

# The Edward Groves Band

## EDWARD GROVES: SONGWRITER & ENTERTAINER

An inspiring songwriter from Michigan, Edward writes acoustic-based songs that combine many types of music and ideas, all with threads of observation, experience and imagination running through them. His compassion for life and the moments within are expressed through his thought-provoking lyrics. "There was always music around the house," says Edward who, at age ten, started playing his father's electric guitar as it lay on the kitchen table. "I grew up as a drummer and began my university education as a music major playing drums. My father always wanted me to play the guitar. Later, I started writing songs on an old beat-up, out-of-tune acoustic guitar he gave me. I never stopped. So, I guess he got his wish." A songwriter for 15 years, Edward has perfected the art of storytelling; when you experience his performances, it's clear he enjoys sharing his craft with those who are just as enthusiastic for change and for raising their voice.



## ACCOMPANIED BY

**KEITH AXTELL** flies on the guitar making what he is playing weave with Edward's music. Edward considers himself a thinking man, and Keith is a thinking man's guitarist. Seriously hooked on guitar from age eight, Keith began teaching at 14 while continuing his own lessons. After high school, he traveled to Boston to attend the Berklee College of Music where he studied Jazz and Classical guitar. Keith continued his education with two of the top instructors from Michigan State University's School of Music. Like Edward, Keith surveyed the financial landscape as it related to music. He laid down his guitar to become a computer engineer, but eventually re-connected with his passion for music. In 2005, he joined Edward, adding what Edward believes is an intelligent emotional intensity to what he has written.



**ABIGAIL ENGLISH** joined Edward and Keith in the spring of 2006 adding a new, intriguing vocal dimension to the band with her wonderfully-intuitive voice and harmonic sensibility. Singing and performing since the womb, Abigail comes from a "freakishly talented" family. In her own words, "We're like the VonTrapps...minus the lederhosen." Abigail has been in numerous stage roles; her first at age five, and she can't remember a time when she wasn't in a choral group. She currently sings in the *Lange Ensemble*, a Lansing-area choir with her mother, Emily. She has great respect and passion for African drumming and

hosts a community drum circle once a month. Music has always been a necessary part of her existence. Passionate for musicals, Abigail has some kind of weird thing for the music of Stephen Sondheim.

**CHRIS WOOD** joined the band in the summer of 2006 adding a mysterious depth with his percussive and melodic sounds. He began his walk down the music path carrying a trombone, which seems to explain everything. He soon picked up a guitar and sometime later, he became a bass player. It is unknown how the keyboards (that he also plays) fits in to all of this. Some twenty years ago he picked up a Chapman Stick. This Chapman Stick is a somewhat odd looking instrument that is played by tapping the strings instead of strumming or plucking. It has a very wide range, but Chris mostly plays it in a bass style. Chris has been playing in Mid-Michigan area bands for thirty years in all genres, with his love for music centering on what we used to call *progressive jazz-rock*.

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