

## Behind the Scenes with **BAG OF DONUTS**

*Bag of Donuts is a New Orleans based party band that play hit music from the past five decades with outstanding showmanship an audience won't forget. I spoke with band member Jonathan Hoerner who answered some questions.*



Pictured left to right:  
Phil Morin  
Jonathan Hoerner  
Jerry Christopher  
Bobby Hoerner  
Kevin George  
Ian Smith



**Q** How long have you been performing together professionally?

**A** Bag of Donuts was created in 1988 as a group of friends wanting to jam together. Kevin George is the only original member but Jerry Christopher joined a year later. I, Jonathan Hoerner, joined around 1994 and Bobby Hoerner joined when the original lead singer left in 2011. Bobby and I started another band in 1986 called Metal Rose and Jerry joined that band in 1989. Eventually the two bands sort of joined forces.

**Q** How did the name "Bag of Donuts" come about?

**A** "Bag of Donuts," the name, came from a comedian named Dom Irrera in the late 80's. It didn't have a particular meaning for the band other than the guys liked it at the time and it was different.

**Q** One of the things that set Bag of Donuts apart is your stage attire. How did you create your costume and makeup looks?

**A** The band originally wore costumes after two shows when the band formed cause they all agreed, they were so terrible, they needed to do something to take away from that fact, so "let's wear costumes." ...Eventually each member came up with a character that best fit him. We decided to tie them all together a bit by throwing in Mardi Gras colors and styles that showed a hint of our hometown, New Orleans.

**Q** Bag of Donuts has welcomed two new members. What do they bring to the group?

**A** The band has added two phenomenal horn players in the past year, Ian Smith on trumpet and Phil Morin on saxophone. We played together in the studio a few years back recording an original called 'Put Em Up' and then played a few live shows with them. We realized we needed to have them with us all the time. It's breathed new life into the band and opened up the song list.

**Q** In addition to live shows, you have a perfect five star rating on Knot.com as a band for weddings. What is different about performing at a wedding versus a show for the public?

**A** We certainly never would have thought a few years back that we'd be a band that anyone would be interested in having for their wedding. However, a few friends and fans wanted us for their big day and we were surprised how well we went over in that setting... A wedding can be different than a performance at a Festival or a Club at the beginning but eventually, the weddings end up rocking as much as the other shows.

**Q** Do you have any rituals to get the group pumped up for a performance?

**A** The biggest ritual that hasn't changed through the years is getting the face paint and costumes on prior to the show. It's that transition from Clark Kent into Superman that brings us together, and our bus is our telephone booth. We've also most recently been jamming to Phil Morins' Soul playlist while we get dressed.