

# Poser

BY ANY OTHER NAME, THIS  
BAND WOULD SOUND  
AS SWEET

ARTICLE BRIDGET GREY  
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED



The most unusual gig the dance band Poser has played would either be a wedding where the bride was Catholic, the groom a Jehovah Witness and the bride's father a Seventh Day Adventist, or maybe, it was the band's first "paying" gig at the Red Onion in Aspen in 1985.

Poser front man Matt Harrington recalls that night. "We were paid \$200. But by the end of the night, we owed the owner around \$11! It was a scene right out of the *Blues Brothers*. We just kept buying our friends rounds of drinks all night!"

Poser's goal is always to get the audience up on its feet, and they do that by playing Elvis, Joe Cocker, Bruce Springsteen, Little Feat, David Bowie and other rock and roll legends' hits.

Harrington co-founded the band with a friend named Steve; the two initially intended to learn every Beatles song ever written. "A band slowly developed, and had Steve not passed away 12 years ago, we would have been playing together for over 30 years now," says Harrington. "It's taken many years of band names and members coming and going, but I'm thrilled to say that we now have the best lineup in the band's history.

Poser's six members now include Harrington, lead vocalist/rhythm guitarist; Paul Buechler, lead guitarist; Dennis Jung on bass guitar and vocals; Dan Rosenthal on drums; vocalist Michelle Ferrell and percussionist Lyn Byars.

What about the name? Harrington explains that a poser is defined as a person who habitually pretends to be someone he's not. "Considering the fact that we're strictly a cover band doing other artists' material, that name made sense. I will say, however, that every cover we do, we make our own," he says.

Those interested in perusing the band's playlist will find it on Poser's website: Poser-Band.com. "Our large selection of songs and musical diversity allows us to perform many requests. But we refuse to play any Justin Bieber or Lady Ga Ga," Harrington chuckles.

Poser plays many special events and weddings, including some high-profile Aspen gatherings. Last year, an event planner who was working for Jerry Jones, the owner of the Dallas Cowboys, hired the band. Poser was scheduled to play at the wedding of Jones' niece, but some wires got crossed. "The clients were expecting a country band," Harrington says. Although they are rock-n-rollers, Poser does play a good mix of country music, so they were able to pull it off without the use and protection of chicken wire.

Asked whether all of Poser's musicians have day jobs, Harrington, who is a real estate agent, notes that Paul Buechler is a full-time music instructor while Dennis Jung is an Aspen real estate broker. Dan Rosenthal is a painter and ski instructor who also coaches young bands. Michelle

Ferrell teaches first grade in Basalt while Lyn Byars is a certified level IV Reiki master and trainer.

In addition, all six participate in a co-ed synchronized swimming team; they have won several national competitions. Harrington says, "In honor of Ester Williams, the queen of synchronized swimming, our favorite formation is 'The Dancing Daffodil.' Paul, Dennis, Dan, Lyn and I form the petals, while Michelle takes the center position and spurts water from her mouth." Harrington grins. "It truly is an incredible and beautiful sight to behold."

The band's popularity has led to regular appearances at many popular Roaring Fork Valley venues. In 2015, Poser will be performing for the Basalt Summer Music Series, the Crown Mountain Park Summer Concert Series and Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park's Music on the Mountain.

Harrington, who sent a list of other local performers worthy of media attention to *Roaring Fork Lifestyle* magazine (rather than pitching his own band), praises the local music scene. "There is a wealth of talented performers in our valley and I encourage everyone to support them," he says. "Too often people hire bands from out of town to play local functions when you have an incredibly diverse selection of musicians in our backyard. Please support local music and hire a local band!"