

## December People Band Biographies

**Robert Berry:** Robert Berry was born into a musical family. His father had a dance band that travelled the ballroom circuit in the late 40's and 50's, where his mother was the featured vocalist. When Berry was born his father opened a music store. There, through the busy store's affiliation with Vox guitars and amps - the brand the Beatles used, Robert was introduced to many of the local musicians. Local hit makers like the Count Five, Syndicate of Sound, Harper's Bizarre and others often frequented the store. Berry began studying piano in earnest at 6 years old and by age 12 was recruited to join his first rock band with 4 older high school seniors. He continued classical and jazz studies before entering San Jose State University, as a music major. Berry first gained international attention with San Francisco based Hush, and headed to the UK to play in GTR along with Steve Howe of Yes fame, and then achieved a top ten charting single and toured with 3, his partnership with Keith Emerson and Carl Palmer. Before launching December People, Robert played with Sammy Hagar and toured with Ambrosia. When not touring with December People Robert is the bass player with the Greg Kihn Band.

**Gary Pihl:** Raised in the suburbs of Chicago for the first 12 years of his life, Gary Pihl relocated to the San Francisco Bay area. Gary had his recording debut at age 19 with Day Blindness. He says, "After my time in Day Blindness, I was in a band called Fox with Roy Garcia and Johnny V (Vernazza), who went on to play in Elvin Bishop's band. We were on shows with Free (with Paul Rogers), Janis Joplin, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Eric Burdon and War and Mose Allison."

Pihl's first big break came in 1977, when he joined Sammy Hagar's band, where he toured and recorded for 8 years. Gary met Tom Scholz when Hagar was opening for BOSTON between '77 and '79. In 1985, Sammy joined Van Halen, however, Pihl didn't miss a beat. He explains, "Tom called me up when he was working on the Third Stage album, he had one more song left to be recorded and asked me if I'd come out to work with him on it. As it turned out, I flew directly from Farm Aid (my last gig with Hagar) to Boston, so I wasn't out of work for a day. I thought, how lucky could a guy get?"

**David Lauser:** David Lauser got his first drum set on his 15th birthday. While playing in local bands in Southern California's, "Inland Empire" he met a young Sammy Hagar. The two budding musicians honed their skills playing the club circuit in SoCal and then onto the San Francisco Bay Area where Sammy met up with Ronnie Montrose.

After a short but ground breaking stint with Montrose, Sammy joined forces with David Lauser again, after establishing himself as a solo artist. David went on to tour and record all Sammy's 1980s and 1990s Geffen releases, including Sammy's most notable, "I Can't Drive 55."

While with Van Halen, Hagar and Lauser remained musically connected. After the success of VH's 5150 album and tour, Sammy brought in his old bandmates, David Lauser and keyboardist Jesse Harms to record his 4th Geffen solo album, "I Never Said Goodbye", featuring Eddie Van Halen on bass and as Sammy's co-producer. David was also the drummer on Sammy's greatest Geffen hits, CD, "Un-Boxed."

During the Van Hagar years, David joined forces with his old bandmates, Gary Pihl and Alan "Fitz" Fitzgerald to form a new group to be later dubbed Alliance. After several failed attempts to find the right singer, Geffen's A&R Guru, John Kaldoner introduced them to Robert Berry. The four musicians clicked immediately and recorded several critically acclaimed CDs.

Eventually, Van Hagar finally ran its course, and David Lauser was asked to fill the drumming position once again. David is currently a member of Hagar's band, affectionately known as The Wabos, Alliance and December People.

**Jack Foster:** US composer and guitarist Jack Foster III graduated from San Mateo High School. He attended Middlebury College, where he graduated with honors and a degree in Music Composition and Theory. Over the years, Jack has played in many bands, and he has always been a song-writer, but had put off recording those songs. Sometime after the millennium, he met fellow musician Trent Gardner, who encouraged Jack to start recording the songs he was writing. Foster released his first album — The Evolution of Jazzraptor — in 2003. Since then, the music has continued to flow. He has released a total of six album of original music at this point: Raptorgnosis in 2005, Tame Until Hungry in 2007, and Jazzraptor's Secret in 2009, Apple Jack Magic in 2014, and Jazzrapt in 2015. Foster continues to be an active musician, playing in December People, DreamCycle and The Jack Foster Band.

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