

**Tim Deats**

Presents

# JUST DUET!



*Dueling Piano Show*



Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/justduetduelingpianoshow](http://www.facebook.com/justduetduelingpianoshow)

For Booking Information: (605) 999-0727



## **JUST DUET! Dueling Piano Show**

A Las Vegas - style, all request Comedy/Dueling piano show, featuring some remarkable entertainers. Playing whatever the crowd wants to hear, from Johnny Cash to Lady Gaga and anything in between, no musical genre is safe! Completely customized for your event, JUST DUET! will be your "Guides" as the Audience leads the way on a comedic/musical journey that will leave people of all ages laughing, on their feet and feeling like they were part of the show.

# **Short History of Dueling Pianos**

Literal "dueling pianos" can be verified as early as the late 1890s, when ragtime piano players would actually "duel" in order to see who could play better and faster. In 1933, when B.H. O'Brien and Charlie Cantrell opened Pat O'Brien's in New Orleans, they included a room where 2 piano players would entertain the crowd on copper-topped baby grand pianos. Players would take turns singing songs requested by the audience, written on cocktail napkins.

In 1986, a piano bar called Dallas Alley (aka "Alley Cats") opened in Dallas as an attempt to copy the piano bar style of New Orleans. Players at this club started redefining the style of dueling pianos by playing more contemporary rock and roll music, coupled with humorous bits that involved lyric substitutions and audience participation. These "bits" would become commonplace at many dueling piano clubs over the years, as a staple of the industry. From there, many dueling piano clubs and chains opened, and there are currently over 300 different clubs across the United States. The name of the concept has also evolved to be called "sing-along" since the goal of the players is not generally to work against each other, but rather to gain audience participation with singing and clapping. This is widely accepted as the current incarnation of dueling pianos/sing-along.

## **The Show**

A typical "dueling piano" show normally features 2 - 4 piano players. We work throughout the night, taking audience requested songs. Generally, tips are expected when a song request is made, and priority may be given to a song with a larger denomination bill. Upon a tip, the players will often play the particular song, or even the fight song of whatever college is requested too, which often results in bidding wars between alumni and students of various universities in attendance. Patrons can also request that an audience member be brought on stage. Generally, this is to celebrate a birthday, bachelorette party, bachelor party, anniversary, or other occasion. The player then performs a "call down" in which the participant (or participants) is embarrassed in a light-hearted fashion. "Call downs" may be parodies of well-known songs, or simply original material intended to generate a reaction from the audience.

"Bits" are comedic routines or audience participation, many woven in the songs themselves. A commonly used bit can be found in the songs Y.M.C.A. with some audience members "spelling" out the letters or Joy To the World", by Three Dog Night, as one piano player will teach the crowd "sign language" that accompanies the song, then bringing up an audience member to demonstrate.



# Meet the players

## *Tim Deats - Piano - Harmonica - Vocals*



*© Nina Grant Photography*

"Wild and Witty, Extreme and Intense" "The guy who put the "I can" in Mexican", "Timmo" started out singing early and often and thoroughly entertained (and sometimes annoyed) everyone around him. Born in Spring Valley, IL and raised in Ottawa, IL Tim has been imitating singers and cartoon characters almost from day one. Once called, "A wrecking ball of Entertainment," by the Superintendent in charge of the Strategic Air Command Band at Offutt Air Force Base, Tim started lessons on guitar (with IL music Legend Evelyn Brue) at age 8, by age 13 he realized after learning the first 3 songs from the "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" album on guitar, that there was simply no way to play "Bennie and the Jets" without the piano.

Self-taught on the piano (except for 3 months of lessons from IL music legend Carlos Santucci and then 3 months again while attending College) Tim's ability to play almost anything he hears is fun to watch and listen to. He attended Illinois Valley Community College and Illinois Wesleyan studying Music but ended up leaving early to play in a traveling show band. Working throughout the Mid-West and Canada., Tim learned his craft by playing 6 nights a week, 46 weeks a year for just over 7 years, as the Keyboardist/Vocalist for "The Happyness Show and Dance Band". Tim left the road and settled in South Dakota but grew restless and soon joined forces with a very popular band in South Dakota called, "Good Times" After 5 years and a few lineup changes, in came a new lead singer for the band and since then Tim has been working with former Giant Slayer Records recording artist Dustin Evans, at times, assuming Musical Director responsibilities and playing keyboards and harmonica and background and even some lead vocals

While with Dustin Evans and Good Times, Tim has opened for such artists as Chris Ledoux, Martina McBride, Trace Adkins, Toby Keith, Keith Urban., Brad Paisley, Charlie Daniels, Sawyer Brown, Jerrod Niemann, Big and Rich and many others, while playing venues as varied as Cheyenne Frontier Days to The Indy 500 and numerous fairs and festivals, from California to Virginia, from Montana to Kentucky, from Arizona to Michigan and lots of spots in between. His masterful playing and contagious laugh make him a crowd favorite, whether he's goofing off playing up his Mexican/Irish heritage, good naturedly ribbing an audience member during a "call down ", rallying the crowd to join him in a "Wahoo Time!!" or rocking the house pounding the piano into submission, He truly is a character.



# **Meet the Players**

## *Amy Ellsworth - Piano-Vocals*



Amy Ellsworth originally hails from a farm outside of Egan, SD, population “not too many”. She received the gift of playing music by ear from the Lord above, and also her mom, Dorothy - even though Dorothy eventually told her she could use her fingers.

