

# THE KINGSTON TRIO

## **The Kingston Trio Story**

Contact: Jim Stanley, PR Manager, 520-345-3651, jim@kingstontrio.com

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Time-travel back to San Francisco, 1957: Three young college guys, Bob Shane, Nick Reynolds and Dave Guard, formed a group they called The Kingston Trio. The name, a collegial nod to Kingston, Jamaica, was inspired by the popularity of Calypso music at that time. Publicist and entrepreneur Frank Werber heard about the boys playing nightly at The Cracked Pot, a club south of San Francisco. After seeing them perform, Werber immediately offered to become their manager.

Months of practice followed in a small storeroom attic, until the guys were ready for their first professional performance. Their first booking — a one-week engagement at San Francisco's Purple Onion — turned into a seven month residency. A nation-wide tour followed, then back home to an extended engagement at San Francisco's iconic "Hungry I" nightclub. After that, the STANDING ROOM ONLY sign never came down.

In the summer of 1958 came the release of their debut album on Capitol Records. Although the album sold well, it wasn't until Bill Terry and Paul Coburn, a pair of DJs in Salt Lake City, took a liking to one of the album's tracks and played it incessantly. They recommended it to their disc jockey friends across the nation, who found that their listeners liked it just as much. Those DJ's pressured Capitol to release it as a single, and on November 19, 1958, the song hit Number One on the music charts.

That song was "Tom Dooley," and with it, history was made.

Thus began a remarkable ten-year run for the Trio. Their first five studio albums rose to Number One on the charts and were awarded RIAA Gold records.

By 1961, the group had sold more than eight million albums, and were responsible for 22% of Capitol Records' total sales. In 1959 alone, four Kingston Trio records were in the Top Ten of Billboard's album chart for five consecutive weeks — an accomplishment unmatched by any artist until 2020. During this time, they also released a number of hit singles which would become classics, such as "Tijuana Jail," "Scotch 8 Soda," "MTA," and "A Worried Man," among many others. The Trio also made numerous television and radio appearances, and played upwards of 300 concerts per year!

After returning from an acclaimed tour of the Pacific Rim in 1961, Dave Guard decided to go his own professional way, leaving Bob and Nick as the original core of the Kingston Trio. Dave moved to Australia where he hosted a popular television show, continued to play music, and developed his "Colour Guitar" method of teaching, which is still used today.

During their skyrocket to fame, the Trio met a young singer-songwriter named John Stewart who played in a folk band called The Cumberland Three. When Dave Guard left the group, John seemed like the perfect fit. Stewart was already well-acquainted with the Trio, having previously written two songs for them. In addition, he was a fine guitarist, banjo player and singer...and he looked good in a striped shirt.

According to Bob Shane, "We did nearly as well with John as we did with Dave." Indeed, six of the group's next seven albums between 1961-63 made Billboard's Top 10 and some of their most successful singles, including "Greenback Dollar," "Reverend Mr. Black," and "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" also charted. By 1966, Nick Reynolds had grown weary of touring and Stewart wanted to strike out on his own.

The Trio and Werber developed an exit strategy: they would play as many dates == possible for one year, ending on June 17, 1967, after a final two-week engagement at the Hungry I in San Francisco.

Reynolds moved to Oregon, and for the next twenty years immersed himself in ranching and car racing. Stewart embarked upon a long and distinguished solo career as a singer-songwriter, composing hit songs such as "Daydream Believer" for The Monkees and "Runaway Train" for Rosanne Cash. He recorded more than 40 of his own albums, most notably the landmark album *California Bloodlines*, as well as achieving Top 40 success with "Midnight Wind," "Lost Her in the Sun," and "Gold."

After working as a solo artist for a time, Bob Shane realized he missed being in a group, and for the next 40 plus years continued to lead the reformed Kingston Trio with a succession of superbly talented singer-instrumentalists.

In 1988, founding member Nick Reynolds thrilled long-time Kingston Trio fans when he rejoined the group for an additional 11-year run until his final retirement in 1999.

### **KT Legacy**

One cannot tell the history of the The Kingston Trio without the name "George Grove.'

As Bob Shane's wingman for 41 years, George straddled the end of "The New Kingston Trio" era and Shane's ultimate ownership and return to the original name, "The Kingston Trio," in 1976. Bringing his considerable instrumental, vocal, and arranging prowess to the table allowed The Trio to perform symphony concerts — a favorite fan experience for many years.

Bob Shane retired from touring in 2004, but he retained ownership of the group, which continued touring up to 35 weeks a year under his management. His estate still does, as per his wishes to always "Keep The Music Alive."

Flash forward to the present day: all three current members - Mike Marvin, Tim Gorelangton and Paul Robinson - have deep ties to the original group.

Mike was mentored by his "adopted father" Nick Reynolds; Tim, a close friend of Mike's since childhood, is one of the few musicians outside of The Kingston Trio to have recorded with Nick; and Paul has been a friend and acolyte of the group for many years.

