



Jack Strong Bio

The Players

Dan Scott (Gtr, Vox), was raised in Chicago, Illinois, and now lives in California. His influences are The Beatles, Dave Matthews, John Mayer, Eric Clapton and his love for Southern Rock. Dan played in bands starting young, took the middle of his life to serve the country (although he never quit playing guitar) and eventually resumed playing professionally after leaving public service.

Charles Kenneth (Ken, Chas, Chase Dominic, T-hoof) Benedict decided to pursue a career as a drummer/percussionist on February 9, 1964. Heavily influenced by Buddy Rich, Joe Morello, Louis Bellson, Keith Moon, Danny Seraphine, Mitch Mitchell, Ian Paice, and Liberty Devito, Chas played in and around San Diego and later in Merced, CA beginning in the late 1960s; Chas played everything and everywhere - rock 'n roll, blues, jazz/rock, jazz ensembles, live theater pit bands, worship groups. Some groups were DayTripper, The Allnighters, The Beatles Project, Renditions, The Midnight Flyers, January-Berry Band, Party Starters, and countless jams around town.

Gregg (GoGo) Oliver (Bass / Vox) plays bass guitar for Jack Strong, after a lifetime of guitar playing. His influences range from The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, & Jeff Beck, to Ray Brown, Jack Bruce, & Pino Palladino. Gregg grew up in Huntington Beach, CA playing with many area bands (most notably Fate in the 1970's), and played with the TAMA band and opened for (or played with) Greg Kihn, John Mayall, Eddie Money, Billy Idol, and Leon Russell while living in Reno, NV.

The Band

Gregg and Chas had been playing around San Diego in a band called the Serenade (with Tyler Benson) in 2019 and 2020. The pandemic of 2020 caused a lot of difficulty for everyone, including those of us in the music business, and due to some personal issues, Tyler regrettably left the band (and California) in October of 2020, the same month that Dan Scott moved to San Diego from Oakland. He had been playing there in the Memphis Blues project, and hadn't been looking to play with anyone BUT did come to see the Serenade at their last show.

Gregg and Dan had been friends for years, but had never played any music together. Gregg, Dan, and Chas met to play some tunes and decided to dive into writing and playing some originals to see how they worked together.

They saw in each other a kindred spirit and compatible goals - to play full time and make music that moved people. They also respected the other's musicianship... the honesty with which they approached their part, and how they played simply - distilling the songs to their essence.

Who Is Jack Strong?

The feeling and the message of the songs they were writing didn't seem to come from any one of them as much as it came from this "other personality" that was somehow the SUM of them.

They named him Jack Strong, and saw him as a flinty, hard-bitten man from an earlier time. A man that had grown up rough and had suffered, grew cold and difficult, and caused people trouble. At some time later in life though, they imagined that he had come to regret many of his actions and undertook the difficult task of personal change - to renounce who he had been and become someone better. In him was the experience to relate a story of how one can redeem themselves from a bad upbringing and a life of mistreatment of others, and become a whole and happy person. They imagined him to have a multi-volume diary in which he wrote all the details of his transformations, and they would read the diaries and write songs to relate Jack Strong's valuable lessons.

In a few weeks, they had written over 15 songs - over an hour's worth of material - and started playing it wherever they could. The response was overwhelmingly positive, so they decided to continue to channel Jack Strong and play his "life songs" to everyone that would listen. The shows started to feel like confessions, telling deep dark secrets unashamedly in the hope that others would be provoked and find the strength to face their own issues, which some did. And so Jack Strong continues. Who is Jack Strong?

We are Jack Strong!