

NOW WE'RE TALKIN'

By Helen Marketti

Bruce Kulick

Former KISS guitarist releases a new album and single

Bruce Kulick has been in the music scene for over 40 years. His humble beginnings were with two close friends in the early 70s while growing up in Jackson Heights, New York. Kulick along with friends, Mike Katz and Guy Bois formed KKB and recorded material in 1974. The tracks sat idle for many years as each member went their separate ways. Bruce went on to play guitar with Michael Bolton, Meatloaf, KISS and Grand Funk Railroad. There are six original tracks and one new one, "Got To Get Back". Fans will love the sound and the polished up original tracks. The music is 70s made and inspired when life seemed simpler than it does today.

"I was really impacted by the British Invasion which completely changed the entire landscape for music," said Bruce. "The Beatles inspired me to play guitar. Thankfully, it wasn't that difficult to play and I took to it quite easily. My biggest guitar hero is Jimi Hendrix. He had to go to London first to make it. Groups like The Who, Led Zeppelin and Cream had a huge influence on Mike and I. Mike is the singer/songwriter for KKB and loved Jack Bruce of Cream. The new CD is dedicated to Jack. That entire era of rock kept us motivated to learn our instruments and be creative. When I first heard "Whole Lotta Love" by Led Zeppelin, it really turned me upside down. It is all still relative and still powerful."

"I enjoy listening to Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, Chopin and Stravinsky. We are still affected by the classic music. It is so much a part of our culture. It's timeless," explains Bruce. "KISS with or without make up, it doesn't matter because the music keeps getting handed down to each generation. It doesn't scare me that we can talk about a 40-year career. In fact, it makes life more interesting."

"Got To Get Back" is a song that Bruce is happy with in addition to being pleased with the entire CD project. "I gave Mike some ideas for the song. It's amazing what he did with it. We weren't trying to be anybody but ourselves. We took older songs, polished them up, and wrote a new song which all makes for a cohesive package. We were in our 20s back then playing that kind of music. It was pure and innocent without any struggles," said Bruce.

He continues, "Mike had held on to the tracks all of these years. I had a copy on tape from Radio Shack (*laughs*). I do archive everything I have. I think it's important to hang onto the work you do and have it digitized because it will last longer rather than keeping the recordings on tape."

"I am grateful to everyone who worked on this album. It was great to listen to each of our contributions come together. I wanted to share it with the world. We all still keep in touch. Mike still lives in the ole neighborhood in New York and Gary lives in France," said Bruce. "One thing that was a bit frustrating was there weren't that many photos of us together from the early days. Now everyone takes a photo of everything but back then you didn't think that way."

Bruce takes a few moments to discuss what it has been like working with talented musicians over the past 40 years. "When Michael Bolton and I worked together he had such drive and dedication. You know with all of us creative types that we're all a little crazy. (*laughs*) Michael always said that you have to know your priorities and move in the direction you want to go. I learned from that experience," remembers Bruce. "When I worked with Billy Squire, he was meticulous. He took notes on everything that he did that particular day so now when I record I take notes, too."

"I played guitar with Meatloaf on his Bat Out of Hell Tour. Meatloaf had been signed by Cleveland International Records. He was signed by Steve Popovich who is no longer with us. We started out playing in small clubs and getting booed and then eventually touring the world."

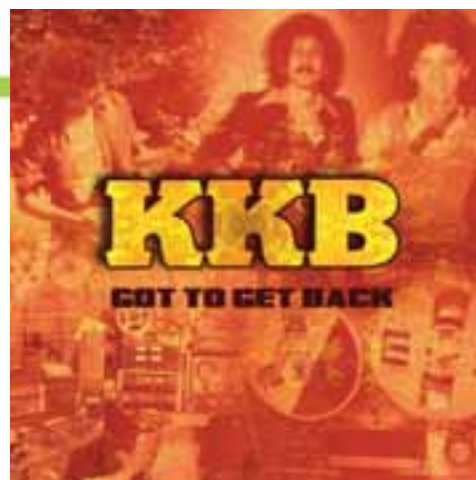
"My brother, Bob did some ghost guitar work for KISS. He auditioned for them but they decided to go with Ace Frehley. I had known Paul Stanley a little bit from seeing him socially," said Bruce. "During the summer of '84, they called me to do some ghost guitar work for them on the album, Animalize. As I was leaving the studio that day, I remember Paul telling me not to get my hair cut. I went to Europe with KISS thinking it would be for a couple of weeks and it turned into 12 years. I am a part of the KISS family which is great."

"Each of the artists I have worked with has certain strengths. That is why they are famous. Gene (Simmons) and Paul (Stanley) gave me a huge lesson on image and professionalism. I was already a bit of a perfectionist anyway because my dad worked quality control for the government. I grew up with a little bit of pressure that everything had to be right," recalls Bruce. "Gene and Paul know how to present themselves. They are successful because of hard work. I am very careful what kind of product I am going to make. It's going to be as great as it can be because if it has my name attached to it, it has to be of high quality."

"I enjoy getting things done. I might do a meet and greet one day, a music clinic on another and I want to make sure I am prepared. I want everything to look good from the flyer, the promotion, the works. Don Brewer (original drummer for Grand Funk Railroad) works the same way. He makes sure everything is of high quality, that we are paid and everyone has a good time. I have been with Grand Funk Railroad for 14 years and I love it."

Bruce's new CD by KKB, "Got To Get Back" is available on iTunes, Amazon and through his web site. "I have a limited number of a special packaged deal if anyone orders through my web site. It includes a guitar pic, CD photo card and download card. I care about details. It's always exciting to hear from the fans."

For more information: <http://kulick.net/>



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