

## A Late Bloomer

“Hippy” Jim Sloan did not pursue the life of a musician until he was well into his 40s. He began after retiring from the Army and trying his hand several fields including sales, trucking, field supervision, and training to name a few.

Music has always been a major part of Jim’s life. In middle and high school he played saxophone in the school band. As a teenager and young adult he sang in youth and adult choirs, and enjoyed singing at the occasional garage jam sessions.

In the Early 80’s Jim was an on-air personality for a local top 40 radio station. Following his military career he started a part time DJ and karaoke business. As a result of DJ gigs, Jim occasionally sat in with various bands at venues where he worked and served a stint as the front man for a house band when they were between singers. In his 30s he toyed around with the guitar for a brief time

After years of trying to find the right career field, Jim realized that music was his true passion. With major encouragement from friends and family he picked up the guitar and began working on music in earnest. Open mic and jam sessions became major part of Jim’s weekly schedule. With the help of many local musicians he honed his craft and built up a large enough repertoire to begin booking gigs. In 2015 Jim left his job as a professional technical trainer to pursue music full time.

Jim now is booked regularly at venues along the Gulf Coast of Florida and Alabama as a solo and duo act with other musicians. He also began writing original music in 2015 and hopes to release an EP in the near future. Jim feels truly blessed to live in such a talent rich region of the country, being able to meet and collaborate with so much locally and nationally recognized talent.