

FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE, swing and jazz

Overview

Five Guys Named Moe—Myron Grant, Erin Zurbuchen, Jake Reichbart, Mary Seelhorst, and Eric Nyhuis—is a lively and accomplished quintet from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Since 1993, this swing and jazz ensemble has delighted audiences throughout the Great Lakes region with their excellent vocals and high-energy arrangements of old and new standards, soulful ballads, humorous story songs, and unique instrumentals. Recent performances were given in Sandwich, IL (The Sandwich Opera House), Chisholm Trail OK, (Chisholm Trail Arts Council), and Coldwater, MI (Tibbits Opera House). **Five Guys Named Moe** is also active in the recording studio and released their first CD, *Just Say Moe*, in 2001.

What They're Saying ...

“Five Guys Named Moe provided a delightful concert for an enthusiastic audience... Their varied styles of music showcased the versatility and considerable talent of each of the musicians...”

V. Newell, Saline (MI) Chamber of Commerce

“...a wonderful evening of entertainment... Your contribution to this season will make our job of promoting next year’s season an easier task.”

S. J. Allgood, Burlington (IA) Civic Music Association

“You sounded wonderful. I had a million compliments on your music.”

S. Personke, Chelsea (MI) Education Foundation

“This group’s individual talents were apparent and their ability to adapt to the crowd was impressive, considering that our event attracts families with small children to seniors. Every comment regarding their performance was positive.”

D. S. Weid, Downtown Development Authority, Jackson, MI

“Both the performers and the audience were obviously having a wonderful time.”

M. Wriighthouse, Secretary, Fountain/Warren Musical Arts, Inc., Attica, IN

In 1993, Myron Grant set out to find other musicians who shared his love of swing and jazz from the early twentieth century. His previous band, Footloose, had recently disbanded, leaving Myron...well, footloose.

Grant began playing regularly at local jam sessions with a few musicians from Ann Arbor’s rich pool of musical talent and met singer and fiddler Mary Seelhorst. The two clicked, bringing their own favorites into the mix, creating a unique sound anchored by Grant’s vocals, guitar, and harmonica. Shortly thereafter Mary and Myron were joined by percussionist Eric Nyhuis and lead guitarist Jake Reichbart. Jake also rounds out Mary and Myron’s vocal harmonies with a third part. Last to join was the talented and award-winning bassist, Erin Zurbuchen.

The five discovered a common love for a 1940s swing and jump blues ensemble, Louis Jordan and the Tympani Five. They named their new band after one of Jordan’s

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greatest songs, “Five Guys Named Moe.” Just one problem—there were three guys and two gals. But who’s counting?

Excellent vocals and high-energy arrangements of old and new standards, soulful ballads, humorous story songs, and unique instrumentals have become Five Guys’ hallmarks.

One presenter stated that in addition to providing “professionally and artistically outstanding music,” the Moes are also “extremely charismatic... They have the gift of communicating with the audience in a way that transforms the concert into a joint adventure.” Mary typically sleuths out some interesting facts about the city in which they are playing and often ad-libs lyrics about the locale during one of her songs. During another song, the band pleads with the audience to participate in a call-and-response version of “I Want You.” Myron and Mary reward them for their efforts by delivering a Gatling-gun, high-velocity, duo harmony spectacle that leaves everyone breathless (especially the singers!). In between tunes, Mary and Myron carry on spur-of-the-moment short conversations with the audience, which are always humorous. With all band members taking occasional solos, there is no doubt that the Moes are not only excellent entertainers but also dedicated and outstanding musicians.

Five Guys Named Moe has traveled the Great Lakes states since 1994, performing at college and community concerts, and at music festivals.

FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: INDIVIDUAL BIOS

Myron Grant has been a singer and instrumentalist since childhood. Crooning, bopping, and scatting with his huge vocal range, rock-solid swing rhythm guitar, “the bones,” and swinging saxophone-like harmonica solos are his special contributions to *Five Guys*. He is a multi-instrumentalist whose evolving musical background ranges from church choir to rock-and-roll, to eclectic acoustic, to swing and jazz. He was a founding member of “*Footloose*,” a long-running string, folk, and swing band.

Eric Nyhuis is a professional percussionist (and closet comic) with over 25 years of experience. His sizzling brush, snare, and high hat work really make *Five Guys* swing, and his engaging stage presence helps make *Five Guys* a great entertainment and musical experience. He has played clubs and concerts with numerous bands, covering all styles of popular music, ranging from blues with John Lee Hooker to jazz and swing with James Dapogny.

Erin Zurbuchen received her Bachelors of Music with Highest Honors from the University of Michigan, and her Masters of Music from Michigan State University. In addition to playing acoustic bass with *Five Guys Named Moe*, she performs frequently with the Ann Arbor Symphony. Erin was a winner of the 1999 International Association of Jazz Educators Sisters in Jazz Competition, and has performed nationally with the

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group, Sisters in Jazz. She currently teaches music to elementary and middle school students.

Jake Reichbart has won jazz guitar awards, toured Europe and Israel, played with nationally known musicians, and is a mainstay of the southeastern Michigan jazz scene. Well-versed in jazz, swing, and a variety of other musical styles, Jake plays hollow-body electric guitar with *Five Guys Named Moe*. He is an inspired soloist, bringing excitement and virtuosity to the “standards,” as well as *Five Guys*’ less familiar selections.

Mary Seelhorst is a powerful and intuitive fiddler and singer. With years of performance experience in bluegrass, traditional, and country music, she is heavily into swing with *Five Guys Named Moe*. She loves to improvise and perform, often sitting in with all types of bands wherever she goes. Mary’s alto singing ranges from gutsy to sensual and evocative. *Five Guys*’ western swing repertoire comes alive with her fiery solos.