Paul still tours with his band The Hot Licks when possible, and coming full circle, became the newest member of The Kingston Trio in January 2026.

This current lineup of the Kingston Trio pays homage to the original Trio's iconic performances, singing the biggest hits around a single microphone stand, and honoring the legacy with stories and memories.

Now, we invite you to journey with us back to a time when Folk Music made its ascent to the pinnacle of American — and worldwide — popular culture.

## **Current Member Bios**

### **MIKE MARVIN**

Taken in as family while a teenager, Mike Marvin learned his musical ropes at the feet of Kingston Trio founder Nick Reynolds, whom Mike "...adopted as my father." With Nick's approval, Mike was present at rehearsals during the years when the Trio were the biggest act in the world. Under Nick's tutelage, Mike learned backstage support, how the group picked songs, how they managed their tours and many other critical insights. As a member of their inner circle, Mike eventually learned the workings of the group from Trio manager Frank Werber; from booking shows to conducting rehearsals to operating the business.

After years of touring folk clubs with bandmate and longtime friend Tim Gorelangton, Mike branched out into the film industry, where he wrote and produced motion pictures. His seminal 1972 ski movie, *Earth Rider*, featured the now legendary ski-parachute jump off of Yosemite's El Capitan and heralded the birth of extreme skiing in America. It was also the first-time music was inserted as a driving force in cinematic imagery, using the music of John Stewart, Leo Kottke, and The Kingston Trio in *Earth Rider* and three subsequent feature films.

The El Cap jump was also reshot and used in the 007 film, *The Spy Who Loved Me*.

Mike's movie credits include *Six Pack* starring Kenny Rogers. He directed Nick Cassavetes and Charlie Sheen in *The Wraith* and he wrote, produced and directed the ski sequences in the cult movie *Hot Dog: the Movie*, one of the most successful sports films ever produced. All in all, Mike has over 50 movie titles to his credit as well as noncredited films such as *Legends of the Fall*, *The Predator*, and *The Runner*, all of which he helped develop.

Mike is also an author, a portrait artist and architectural designer. As CEO of Kingston Trio, Inc., he splits his time between Los Angeles and the Southern Oregon coast.

He plays a Martin D-28 guitar and a plectrum banjo, with a voice best described as "Patron Tequila Baritone." Mike, a native of Lake Tahoe and Tahoe City, and a proud fourth generation Californian, has been playing and performing for over 50 years.

## **TIM GORELANGTON**

Like Bob Shane and Dave Guard, Tim Gorelangton was born in Hawaii. His father was an Air Force pilot and the family lived all over the United States. Just ask Tim and he'll tell you, "This whole country is my home town!"

Tim played woodwinds in high school and served in U. S. Army Headquarters bands in San Francisco and Stuttgart, Germany. Music was in his family heritage.

His father, "...a terrific ukulele player," was from Honolulu. His mother, a California girl, was prone to bursting into song around the house.

Tim played in folk and bluegrass groups in Northern California and Nevada for many years. A seasoned songwriter, his heroes include Pete Seeger, John Stewart, Tom Paxton and Gordon Lightfoot.

Tim is one of the few musicians that Nick Reynolds ever recorded with outside of The Kingston Trio.

He says that his main goal is to ensure that the group's music remains true to its original intentions. To that end, he's the Trio's chief Musical Director, arranger, and cat wrangler.

Tim calls Reno, Nevada home, plays a Martin J40 6-string acoustic guitar, Vega Pete Seeger long-neck banjo, and a Guild F512 12-string guitar.

## **PAUL ROBINSON**

PAUL ROBINSON toured internationally as lead guitarist with folk-swing inventor Dan Hicks, pop icon Al Stewart (Year of the Cat), Romeo Void's Debora Iyall and the Hot Club of San Francisco. Paul has added his signature guitar sound to CDs ranging from pop and rock to jazz and beyond.

He has shared the stage with Don Was, Bob Weir, David Sanborn, Steve Winwood, Hal Blaine, Al Jardine and Maria Muldaur. Paul has also performed and/or recorded with Bayside Jazz with Dan Hicks, The Original Sons (Sons of the Kingston Trio), among many others and has opened for such greats as Joni Mitchell, Joan Osborne, Dave Mason and Roger McGuinn.

Paul first picked up the guitar at the age of 10 after hearing a Kingston Trio record, and has had a rich historical connection to them for most of his life. Paul still tours with his band The Hot Licks when possible, and coming full circle, became the newest member of The Kingston Trio in January 2026.

## **JIM STANLEY**

Jim is the Trio's Bassists, and a professional musician, producer and recording engineer who spends his time between Tucson, Arizona and Durango, Colorado.

He is a vocal performance graduate of the University of Arizona, and has played in many established Jazz, Bluegrass and Rock groups. For the past 15 years has toured and performed in music festivals all over the USA and Europe.

Jim is also an accomplished vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, studio musician, and builder of musical instruments, with over 50 years performing in the music business.

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