

# The Fabulous GEMTONES

## Lead Vocalists



**JOSEPHINE CROOKS** is no stranger to the Pittsburgh music scene. She appeared with the Pittsburgh Musical Theater in *Miss Saigon*, with John Holt Productions in *Best of Broadway*, *Lady Legends*, *Divas* and *Divas Together Again*. You may have seen Josie fronting local bands *Dancing Queen*, *Spectrum*, *Protégé*, *Persephone's Dream*, and *The Holidays*. She has recorded several songs in Nashville and was recorded on the 3WS Home for the Holidays Volume II album. Josie was a finalist in the Pittsburgh Symphony Pops Search for a Star talent contest. She has performed twice with the classic rock band Chicago (*If You Leave Me Now*). Originally from Cebu, the Philippines, Josie is married and has a 12-year old son.



**GWEN DAVIS**, a native of Pittsburgh, joined Leon Daniels and the El Venos in 1998 and the group recorded two music videos for WPGH TV Channel 13. They appeared with the Skyliners, Little Richard, the Dubs, the Vogues and many others. The group also provided backup vocals for Eddie Holman in Pittsburgh. Gwen joined the variety band *Protégé* in 2003 and, with this group, she has shared the stage with the Temptations, the Supremes, and Jackie Evancho. She has also done solo appearances sharing the stage with Kenny Vance and the Planatones, the New Holidays, Johnny Angel and the Halos, The Magic Moments, and more. In 2014 Gwen formed a duo (The G & J Project) with vocalist Josephine Crooks.



**MIKE LATHOM** first discovered his vocal talent during his teenage years when he won his high school talent show singing Chuck Berry's "Johnny B Goode." Since then he has sung with several groups including The Laurels, William Dell and Wee Jams and currently performs with Pure Gold. Mikey was featured on the Nationally Publicized PBS TV Show "Doo Wop Generations." He has also shared the stage with many musical greats such as Billy Price, Chuck Corby, The Spaniels, The Marcells, The Jaggerz, The Duprees, The Flamingos, The Drifters, Kid Kyle, The Shirelles and Little Anthony and the Imperials. Mikey also performed at the Roots of Rock'n Roll Encore Edition at Heinz Hall. His voice can also be heard on the radio as "Mikey on the Mic," spinning the sounds with his friend and fellow DJ Frankie Day from 97.5 and 770 KFB.



**MARY ANN MANGINI** has performed professionally throughout the Pittsburgh region, sharing the stage with such notable TV and Broadway stars such as Paige Davis, Brad Little, Terri Bibb, Yvette Lawrence, Leslie Alexander, Dana Mellor, James Mellon and John Shull. She sings with Johnny Angel & the Halos, Johnny Angel's Jam Band, 56 East, Murphy's Music Center Big Band, Mark Milovats, the Swingtet 8, the Dante DeThomas Band. She opened for The Spinners National Tour in 2017 with Johnny Angel's All Star Jam Band at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Mary Ann has also starred in numerous local theater shows. After earning her Bachelor's degree in music education at Grove City College, Mary Ann pursued her passion for teaching choir, music, drama, and private vocal lessons at Shenango High School in New Castle and high school choir and elementary music in the Riverview School District in Oakmont. In April 2013, she released her debut jazz album, *Release Me*, comprised of popular jazz standards and several original works. In 2014, Mary Ann formed The Fantastix, Pittsburgh's premier youth show choir with kids ranging from 5-18. This high energy show choir performs throughout the Pittsburgh Region all year 'round.

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## Band Members



**NICK SCANGA** has been performing for over 35 years. Credits include The Night Owl Band, who had a local hit, “Lay That Rhythm Down,” and who opened concerts for Blood Sweat & Tears, South Side Johnny and the Asbury Jukes, Gil Scott Heron and Johnny Guitar Watson. He has also performed and co-written songs with Chuck Corby and wrote several with Night Owl. Nick is well versed in nearly all musical styles and over the years has worked with artists ranging from The Four Coins, Dancing Queen, John Parker, The South Hills Chorale, 3rd Street Jazz Ensemble, Don Aliquo, Jerry Lucarelli, Black Rock County, the Holidays, the Dubs, the Townsmen and projects covering most every musical style from cool jazz to the ripping guitar of Carlos Santana. He was a key member of Stillwater, the previously mentioned Night Owl Band and for many years with Freeze, one of the areas top entertainment acts. He often performs as a solo artist, as a duo, or with On the Level in the Pittsburgh and surrounding area.



**JARED SCHWEITZER**, at the young age of 10, started to study drums and piano for 15 years. He went on to be involved with concert, jazz, and marching band where he was Drum Line captain for 4 out of 6 years. After high school, Jared went on to teach with Renaissance Drum & Bugle Corps for 6 years. He has competed (and won) several local drum set competitions. Performing with multiple bands, ranging from Jazz, to Pop Punk, to Hard Rock all over the United States, he has truly played all genres of music. Now as a member of the Gemtones, he is really looking forward to playing some of his favorite songs of all time with one of the greatest groups.



**BOB VALLECORSA** grew up in a musical family of singers & guitarists, and decided the family could use some variety, so he decided to learn to play the keys and never looked back. Throughout his musical career he has had the honor to share the stage with some of the finest musical talent around. Bobby is glad to say that the tradition continued when he was invited to be the keyboardist for The Fabulous Gemtones.