



**STEVE MEISNER** is a multi-talented musician, entertainer, composer, and arranger. He began playing the accordion at the age of 5 and has been earning a living in the music business since the age of 16. Steve's family has a rich musical heritage and he is a second-generation full time working musician. His father, the late Verne Meisner, had a successful music career for over 57 years. Steve's brand of music is extremely versatile and appealing to a wide audience. He has made a name for himself by taking the music he grew up with from his father and adding his own imagination and feeling. He has brought his brand of traditional American polka into the 21st century with a fresh spark & swing while retaining the roots of this music.

From a young age, Steve has been on task to promote quality music that can be accepted by all ages. His main goal has been to persuade the general public's stereotypical view of polka music to bring a new awareness to the masses. "I believe that good music is simply good and I believe people know the difference. They may not always understand what the mechanics of it are, but they feel it. And that is where I've always placed my faith in people. They too

feel that good music is simply good and it makes them feel good."

In Steve's 40 year musical career he has performed with the nation's top accordionists, polka icons & musicians including Myron Floren, Frank Yankovic, Joey Miskulin, & Verne Meisner. He has amassed 22 LP/CD credits, 6 Single, and 7 Video releases with full production credits. He has performed nationally coast to coast and internationally averaging as many as 250 performances annually including performances at the Lawrence Welk Theater in Branson MO, Stardust-Monte Carlo-Hacienda-Orleans & Plaza Casino's in Las Vegas. He has performed at the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center, and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington DC. He and the Meisner brand of music has filtered into television broadcasts and motion pictures including TNN's Crook & Chase Show and the ABC Network 4th of July broadcast of "In Search of America, a 4th of July Celebration" hosted by the late Peter Jennings and folklorist Nick Spitzer. He and his music are featured a full-length motion picture "Chump Change" released internationally by Miramax and he has been heard and seen on the film festival circuit in a short film called "The Pick Up Polka". He has an original composition in the independent full-length feature "Red Betsy". Writer/director/actor Steve Burrows from Hollywood CA call's Steve "the Mozart of Polka".

Steve has received numerous awards and nominations including "Musician, Vocalist, and Band of the Year", "Favorite Polka Artist", "Lifetime Achievement award" by the Maryland Accordion Club, he resides as the 29th inductee to the Ironworld Polka Hall of Fame, and in 2005 an "Honor Roll" induction to the Wisconsin Polka Hall of Fame, he is the first of his generation to reside alongside his father as a "Lifetime Achiever" in the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and most recently the International Polka Association Hall of Fame. He, and his father's, original compositions are included on many best selling polka recordings, Grammy nominated recordings, and can be found in the archives of the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian Institute, and Wisconsin state libraries in both textbook and music categories. His recordings are used in preschool and kindergarten classes to teach the young and enjoyed by many generations bringing back memories of care free days.

"Music is a large part of the soul of our society and I want to touch that part of people's souls...that part of their soul that makes a difference in their lives and show's them that music and dancing can excite, motivate and heal. There is nothing more gratifying than meeting a new fan who has just discovered my music for the first time. The expression on their face is like a child's on Christmas morning...its priceless!"

**Professional Performance Credits:****Steve Meisner Bio, page 2**

Verne Meisner, Myron Floren, Frank Yankovic, Joey Miskulin, Freddy Fender, Walter Ostanek, Lynn Marie Rink, Jack Grassel, Gary Meisner, Charlie Kelly, Jimmy Sturr, Johnny Vadnal, Louie Bashel, Jeff & John Pecon, Frank Kramer, Kenny Bass, Hank Thunander, Spike Micale, Joey Klass, Don Gralak, Bob Timko, Jeff Winard, Russ Allan, Kenny Brandt, Jimmy Monsen, Bob Doszak, Eddie Rodick, Bill Savatski, Carl Jerry Kevin & Gordon Hartmann, Eric Noltkamper, Joe Fedorchak, Gary Seibert, Matt Carbonis, Steve Burrows, Tracy Lords, Kathy Vogt, Tom Brusky, Jerry Krahn, Dennis Reifsteck and the Swing Crew, plus dozens of professional sidemen and personalities.

