

## ***About Bill Shafer...***

Born and raised in Waterloo, IA, Bill is the son of 2 award-winning music educators. Bill was fortunate to receive many top honors and awards at local, district and state level music competitions and festivals during high school and college.

Bill received his Bachelor of Music Education Degree (cum laude) in 1981 from Ashland College (Ashland, OH). During his undergraduate days he was involved in the various band and vocal music programs at AC. His membership in College Choir and Madrigal Singers took him on a European concert tour and international competition for choirs (Summer, 1981). Other highlights included being tenor vocal soloist for a performance at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris and lead alto sax in the All-Ohio Intercollegiate All-Star Jazz Ensemble in 1981.

Bill has played woodwinds (sax, flute, clarinet, piccolo, & oboe) in a variety of bands. In addition to backing performers such as Fabian, Bobby Vinton, Bobby Darin, Red Skelton, Bob Hope, he played lead alto for the Miss Ohio Scholarship Pageant in 1988. In 1984, he began playing keyboards, sax, and sharing lead vocals in a top-40's/jazz & contemporary band *Apex*. The musical textures he added with his mobile MIDI sequencing rig made *Apex* one of the most sought-after cover bands in the area.

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Bill got his first taste of the recording studios while doing a demo for *Apex*. Bill soon befriended the studio owner and began doing other jingle work. Bill and his friend Linda won a talent search contest, sponsored by Danny Gaither and Gaither Recording Studios. Their prize was studio time to record a demo, in hopes of "make it big" in the Contemporary Christian music world. With additional funds in hand, Bill & Linda record the gospel album, "One More Mile" in Bill and Gloria Gaither's world-class facility.

The change in times & economy caused Bill to move to Maui, Hawaii, where he began teaching music. Bill began to network with some of the finest musicians on the island, and landed a job with the Hawaiian Country BBQ Show at the Maui Tropical Plantation, starring Buddy Fo. Bill played keyboards, sax, created vocal and musical arrangements for the show, and served as associate conductor for the band.

While on Maui Bill formed his production company *Tropo House Productions* and completed numerous radio jingles, MIDI demos, album projects, and audio for multi-media productions. Bill also had the opportunity to work at Lahaina Sound (George Benson's studio) with world-class engineer David Russell and at the personal studio of Walter Becker (Steely Dan) on Maui with producer John Neff (bass player with rock group "Steppenwolf").

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Bill's now in Dallas where, by day he's a manager and business executive for the world's #1 manufacturer of mobile phones. His work takes him to many wonderful locations, including Finland, England, Germany, France, Italy, China, Brazil, Las Vegas, San Diego, Orlando, and Miami Beach (just to name a few). After hours, he's been involved in several music recording projects, including the GLAMA-nominated album *Until It's Over* from Positive Voices, and *Personals*, recorded by the Turtle Creek Chorale. Bill recently produced Denise Lee's debut solo album *Someday, Now*, and performs with Denise and multi-talented pianist Buddy Shanahan.

In his spare time, Bill is working on his own solo album project entitled *Scrapbook* and is slated for release in the spring of 2006.

## About the music...

As you may be able to ascertain from the biographical information, Bill possesses a wide range of musical experiences and skills. Having played and sung professionally since age 12, Bill brings a wealth of diversity and energy to the performing stage.

Bill is an accomplished woodwind specialist, playing almost every woodwind instrument there is. Typically an evening of music will include saxophone (alto and soprano), flute, and sometimes even clarinet.

Bill also plays piano/keyboards. Bill's instrument of choice for more contemporary settings is the 76-note Yamaha SY-99. As an instrumentalist, he's able to articulate this keyboard's brass, percussion, and other acoustic instrument settings to create a very realistic sounding performance.

Bill maintains a world-class project/recording studio in his home and offers music recording and production services as well ([www.dancingbearsproductions.com](http://www.dancingbearsproductions.com)). Bill uses his studio to create accompaniment tracks that give the performance at your event an additional touch of class.

## Your options...

Bill works on a regular basis around Dallas as a solo act as well as with several outstanding musicians. Depending on your needs, you may consider the following options:

### **Solo**

Combine a wealth of talent with a healthy dose of modern technology and you get Bill's one-man-band. Bill brings a wide variety of musical textures to your event, from simple piano, vocal or saxophone stylings to full sounding arrangements, courtesy of the custom accompaniment tracks he creates in his project studio. Enjoy selections that span the range from acoustic jazz for fine dining, "light jazz" and fusion, to R & B and Top 40 for dancing and listening pleasure.



Bill has recently been added to the entertainment staff at Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse in Addison, TX. Bill performs on weekends in Havana Dee's Cigar Lounge, starting at 8:00 p.m. Stop in for a great meal and some great after-dinner entertainment!

### **Duo**

Bill frequently works with another talented Dallas pianist and musician, Buddy Shanahan. Bill and Buddy can provide an even wider range of musical options and the ability to handle virtually any music request.

### **More?**

Bill networks with some of the finest singers and musicians in the metroplex. If you're looking for a trio, quartet, or even more, don't hesitate to ask!