

Spontanes/Gastonia, North Carolina

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Brief Description	A long running college party favorite, the Spontanes were especially popular in the Mid Atlantic States down to Georgia. The band developed a side act called Harley Hogg & The Rockers in the early 70s shortly after the departure of Joe Ray Dowell. Hear the vocals of James Bates and The Spontanes on the Soundtrack To The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music with "Share My Name". Read Ron Gittens' narrative about the band in the book. Author's Note: We regret that Ron Gittens passed away before the book was released.			
Year Established	Spontanes (1960-1968) Joe Ray & The Spontanes(1968-1972) Spontanes with Harley Hogg (1973-CURRENT)			
Favorite Venues	All the Charlotte Area Clubs, Cellar, the Upstairs in Spartanburg, SC, and the Greensboro Tri-Ad Area			
Music Genre/Recordings	Singles: Share My Name (Casino/1964), Where Did I Go Wrong/Ain't No Big Thing (UA/1967), Don't You Care(About My Love)/One, Two, Three-Up Tight (Eclipse/1971), Oldies Melody (HH & Rockers)/ This Heart of Mine (Beaver/1973), Rock & Roll To The World(CAS Ltd/1975)Nights of Summer (Deck/1980) - Album- Spontanes Play Solid Soul (1966).			
Performer	Now Resides	Instrument	Years In The Band	Notes
Whiteside, Margie & Ralph		Managers	1960-1962	
Whiteside, Randy	Gastonia, NC	Drums / Keyboards	1960-1962	
Bates, James	Gastonia, NC	Vocals/ Guitar	1960-1967	Played on 45- United Artist 67 - Where Did I Go Wrong
Arthur"Fig"Newton	Gastonia, NC	Bass	1960-1963	
Bates, JD	Gastonia, NC	Vocals/ Guitar	1960-1962	James Bates Brother
Hall, Julian		Saxophone	1962-1964	
Stewart, Bill	Mt Holly, NC	Saxophone	1965-Current	Leader Spontanes w/ Harley Hog and The Rockers
McCoig, Barry		Guitar	1962-1963	
Holland, Fred		Drums	1962-1963	
Bumgarner, Barney		Bass	1963-1966	
Bailey, Ronnie		Drums	1964-1968	
Owenby, Ronnie		Vocals/ Guitar	1962-1967	
Alexander, Ray		Trumpet	1962-1963	to Catalinas
Hawkins, Ernie		Keyboards, Trumpet	1964-1968	
Gittens, Ronnie	Deceased	Trumpet, Keyboards	1967-1981	to Fantastic Shakers, Catalinas - Played on 1967 45 - Where Did I Go Wrong

Smith, Sonny		Vocals	1965-1967	
Hooper, Bill		Trumpet	1964-1966	
Gant "Monk" Harvey		Guitar	1966-1968/1972-1975	
Abernathy, Jerry		Bass	1966-1967	
Lowe, Dickie		Trumpet	1965-1966	
Salem, Pat		Trumpet	1965-1967	
Tate, Dean		Trumpet	1966-1968	
Ransome, Terry		Trumpet	1967	Played on 45- United Artist 67 - Where Did I Go Wrong
Doby, Joel		Vocals	1965-1966	
Hicks, David		Vocals	1967-1968	
Michaels, Danny		Trombone	1967-1967	
Dowell, Joe Ray	Deceased	Lead Vocals	1967-1972	2- Stints with Group
Stewart, Bill	Mt Holly, NC	Saxophone	1968-Current	New Name Leader: Joe Ray and The Spontanes 1968
Black, Mike	Cherryville NC	Bass	1968-1982	
Flynn, Bruce		Drums	1969-1971	From Rivas, to Smitty's Flynn's Band
Higgins, Rick	Harrisburg, NC	Guitar / Vocals	1968-1979	From Willie & the Mofia, DejaVu
Martin, Hazel	Charlotte, NC	Vocals	1972-1972	8 Months replacement for Joe, former co lead with Tempests
Hicks, Willie	Concord, NC	Lead Vocals	1972-1973	From Willie & Mofia (R Higgins)
Suratt, Bill	Concord, NC	Lead Vocals	1972-1973	From Wm Suratt& Esquires // Willie & The Mofia
Stewart, Bill	Mt Holly, NC	Saxophone	1973- Current	New Name Leader: Spontanes with Harley Hogg and the Rockers
Mode, Bobby	Kings Mountain, NC	Drums	1972-1973	
Allen "ACE" David	Spartanburg SC	Drums	1974-1979	Marshall Tucker Band
Massey, Willie	Myrtle Beach	Lead Vocals	1974-1982	Fat Jack Band/Myrtle Beach
Parrish, George	Myrtle Beach	Trumpet/Vocals	1977-1981	Crazy George - DJ Myrtle Beach 2001
Bridges, Melissa	Charlotte, NC	Lead Vocals	1980-1984	Alicia Bridges Sister/ Records the Nights of Summer 45 on Deck/Clay Smith
Winkler, Eddie	Charlotte, NC	Keyboards	1982-1983	Replaces Gittens
				correction, revisions, etc ? www.heybabydays.com