**Recording Performance Credits:** 22 LP/CD Releases, 6 Single Releases & 7 Video Releases

**Steve Meisner:**

Lu Lu Belle & Wild Flower Waltz - Single - Blue Ribbon Records - 1979  
 Girl I Love You So & Loves Cheating Ways - Single - HG Records 5019 - 1983  
 Songs of Love - LP - HG Records 5015 - 1983  
 Songs of Love - LP - re-released HG Records 5038 - 1986  
 Meisner Magic - LP - HG Records 5029 - 1984  
 Jammin Polkas - LP - HG Records 5045 - 1988  
 An Ivory Romance - LP - HG Records 5044 - 1988  
 A Meisner Mini Concert - CD - HG Records 5058 - 1991  
 A Meisner Mini Concert - 2/CD - Re-released HG Records 5058 - 2002  
 A Six Pack of What Made Milwaukee Famous - LP - HG Records 5013 - 1982  
 Some of the Best - CD - HG Records 5060CD - 1991  
 Deep Polka - CD - Smithsonian Folkways 40088 - 1998  
 Here Come the Polka Hero's - CD - Heritage/Cleveland International 2001 - 1998  
 Forever Christmas - CD - Meisner Mansion Music MMMFC2003 - 2003  
 LIVE! The Way It Was Meant To Be - CD - Meisner Mansion Music - 2005  
 The Best of Verne & Steve Meisner, Summer Music Fest - CD/DVD - Meisner Mansion Music - 2007  
 Meisner Time! - CD - Meisner Mansion Music - 2013  
 Thank You Music Lovers - CD - Meisner Mansion Music - 2015

**Verne Meisner:**

Polka 76 & Mimi Polka - Single - Bright Productions - 1976  
 El Rio Drive & Waltz #3 - Single - HG Records  
 Old Laredo & El Rio Drive - Single - HG Records - 1989  
 Autumn Leaves - LP - Bright Productions - 1974  
 El Rio Drive - LP - Bright Productions 1016 - 1978  
 Verne, Verne, Verne - LP - HG Records 5042 - 1987  
 A Meisner Mix - CD - Leo Phillips Productions 1503 - 1996  
 Meisner Magic 50th Anniversary (Vol. 1 & 2) - CD - VM Productions VM2001 - 1999  
 "Wanted" Verne Meisner's Lost Gold - CD - Meisner Mansion Music - 2009  
 Shaky Business - LP - American Artists AAEA1000 - 1977  
 Single - HG Records - 1987

**Russ Allan:****Kenny Juricic:****Jerry Krahn:****Eric Noltkamper:****Tom Brusky:**

Take Your Pick - LP - Rainbow Connection - HG Records - 1984  
 A Christmas Wish - Home for the Holidays - CD - GreenGuy Productions - 2001  
 The 1<sup>st</sup> 40 - Swingin Sinatra Medley - CD - Polkasound Productions PP5028 - 2009

**Movie, TV & Video Performance Credits:**

Mollie "B" Polka Party - 13 shows - RFD TV - 2011 & 2014  
 Chump Change - Motion Picture Cameo Performance - Miramax 2004  
 Red Betsy - Motion Picture - Original Song Feature - 2002  
 The Pick Up Polka - Short Film - Supporting Cast Role & Original Song Feature - 2002  
 In Search of America, A 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration - ABC Network - 2002  
 Polka Time - 3 Shows, Green Bay, WI  
 Polka Varieties - 2 Shows, Cleveland, OH  
 Breakfast Show - 6 shows, WITI, Milwaukee, WI  
 Wisconsin & Milwaukee Public television; (shown nationally in various states)  
 "POLKA!" - 2017 1 hour feature  
 Polka from Cuca - 1994 90-minute feature  
 Meisner Magic, a Musical Journey - 1995 1-hour feature  
 Polka 2000, Old Songs for a New Generation - 1999 1-hour feature  
 Ohio Public Television & Cleveland Cable - 1994 & 2003  
 Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show's VII & XVI  
 Wisconsin Public Television station ID's, 1995

**Video:****Steve Meisner:**

Steve Meisner Band - 1989 2-hour live performance  
 Polka Thrill on the Hill - 1995 1-hour live performance  
 Meisner Magic, a Musical Journey, featuring Verne & Steve Meisner - 1995 1-hour feature  
 Polka from Cuca - 1994 140-minute feature  
 Polka 2000, Old Songs for a New Generation - 1999 1-hour feature  
 Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show's VII, XVI, & XXV - 1994 2003 & 2012 2-hour features

**Verne Meisner:**

50th Birthday Celebration (Vol. 1 & 2) - 1988 2-hour live performance  
 The Best of Verne & Steve Meisner, Summer Music Fest - 2007 1-hour live performance

**Radio Ad Arrangments & Performances:**

WTKM weather & bookings themes ran daily for 20 plus years  
 WYMS Blue Chip Polkas theme - weekly for 10 years

**Production Credits:** 11 Audio & 6 Video Recordings, Co Produced: 10 Audio & 2 Video Recordings, Mixing Consultant on 2 Audio Recordings.

