

I've always enjoyed music and had a desire to write and perform. I still remember how much fun it was to play guitar in a band with some middle and high school buddies from Crown Point, Indiana. During college at Indiana University Northwest, I wrote around 10 songs (lyrics, melody and chords - don't read/write notes) but did not have much spare time to refine them as I was working full time as a grocery manager in a food store and going to school full time. Right after graduating in 1973, I earned a Masters of Management degree from Northwestern University (1974). Prior to graduate school, I bought a used piano thinking that I would have time to learn how to play (read and write notes) during graduate school but that was a joke (zero free time).

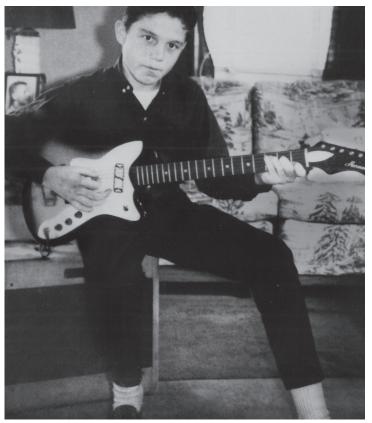
Shortly after graduate school, I became an industrial real estate broker with a firm in Chicago by the name of Podolsky and Associates which one year later merged with a large Chicago firm by the name of Arthur Rubloff and Company. I stayed at Rubloff for

nine years as an industrial broker and developer. In 1984, my partner, Craig Whitehead, and I formed The Crown Group (also a Rubloff alum and from Crown Point, Indiana) a commercial development, brokerage, and management company located in Hoffman Estates, IL a suburb of Chicago.

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Along the way my wife of 43 years, Deborah, and I raised 3 children, Andrew, Leah and Dana, now all in their 30's.

So now back to the music. Between raising a family and co-running a successful business, I only occasionally would pick up my guitar and play some songs from a music book or even less frequently





mess around with my own music. If I heard a song I like or if I went to a concert, that voice in the back of my head would say, wow that's great, wouldn't it be fun to work on your music? But it never happened.

In the spring of 2013, my son Andrew who had starting taking drum lessons invited my daughter Dana (who tinkers on the piano) and I to a jam session with his instructor. We individually practiced some cover songs and then got together. It was the first time I sang into a mic while playing guitar since high school. Soon after, I started brushing the dust off of my songs but still did not have a clear goal. In May of 2013, I had a heart attack (despite passing a stress test just a month before). The good news is that there was minimal damage to my heart but it now dawned on me that life is short and I better set a goal for my music.

Once home, I decided that my goal was to write a minimum of 13 songs that would be refined



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enough to copyright. Once copyrighted, I wasn't sure how I would go about taking my songs to the next step, i.e. hire someone to create a lead sheet or hire a band, etc. Simultaneously, I started reading books about the music business. I wanted to learn how one submits their songs for consideration and to who and at what level of completion. As luck would have it, I found a reference to Beaird Music Group www.beairdmusicgroup.com (Beaird) out of Nashville, TN. Beaird Music Group is a premiere Demo recording company but the quality of their final product is album ready and they have produced songs heard on the radio.

Over a period of 18 months or so, I recorded 13 of my songs at Beaird. Larry Beaird, an accomplished musician in his own right, charted each song (a one page road map for the musicians) and then the music was tracked (each instrument has its own digital track) with some of the finest session musicians in Nashville. I chose to sing lead on my songs (what the heck it's my dream) but hired a professional singer by the name of Adam Cunningham out of Nashville to sing backgrounds. I cannot tell you what a high it is to start the process by hearing just you and your guitar on a MP3 and ending the process with a song ready to put on an album, or if you're fortunate, heard on the radio/internet.

Once these songs were recorded, I was trying to figure out what the next step might be. That's when I read about various sites that allow Indie artists to make their music available to the public including TuneCore (www.TuneCore.com). Once I studied this proposition, I figured why not create an album and put it out there. I asked my daughter Dana, who is a graphic artist, to create the cover for my first album, aptly named "Never Too Late." Five of the 13 songs are from my younger days and the remaining eight are from my current years. I have to admit that I'm learning every day about the music business process while enjoying the journey.

3/6 BEATLES + 2/6 ELVIS +1/6 JOHNNY CASH = MARK THOMAS LAMBERT SOUND

I continue to write songs (working on my second album), however, my time is shared with real estate deals and being a grandfather. My song writing occurs in Chicago, Tampa or South East Washington. I keep a guitar at each location so I can easily pick up where I left off when I change cities.

I like to write songs about love, emotions, relationships, life and life's lessons that are foot tapping and tell a story (sometimes with a serious element and other times just intended to be fun). Depending on the song, I believe my music can fall in the pop- rock, soft rock, or country categories. My primary music influences come from The Beatles, Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash (showing my age), however, there are several other artists on my playlist that I enjoy listening to. I feel that my songs are primarily directed to my Baby Boomer generation. I see them as a second chance to relive the genre of music we grew up with.

If you happen to enjoy my music please send me an email. I'd love to hear from you.

Your friend, Mark Thomas Lambert

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