

Phil Sweeney (rhythm guitar, lead and backup vocals and keyboards)

Phil attributes his talents to his late Mother and Father. His mother played the piano and organ for church and for school music contestants. His father had a great voice but didn't play any instruments.

One Christmas, Phil's dad bought his mom a guitar as a gift. She never really took to it, so Phil did. He learned much by playing with friends; an early tutor was Jim Muhs. His mom insisted he take piano lessons (which he clearly resisted) but now is really glad she made him go to Mrs. Kelley who taught him the basics of music. )

Then in public school, he took up the cornet, French horn, baritone, and tuba, whatever was called for by his wonderful music director Dr. Jim Schroeder ...a great musician in his own right. And the best fun was playing jazz guitar in swing band.

Then as the years passed he played guitar around the campfire for friends and family. Later he played in a duet with Pam Sease. Then a phone call from Mike Anderson, convinced him to join a country band.

This all eventually evolved into the Interstate Cruisers of today, with the many personnel and name changes. There were a few years he performed with the Johnson Brothers Band of Spencer, Iowa.

Phil also has an acoustic folk group Ceolmhor that performs throughout the region at wineries, social gatherings, and business functions.

Phil and his wife Vicky reside in Hartley Iowa. They have three now grown sons (like the old tv show).