**Performances in:** Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Arizona, Las Vegas, Colorado, Connecticut, Branson, Indiana, Washington, Washington D.C., West Virginia, New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Nashville TN, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Wyoming, Montana, Oregon, California, North & South Dakota, Hawaii, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, & Holland

**Hosted:** 3 European tours, (Germany, Switzerland, Austria, & Holland)  
2 Hawaiian Islands tours  
1 Mexican Riviera Cruise  
6 Caribbean Cruises  
Tours to Branson, MO, Las Vegas, NV and Polka Festivals nationwide.

**Total Annual Performances:** 250 – (average 175)

**Awards & Nominations:** International Polka Assn. (Polka Hall of Fame Induction 2019)  
International Polka Assn. (Favorite International Style Band 2018)  
International Polka Assn. (Favorite International Style Male Vocalist 2018)  
International Polka Assn. (Favorite International Male Vocalist 2017)  
International Polka Assn. (Favorite International Polka Recording 2015)  
Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame (Lifetime Achievement Award 2012)  
Musician of the Year (2 Nominations)  
Recording of the Year (1997, 2013, 2015 Nominations)  
Polka America Corporation (Excellence award nomination 2010) (Best Slovenian CD 2014)  
247 Polka Heaven (Best Cleveland Style CD, Best Cleveland Style Contemporary Variety Song 2013)  
Wisconsin Area Music Industry Award (WAMI)  
(Favorite Polka Artist 1989, 1996, 2001 & 2010)  
Wisconsin Polka Hall of Fame (Honor Roll Inductee 2005, Band of the Year 1998)  
Ironworld Minnesota Polka Hall of Fame (29th Inductee 2004)  
Maryland Accordion Hall of Fame (Lifetime Achievement Award 2003)  
Maryland Governor's Citation Award - 2003  
Wisconsin Legislature Citation – 2003  
Bar Street Journal Awards (Favorite Band 1997)  
Wisconsin State Solo & Band Competition (1st place)  
Badger Button Box Competition (1st place 1975 & 1976)  
Whitewater 4th of July Talent Contest (1st place 1967 & 1968)

**Notable Original Compositions:**

"I Love You" featured on Grammy nominated recording.  
"Meisner Magic" featured in Red Betsy (motion picture sound track), and on TNN's Crook & Chase show.  
1<sup>st</sup> place accordion championship duet piece. Chosen for the Smithsonian "Deep Polka" release and Cleveland International's "Here Come the Polka Hero's" release. Totals more than 80,000 audio pressings.  
"Tundra Serenade", "Mysterious Stranger", and "Jeffery's Polka" featured in motion picture "Chump Change" sound track.  
"Pickup Polka" featured in short film Pickup Polka.

**Featured performances** at the Lawrence Welk Theater in Branson MO, the Stardust, Hacienda, Monte Carlo, Orleans, & Plaza casino's in Las Vegas, Milwaukee's Potawatomi Casino, St. Croix & Lac Du Flambo Casino's in WI, Kewadin & Little River Casino's in MI, Mohegan Sun Casino in CT, Wild Horse Pass Casino in AZ, Summerfest & Polish Fest in WI, WI State Fair, MN State Fair, Bethlehem PA Musik Fest, National Folk Fests in DC IA MN MI & MA, Frankenmuth MI Summer Music Fest, and NY Catskills Resorts.

**Steve Meisner** was chosen by the State of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Arts Board to represent Wisconsin with a two week engagement for its Sesquicentennial Celebration at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the Mall in Washington, DC (June/July 1998) and again in Madison, WI (August 1998). He was also chosen for an exclusive performance for Governor Tommy Thompson at the Smithsonian Castle and for an exclusive press conference at the WI State Capitol.

The Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center in cooperation with the Wisconsin Arts Board recorded Steve Meisner performances (August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010) in Washington D.C. as a part of the American Folklife Center's program to preserve traditional ethnic and regional music and dance. Visit [www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium](http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium) to view one of these performances or [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com) for more information.

Steve Meisner was chosen to perform for Hillary Clinton's presidential rally at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison WI (February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008).

**Text Book Features:** The Illustrated History of Wisconsin Music, by Michael G. Corenthal © 1991  
Down Home Dairyland, by James P. Leary and Rick March © 1996  
Wisconsin Folklore, by James P. Leary © 1998  
The Wisconsin Blue Book 1999-2000 © 1999  
Between The Lines, by Anna Marie Lux © 2000  
Polka Heartland, by Rick March © 2015

Captions:

**"2019 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Steve Meisner Band May 19<sup>th</sup>"**

**"2019 International Polka Hall of Fame Induction August 31<sup>st</sup> in Buffalo N.Y."**

**"2018 IPA Favorite Interfnational Style Male Vocalist & Favorite International Style Band"**

**"2017 Favorite International Style Male Vocalist"** June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 the International Polka Association announced its awards banquet to be held in Buffalo, NY Labor Day weekend 2018.

