

FIREFALL BIO

The genealogy and musical roots of FIREFALL run deep into the fertile soil of American rock and folk rock music. It began with Woodie Guthrie and later Bob Dylan, evolving into the Byrds and the Buffalo Springfield. The genre established by these luminaries continued with Crosby, Stills and Nash, Manassas, the Band, Neil Young, the Eagles, Poco, Loggins and Messina, the Flying Burrito Brothers, Gram Parsons and Emmy Lou Harris, Dan Fogelberg, America and Firefall. Many of these participants mingled in the studio and on tour. Individually and collectively they created a sound that changed the world's musical landscape. FIREFALL is one of the few surviving bands of this genre, remaining true to its founding vision and roots despite personnel changes over its thirty year history. The band transcends and embraces many industry labels – rock, soft rock, country rock, easy listening, unplugged, Americana and contemporary country.

“I think it's great that in this day and age of trends that change overnight, a kind of music we helped create thirty years ago is still around and growing in popularity.”

JOCK BARTLEY –

For co-founder Jock Bartley, FIREFALL has not only represented an opportunity to make quality music over the course of 30 years, but also represents a personal, heartfelt commitment to maintaining the tradition of a contemporary musical genre he and his peers helped create. Shared the past twenty years with band members Steven Weinmeister (vocals, guitar), Sandy Ficca (drums), Bil Hopkins (vocals, bass) and Chris Ball (sax, flute and keyboards), this commitment has successfully carried FIREFALL through three decades of distinctive music.

From 1976 through the early 1980s, the Boulder, Colorado-based rock band, FIREFALL, saturated the national radio waves and toured the world over, selling millions of records and earning two platinum and three gold albums for their efforts. They shared stages with the top bands of the day – Fleetwood Mac, The Doobie Brothers, The Band, Lynard Skynard, Marshall Tucker Band, Chicago, The Beach Boys, Loggins & Messina,

America, Bob Seger, Heart and many many others. The band dazzled audiences with their exuberant and rocking performances – this was no ‘light rock’ band. FIREFALL is a group of exceptional musicians and singers, with a repertoire of radio recognizable songs few bands can match. Their many hits – “You Are The Woman,” “Just Remember I Love You,” “Strange Way,” “Cinderella,” “Mexico,” “Livin Aint Livin,” “So Long,” “Goodbye, I Love You,” “Sweet and Sour” and others – are faithfully recreated with a freshness rare in live performances of such classics.

In the 1990s, Rhino Records began releasing their original albums on CD, including the compilation, FIREFALL’S GREATEST HITS. With lead guitarist, singer and songwriter, Jock Bartley, as a constant, these classic albums boast such musical stand-outs as band members: Rick Roberts, Mark Andes, Michael Clarke, Larry Burnett, David Muse and John Sambataro; with guest appearances on Firefall records by greats like Stephen Stills, Richie Furay, David Sanborn, Timothy B. Schmidt (Eagles) and Bill Payne (Little Feat).

With FIREFALL’S 1994 CD release, ‘MESSENGER,’ the band continued to expand upon their distinctive sound. It is filled with passionate lyrical incisiveness, a great melodic range and diversity, and sociopolitical musings. “When The River Rises” was written for and dedicated to the 1993 Midwest Flood Victims, with a portion of the proceeds from this song having gone to disaster relief. Jock Bartley’s uplifting song of 1998, ‘Call On Me,’ became an anthem of sorts for Suicide Prevention. As a spokesman for the cause and the first-ever national crisis hotline network, 1(800) SUICIDE, he helped to put on three fund raising benefits around the country featuring such musical luminaries as Michael McDonald, Wynonna Judd, Journey, Steve Winwood, David Pack of Ambrosia and Rusty Young of Poco. ‘Call On Me’ is included on Jock’s first ever solo CD, ‘BLINDSIDE,’ released in late 2006.

Throughout the years, FIREFALL has nurtured their faithful and growing audience through their dynamic live concert performances, which have continually brought in new generations of fans. The “experience” of FIREFALL’s live concerts leaves their fans, old and new, thinking that they’ve just seen one of the best concerts they’ve ever seen.

With the wealth of old songs and new, FIREFALL demonstrates the depth and diversity of the band’s lyrical and musical excellence, often including

an acoustic or "unplugged" mini-set in their longer performances. Their tight harmonies and intricate vocal arrangements are a fresh reminder of what melodic music is all about. The excellence of musicianship is intensely felt and appreciated by audiences - the response to the solos and many extended "jams" in concert is overwhelming, infectious helpings of fun and spontaneity in the highest degree.

FIREFALL was one of the first bands to bring the creativity and musical richness of the Rocky Mountain area to the forefront of the industry. The resurgence of this diverse musical hotbed has since given way to the likes of Big Head Todd and the Monsters, The Samples, The String Cheese Incident... and once again, FIREFALL.

And so, the band has come full circle. In thirty years of making exceptional music, FIREFALL has distinguished themselves as one of the top bands from the genre of music called Americana. They helped spearhead the birth and continuation of the country-rock/folk-rock sound of the Seventies. FIREFALL is as vital and valid as ever, standing out as one of the few remaining torchbearers for harmony-laden rock; a welcome blast from the past focused firmly on the future.

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