

# STONE BLUE

## BIO INFORMATION

### **Mark Ripp** (vocals, acoustic and electric guitar, harmonica)

Mark is a veteran within the music scene and community of Toronto. As an excellent singer/songwriter, he has years of experience showcasing his songs as well as fronting and playing in traveling 'cover' bands. Mark's music has been very well received by critics in North America and Europe. An example of Mark's vast performing experience was his involvement with The Bel-Vistas, a very busy four-piece combo that featured and presented both 'original' and 'cover' material from 1987 through 1995. His most recent effort, with band The Confessors, is the album entitled, Under the Circumstances. Mark's influences include Springsteen, John Hiatt and Bob Dylan. Mark's roots, and bluesey influence help to give Stone Blue a confident, highly professional swagger.

### **Bob (Buzz) Hamlyn** (vocals, 6 and 12 string electric guitar)

Bob is a 'blues/rock' fan and player who has extensive experience as a working, touring musician. He has played in the recording studio, and has contributed to many of Mark Ripp's recording projects. Bob's numerous musical ventures include Canadian tours with cover bands, involvement with the aforementioned Bel-Vistas, and most recently, a fifteen-year touring experience with CeCe Pastor and her band, Word of Mouth. Bob's influences include Clapton, Stevie Ray Vaughn, The Ventures and Jimi Hendrix. In Stone Blue, Bob shares lead vocal roles with Mark, and provides a guitar-driven edge which can delight any and all bar/club patrons.

### **Eugene Tanaka** (vocals, bass guitar, keyboard, percussion)

Well-traveled, multi-talented and musically gifted, Eugene provides the necessary harmony and support that is vital to successful performing bands. He has played and traveled since the 1980's, and cites experience with touring bands, cruise ship gigs and numerous recording projects. Eugene's touring credits include The Duffin Band, various American artists and Canada's Liberty Silver. Eugene is also a skillful sound technician.

### **Taras Skirko** (drums, percussion)

Taras, Stone Blue's solid, powerhouse drummer has over twenty years of experience with local bands in the Greater Toronto Area. He has performed with Juno Award winning artists, and has extensive recording experience. Taras has studied drumset with Jim Blackley, and tabla with Ritesh Das. Taras Skirko's solid, tasteful backbeat pushes and drives the rockin'blues energy of Stone Blue.

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