**"POLKA!"** a new PBS documentary premeired March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 featuring interviews with Steve and Meisner music!

**"Thank You Music Lovers!" New 2015 Steve Meisner CD release.** Featuring 21 tracks recorded live for the RFD TV program the Mollie "B" Show in Medina, MN. On 9/3/16 during the International Polka Associations awards banquet in Buffalo, NY "Thank You Music Lovers!" was honored with the 1<sup>st</sup> award in the newly formed category of "Favorite International Polka Album".

**"Meisner Time!" New 2013 Steve Meisner CD release.** Featuring 18 new polka's & waltz's. Win's "Best Slovenian CD" for the 2014 PACE Music Awards. Out of 27 nominations, 32,000 voters at 247PolkaHeaven.com named "Meisner Time!" *"Best Cleveland Style CD"* for 2013 and "Sweet Jennie Lee" won *"Best Cleveland Style, Contemporrary, or Variety Song"* for 2013." Also, Nominated for recording of the year by the National Cleveland-Style Hall of Fame.

**Steve Meisner inducted into the National Cleveland-Style Hall of Fame in Cleveland, OH on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.** This honor places Steve & Verne Meisner as the only father & son accordionists inducted to this hall of fame for "Lifetime Acheivement".

**"Polka Artist of the Year" and Nominated for "People's Choice" for the 2010 WAMI** (Wisconsin Area Music Industry) awards. Steve received Polka Artist of the Year rounding out a total of 4 to date in this catagory. [www.wamimusic.com](http://www.wamimusic.com)

**Nominated for 2010 PACE (Polka America Corporation Excellence) award.** [www.polkaamericacorporation.org](http://www.polkaamericacorporation.org)

**The Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center** in cooperation with the Wisconsin Arts Board recorded two Steve Meisner live performances (August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010) in Washington D.C. as a part of the American Folklife Center's program to preserve traditional ethnic and regional music and dance. Visit [www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium](http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium) to view one of these performances or [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com) for more information about the Library of Congress video recording.

**2009 CD release received rave reviews - "WANTED, Verne Meisner's Lost Gold".** A collection of 29 unreleased Verne Meisner recordings from various 1960's recording sessions. Visit [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com) to order.

**2008 double DVD combo release! Verne Meisner's 50th Birthday; Muical Anthology Vol. 1 & 2.** These re-releases were digitally transferred and look & sound better than the originals. Visit [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com) to order.

**2007 DVD/CD combo release! The best of Verne & Steve Meisner, Summer Music Fest** features performances from 3 out of 17 years of appearances at one of the nation's #1 polka festivals. Available at [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com).

**Steve Meisner wins "Honor Roll" induction** at the 2005 Wisconsin Polka Hall of Fame awards show November 6th.

**Verne & Steve Meisner "LIVE!" The Way it was meant to be,** released March 5th at the Steve Meisner Jammin Polka Blitz. Voted "Best of 2005" by 247polkaheaven.com it features 16 tracks of Verne and Steve the way you like to hear them with new original songs. Available at [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com).

**Steve Meisner inducted into the Ironworld Polka Hall of Fame in Chisholm, MN on June 25th, 2004.** This honor will make Steve one of polka music's youngest Hall of Fame inductee's. Verne & Steve Meisner are the only father & son team to be inducted into three halls of fame!

**"Forever Christmas" Top 2005 Pick at [www.christmasreviews.com](http://www.christmasreviews.com)!** This CD features 19 seasonal original and classic selections including the original composition "Tundra Serenade" from the movie Chump Change. Many guest artists shared their talents on this recording. Visit [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com).

**"Chump Change"** The multi-award winning motion picture boasting a host of stars, and featuring Steve Meisner and his original music received international distribution after its purchase by Miramax Films. Miramax Films engineered a high profile DVD release on January 20th, 2004. Visit [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com) for photo's and stories.

**"Meisner Magic",** one of Steve's original compositions totals close to 80,000 audio pressings! It's been featured in the motion picture "Red Betsy" and on TNN's Crook & Chase show. Visit [www.stevemeisner.com](http://www.stevemeisner.com) for photo's and stories.

**Steve Meisner** was chosen by the State of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Arts Board to represent Wisconsin for its Sesquicentennial Celebration at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the Mall in Washington, DC (June/July 1998) and again in Madison, WI (August 1998).