

Mark Rodriguez / Keys / Music Dir.

Mark Rodriguez started his love for music by playing classical piano at the age of four. His mother, already an accomplished classical violinist, inspired the music within him. At 4 years old, Mark began classical piano studies, and in the years to follow gravitated towards learning other styles of music, branching out into composition, theory & orchestration. A lifetime of training culminated in the launch of my musical career when Mark was in High School. An orchestral arrangement he did of Billy Joel's Scenes From An Italian Restaurant caught the attention of a music label A&R representative which started the roots of his career.

After moving from Seattle to Los Angeles, Mark continued his work in music and focused his talents on composing and arrangement for artists and film. In 2006 Mark began working with composer / producer Rob Waz and together formed 52nd Street Productions. With a common vision to create compelling compositions and original songs that blend musical genres, Mark and Rob have found their complimentary musical backgrounds an ideal canvas for collaboration.

This led to some great work with some past and current collaborators including: Zendaya, Jake Miller, Blake Lewis, The.Wav: Gregory Stutzer, Nick Rosen, Nikki Sixx, National Lampoon, Primary Wave/BMG producer Jon Redwine, UMG artist Anton Ewald, BMG composer Andrew Joslyn, Elm City/EMI artists MIGGS, John Luzzi (Producer/Songwriter), LA Guns bassist Kelly Nickels, Vitamin Records, Macy Gray producer Joe Solo, singer James Munoz of The Bled, director Gerrin Tramis of Spikeadillo, Elliot Bryant (Photographer/Biojexphoto), Eric Lopez (Young Justice / Star Wars Rebels), and many others.

Mark was honored to be Nominated by the NAACP Theater Image Awards 2012 for Best Music Director

In 2019 CJ contacted Mark thru a mutual friend to play piano for an audition which then sparked into creating songs thru their mutual love of music. Since then they have been on a role crafting songs along side fellow writer and producer Arif Elahi. They plan a full record to be released mid of next year but with singles going out up to that point and touring with CJ and his incredible band.

Chris Vincent / Guitar / Co- Music Dir.

Chris Vincent was born and raised in Seattle, WA. At the age of 13 he picked up his first guitar and it was love at first sight. As he learned to play from cd's of his favorite bands, he discovered the blues and has not looked band since. As a rock guitar player it was only natural to seek out and learn the roots of the music he loved.

Since then Chris has been involved in a variety of successful bands/projects. He was a founding member and the primary songwriter for the Seattle based group "3 Degrees West". Whose successes earned them local popularity as well as regular rotation of the single "No Rest" on radio stations across the US and the US Virgin Islands. The band played numerous showcases in the L.A. area for reps from A&M, Sony, Octone Records

and many more. After 10 years together, the group split ways in 2003. Chris then went on to form Seattle act "PC Load Letter" who have been making a name for themselves locally for their highly entertaining live show.

As he toured and word spread about his playing, the doors began to open for him in the world of studio work. He was presented many opportunities to work with a wide range of artists he found that his diverse influences and musical tastes came in handy. Since he has made himself available to enhance artists recordings and help them get on tape the sound they have in their head Chris has done session work in almost every genre imaginable. From Hip-Hop, Punk, Blues, Pop and Country; Chris has proven to be an invaluable asset to artists working to bring their songs to life.

Chris and Mark Rodriguez had a long successful working relationship so when Mark introduced CJ to Chris, things fell into place naturally. They have since been rehearsing and playing gigs in the Los Angeles area and are ready to branch out to bigger stations nationwide with the band.

Andrew Joslyn - Strings

Composer, orchestrator, and multi-instrumentalist is an award-winning musical polymath whose passion for collaboration has led him to work with a remarkably diverse group of world-class artists, touring the world, performing, co-writing and arranging music for the last three Macklemore albums including the 4 time Grammy winning *The Heist*. Along the way he has amassed an impressive list of writing, orchestrating, recording and touring credits that include: Judy Collins, Kygo, ODESZA, K Flay, Pierre Kwender, Tom Chaplin (Keane) David Bazan (Pedro the Lion), Mark Lanegan (Screaming Trees), Duff McKagan (Guns N Roses), Doug Martsch (Built to Spill), Jeremy Enigk (Sunny Day Real Estate), Father John Misty, Brazilian singer-songwriter Nando Reis (2018 Latin Grammy winning album), the Seattle Rock Orchestra and many others.

Most recently, Andrew co-wrote, performed strings and arranged horns for pop star Kesha's first single, *Praying*, from her new album, *Rainbow*, which shot to #1 the first week of release. He wrote the scores for Macklemore's premier performance with the Seattle Symphony and scored compositions for Blind Pilot's performance with the Oregon Symphony.

