Brian's instrumental collaboration with Graham Ord and Andrew Smith "Chill" was nominated for a Shai Award (Canada's People's Choice Awards) for Instrumental CD of the Year in 2007. With experience in more than 160 recordings, Brian continues to perform, record, and produce in a broad spectrum of genres as well as applications (CD, DVD, radio, film, theater, education resources, children's music) with a variety of instruments (ney flute, upright, electric, and fretless bass, guitar and keyboard).

Scott Gamble: Drums

Scott Gamble has been playing professionally since the age of 18, and has had the opportunity to work with many many great artists, both live in the studio. Very comfortable in any style, Gamble sites funk as his favourite way to express musically.

