

GYPSY STAR MEMBERS

Billy Keen



Guitarist, Vocalist, Composer

Gypsy Star founder, Billy Keen, originally from New England, born in Rhode Island, started his musical life playing drums like his father who was a jazz drummer. Billy formed his first rock band at the age of 13. He also played brass instruments such as bugle, valve and slide trombones as well as the baritone horn in marching and school bands. While in high school, he started getting into blues and picked up harmonica and fronted a blues rock band. Around that time he started taking guitar lessons. While playing a variety of instruments, he eventually settled on guitar as his instrument of choice. By age 20, he was on the road full time, first playing in New England and then throughout the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. Eventually he moved to the Tampa Bay area of Florida. Over the years, he became increasingly interested in and inspired by various musical styles from around the world and began composing songs reflecting these new influences. After trying to work out the new songs with various combinations of musicians for a year or so, a newly formed group with the new name, Gypsy Star finally came together in early 2006. After putting the band together, Billy produced their first album; the self-titled "*Gypsy Star*" CD in the fall of 2007 as well as their second release, "*Once In A Dream*" in 2011, the single "*The Tale Of The Mistletoe*" released in December 2014 and Gypsy Star's newest album "*Under The Moonlit Night*" which was released on January 1, 2017.

Belinda Brodsky



Vocalist, Percussion, Keyboards, Lyricist

Born in the Bronx, New York and growing up in New Jersey, Belinda played drums in a marching band from ages 12 through 18. She also performed in musical theater and variety shows through her high school years and pursued acting and singing with local theater groups. Later she worked for a large entertainment agency. She also did studio work as a vocalist, recording jingles for the metropolitan areas of New York and New Jersey. After moving to Florida, Belinda has performed with various local bands including a country band, Top 40/variety band, alternative rock band, and various jazz combos singing the Great American Songbook before joining the newly-forming Gypsy Star in 2005. As co-writer, Belinda brings many of the lyrics to Gypsy Star's songs.

Stephen Roberts



Bass

Stephen Roberts started playing bass when he was fourteen. His first gigs were with bands that played Top 40/Rock as well as original material in local bars and clubs in and around his hometown of Kings Lynn Norfolk in England. Eventually, playing the bass as a full-time professional, he toured throughout central Europe, Scandinavia and parts of Asia performing in hotels, nightclubs, holiday centres, ships and military bases. In 2006, Steve moved to the U.S.A settling in Florida. Since that time, he has worked with bands in central Florida including a previous stint with Gypsy Star from 2009 through 2011. He can be heard playing bass on the band's second CD... the "Once In A Dream" album released in 2011. After playing and recording with two other projects for the last few years, he rejoined Gypsy Star as their current bassist in 2016.

Bonnie Deeds



Violinist, Back-up Vocalist

Bonnie Deeds is a multi-genre instrumentalist with over two decades stage experience. A Western New York native, Bonnie now resides in Tampa Bay as a founding member and performer of multiple chamber ensembles throughout the Southeastern United States. She has performed on tour and national broadcast with acts such as Michael Bublé, Josh Groban, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Disturbed, Il Volo, Irish Tenors, Celtic Woman, and more. Classically trained and holding a Dual Masters Degree in Music Performance and Chamber Music, Bonnie has served in concertmaster, principal, and section positions of multiple chamber and orchestral ensembles throughout New York, Pennsylvania, Montana, Virginia and Florida. Bonnie is an avid performer of contemporary compositions, and has debuted multiple new works for violin, singing violinist, viola, chamber ensemble and orchestra. In addition to GYPSY STAR, Bonnie may be heard with various institutions including The Florida Orchestra, Opera Tampa, Ash Lawn Opera, the David A. Straz Center for Performing Arts and more.

Kana Leimbach



Drums

Kana Leimbach was born in Osaka, Japan. She fell in love with drums as a teenager and when she was 20 began studying earnestly under the highly respected jazz teacher, Kawase Katsuhiko. She played in several original rock and R&B bands including a Chaka Khan tribute band called Stompin' Savoy's. In 1997 she joined a metal band headed by an American guitarist who brought the group to the US where they frequented Seattle's heavy metal scene. Upon returning to Japan she met and eventually married an American from Montana. After trips between the US and Japan they decided to take up permanent residence in the US and moved to Tampa, Florida. Kana continued to play drums in a variety of styles including R&B, rock and New Orleans jazz while working with several groups in the area most notably, the all female rock band, Undercover Betty. In 2014 she was awarded the title "Favorite Rock Drummer" by the Tampa Bay Music Network. Kana brings her solid and highly creative drumming skills to Gypsy Star, joining the band in April 2017.

Kimara Lee



Featured Dancer

Kimara is a professional Tampa Bay bellydance artist, fire performer and instructor/choreographer. An entertainer at heart with a passion for dance, she offers fun, artful, family-friendly entertainment while maintaining professionalism and preserving the mystique and beauty of MidEast Dance. Shows are always upbeat, artistic and classy with a touch of humor. She has steadily performed since 2004 at parties, restaurants, corporate events and weddings. Dancing regularly as a special guest performer with Gypsy Star... Kimara interprets and complements their music in her unique and elegant style.