As a composer, Andrew scored, performed and produced film scores for two Hollywood films released in 2017, *Hickok*, starring Luke Hemsworth, Kris Kristofferson and Trace Atkins and *American Violence* starring Denise Richards and Bruce Dern. For 2018, Andrew composed, performed and produced the scores for the soon to be released film *Life with Dog*, starring and directed by Corbin Bernsen and the independent films *Relentless* and *The Lumber Baron*. He is one of the main composers for the immensely popular and award winning true crimes podcast *Casefile: True Crime*, which since its start in 2016 has close to 170 million total downloads. In addition, he has supplied string compositions & performances for the popular FOX TV show, *Bob's Burgers*.

Andrew's genre bending first solo album, *Awake at the Bottom of the Ocean* is best described as Orchestral Pop, sophisticated, music that touches on a variety of styles from Classical to Pop. The record garnered critical acclaim on release, from news sources including: Paste, Yahoo Music, NPR, Huffington Post, Hype Machine, Afropunk Seattle Weekly, and Nada Mucho. His music has been featured on KEXP and their *Music That Matters* Podcast. His music has also been featured in TV shows such as *Gray's Anatomy*, *Pretty Little Liars*, and *Lorraine*.

Andrew and Mark Rodriguez have a long standing friendship and working relationship so it was no surprise for Mark to introduce Andrew and CJ. Andrew has now since arranged string sections on a couple of CJ's songs and has been coming on to play select shows with his band.

Carl McDowell / Bass

Carl D. McDowell was born on the gang-ridden streets of the south side of Chicago. Although, he had his share of problems with gangs and brushes with the law as a teenager, sports ultimately lead him in the opposite direction. Carl excelled in football, baseball, and wrestling at Harper High School, and it just so happen that football bought him his ticket out of Chicago.

Carl came out to Hollywood in 2004 and began to do background work so he could see how things work behind the scenes. Later just to get a better look, he began his stint as a Production Assistant on shows like "Numbers", "The Riches", and "Criminal Minds". At any given point Carl have Produced, Written, Directed, Acted, and Edited films. To this date his fondest moments have been working along side Adam Sandler, "The Longest Yard", being directed by Cameron Crowe, "Elizabeth Town", and getting to be in a movie with Snoop Dog, "Bossn' up". He also was cast as TTD on the hit show "Ballers"

Carl's musical career really came by chance when 4 years ago his friend, Michael Rosenbaum, asked him and a few of their friends to jam in his basement. At that time, it was just for fun, as Carl didn't know how to play the bass, or any musical instrument for that matter, but in true Carl fashion, he picked it up regardless, memorizing the notes with the help of his fellow bandmate Rob Danson. That led to endless hours of playing covers in Michael's basement, which then eventually evolved into the friends deciding to write their own songs, and creating a catalog of music for themselves.

Along the way, others started to hear about the band, christened Left of Laurel by this time, and they were asked to open for the Station Breaks led by Jason Manns at the Troubadour. Talk about stars aligning—first show ever at a LA musical landmark!

The band has gone on to play various music festivals, touring Germany (they will be there again this November) and most recently releasing an album of all their original music.

But it doesn't just stop with Left on Laurel, Carl also plays bass for the CJ Hammond band. Through a mutual friend, Carl was tapped by Mark Rodriguez, songwriter, producer and pianist for the band, to play bass on their first single "Throne". That one single turned into multiple songs and Carl was asked to officially join the band as their bassist. They have hit the ground running with the release of the single and music video for "Throne" and their very first performance earlier this month at The Study in LA. They are currently preparing for more performances in the US.

Matt Booher - Drums

Matt Booher is a multi-talented musician originating from Reno, NV. He first picked up drum sticks at 11 years old & was soon playing shows around Reno in a hardcore/screamo project. Switching his focus in high school, he taught himself acoustic guitar and got involved with singing and songwriting, while continuing to play drums and singing in various pop/punk and indie projects. Matt moved to Los Angeles, CA in 2014 to pursue a career in the arts.

In 2016, he and his best friend Rhett Wellington started an electro pop-punk project called "the blame." They have since released 2 EP's and various singles/collaborations with other artists, including Lil Lotus, Call Me Karizma and Lil West, while performing shows around the Hollywood/SoCal area. At one of these shows, Matt met Mark Rodriguez, a friend who works in the music industry. Soon after, Mark introduced Matt to CJ Hammond, a talented young singer in the Hollywood area. The opportunity arose to perform shows together, and they have been rehearsing and performing shows ever since, along with the rest of CJ's band.