

## QUOTES:

"Gehman is an amalgam of some of music's greatest and most enduring spirits, from Van Morrison to k.d. lang and Bonnie Raitt, with an accessible sound and plenty of tasty vocal hooks". - Daniel J. Kushner / CITY Newspaper

"Meg sings with a sultry style that just makes you melt and Ray's guitar work is articulate and uncluttered by effects and distortion that is tasty and inventive to the point of being somewhat magical"... Eric on the upright acoustic bass and Greg on drums are "right on point and a perfect fit to provide the bottom end for Meg's rhythm and Ray's guitar work."

- Bill Hooper / Sound Engineer - Muscian

## Bios

**Meg Gehman and The Influence** plays everything from 50's torch songs of the Ella Fitzgerald era to more contemporary artists such as Bad Company, Lucinda Williams, The Tedeschi Trucks Band along with some of Meg's own soulful originals.

The band initially started in 2012 when singer/songwriter Meg Gehman met guitarist Ray Bellizia at a singer songwriters event. The two just clicked and it was obvious that they each admired what the other was doing and knew they had something worth while in pursuing. Joining Meg and Ray are Eric Davidson on upright and electric bass, and drummer Greg Andrews, both of whom have been active in the local music scene for many years.

Meg says, "What it comes down to for us is that we really love what we are doing and it shows in the music we play"

**Meg Gehman:** (Vocals and Guitar). - Born and raised in NYC, now living in Rochester, NY, singer, songwriter, guitarist Meg Gehman brings her decades of experience as writer and frontwoman for the locally-based favorite cover band, Meg and The Clams (1992-2004), as well as the all original outfits Big Backyard and This Other Life

She formed duo, and trio offshoots Inner Loop and The Howling Divas, and has played countless solo shows. Meg has recorded a total of 6 cds, the last of which, the lyric and hook driven pop record "Leap" in 2016, which was crowd-funded by Meg's fans and co-written and produced by platinum-selling R&B recording artist David Chance of the internationally successful duo Ruff Endz (think 2002's hit "Someone To Love You"). Meg often draws comparisons to artists such as Phoebe Snow, kd lang, Joan Osborne, Joss Stone.

These days, Meg is settling in to her own place in music, writing and gearing up for the next chapter which will include a new cd, and is thrilled to be supported and pushed by the incredible talent surrounding her in Meg Gehman and The Influence where she shares the stage with talented artists.

**Ray Bellizia** (Guitar and Vocals) - His life long musical journey has seen him playing in cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, NYC, Atlanta, Toronto, Quebec, and Montreal. Sharing the stage with artists like Rory Gallagher, Rick Derringer, Edgar Winters, The Rascals, among others. Ray's musical influences are too numerous to list, but are evident in his playing style, could be blues, could be country, could be jazz or a mix of the three with a healthy dose of rock-n-roll. Returning to his hometown, Rochester NY, playing with the band Pearl found him back on the road during the late 70's and early 80's. After that he landed a role in Geva Theatre's first musical production called "I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It On The Road". In the same year he traveled back to Los Angeles to audition for KISS, exciting as it was, that gig went to someone else. For the past several years, Ray has joined Meg Gehman on her musical journey and has continued to be an INFLUENCE.

**Eric Davidson** (Electric Bass, Upright Bass, Contra Bass, and Guitar) - Eric is a 1992 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Berklee College of Music. A veteran of the road he has toured across the country, performing in many states including Alaska and Hawaii. Eric has recording credits in many styles of music showing his ability to adapt to any situation. His recording credits include: Spirits in the Rock with Bob Moses and Billy Martin (of MMW), The Berklee College of Music Studio Sessions with Robin Zaruba, The Franks, Krypton 88, The New York Vaults, and Anonymous Willpower.

**Gregory Andrews** (Drums and Vocals) Greg Studied music education at Nazareth College, where he majored in percussion. After college Greg took his music on the road spending some time in Europe with a show band called Steam Heat. He later moved to California where he had an original band named Pretty Words in which he wrote and co-wrote a lot of original songs. After playing in California and throughout the Southwest he returned to Rochester NY where he has continued playing and recording with many popular groups in the area.