Amy has been in a number of bands over the years, including Southern Law, Stone Cowboy, Street Side, Sugardaddy (apparently the letter S is popular when naming a band) – as well as being a lead vocalist and keyboardist in the extremely popular early 2000’s disco tribute band, The Glory Holes. She was also the lead singer and keyboardist in the 14-year run of Sioux Falls-based Jukebox Zeroes, where she finally got to see her love of singing and playing the best in Arena Rock to reality. Jukebox Zeroes released a double-disc CD in 2012 called In Gratia, and there are still copies floating around if you’d like to purchase one to show your grandchildren. Amy got a taste of songwriting with JBZ and found out she really loves it. Look for more original material from her in the future.

Amy’s biggest vocal and songwriting influences are Ann Wilson of Heart, David Coverdale of Whitesnake, Robert Plant (Led Zeppelin – DUH!), Geoff Tate of Queensryche (before he kinda lost his marbles), Rob Halford of Judas Priest, Sarah McLachlan, John Rzeznik of the Goo Goo Dolls, among many others. She also loves the classic rock giants Journey, Styx, Boston, Zeppelin, and Rush - to name a few.

When she’s not on the stage, Amy loves dogs, horses, her family, The Lord, the Minnesota Vikings, going to concerts, and most of all, her circa 2002 son, Carter. Let’s have some fun!!



# **Meet the Players**

*Howard Hedger - Multi Instrumentalist - Vocals*



Howard is a multi-instrumentalist immigrant, hailing from Newcastle upon Tyne in the frozen North of England, UK, currently living in Brandon South Dakota working remotely for NASA.

Howard has been playing violin since he was 7yrs old, picking up the guitar, piano and singing somewhere along the way. While his accent makes him difficult to understand, his non-stop fiddling, guitar strums and melodic yelling in words that sound vaguely familiar, break down the language barrier for what Forbes magazine describes as an evening of music that was "Somewhere between ok and fine".

He's recorded with various musicians over the years, and even gets asked to "comeback"... however that's usually followed by "pay your tab" or "return the silverware". Howard currently jams with various local acts, produces and records, and performs with Just Duet and occasionally Dustin Evans and the Good Times Band. Feel free to say hi, and when he answers please keep in mind he's foreign and not slow.



# **Meet the Players**

*Vance Tuffs, Al Berwen, Chuck Case, Joshua Gadsen, Lynn Thayer Darin Moke – Drums*

We are lucky enough to work with some of the best drummers and percussionists in the Midwest. We almost always bring a drummer along with us...and depending on availability, we'll have one of our favorites and soon to be, one of your favorite drummers as well. They all have had years of drumming experience and played shows all over the United States and some, quite literally, all over the World.



**Vance**



**Al**



**Chuck**



**Joshua**



**Lynn Thayer**



**Darin Moke**

# **The Buzz**

## **Here are just a few words about JUST DUET! Dueling Piano Show**

*"Thank you very much for being a part of our 50th Anniversary of the South Dakota Auctioneers Association at our State Convention. You are the best entertainers. The little kids sure had a great time and after the kids' hour was up, us adults had a fun time also. The Auctioneers are still talking about it. We hope to be able to schedule you again in the future"  
Thank you so Much!! PS... I believe we have some pictures...*

**South Dakota Auctioneers Association**

*"A crowd pleasing, 5-star show"* – **Mark Gramm – Romeo Entertainment Group**

*"Just Duet Dueling Pianos was awesome entertainment! The Four Aces in Deadwood, SD had the opportunity to book Just Duet for a Friday evening show inside our casino. They did an excellent job interacting with our guests, providing a fun environment, and playing toe-tapping music! We would definitely enjoy having them back – Class Act!!*

**Tony Sieber - General**

**Manager - Four Aces Casino Deadwood, SD**

*"Just Duet performed for the SD Auto Dealers Association Annual Convention and WHAT A TREAT! They are so talented and a complete blast! Our guests were having a great time - some listening and some singing along with them. Who needs to go to Las Vegas to see a great dueling piano show when they will come right to your front door and perform? I look forward to the next time we have them perform for our group."*

**Michelle Wells - Executive Assistant - South Dakota Automobile Dealers Association**

*"We have had them multiple times and the show is always a blast"*

**Katie Sieverding – Lancaster Management Group**

*"Just Duet" put on a fantastic show for our healthcare fundraiser. They were very entertaining and extremely professional during their show, very appropriate for the mixed age crowd we had. The crowd participation portion of the show was so much fun, and we have had lots of requests to have them back for another show. I have been booking entertainment for this fundraiser for several years and "Just Duet!" was by far the most entertaining and easiest to work with we have ever had. They had great sound and lights for our large venue. We will definitely be having them back for this yearly event."*

**Katie Harris - Event Chairperson - Southwest Healthcare Services - Bowman, ND**

*"We hired JUST DUET for our Company Christmas Party, and everyone had a blast! They were great to work with and put on an amazing show! We can't wait to use them again in the future!"*

**Brittany Bergjord – American Fence**

# JUST DUET!



## *Dueling Piano Show*

***“The most fun you can have...in public... JUST DUET! Dueling Piano Show”***

**JUST DUET!** will come to your event completely self-contained with our own production, or if needed to, able to use yours. We also can bring up to 4 piano players and even a full band if wanted, and we are able to play for any sized event...and always with friendly and good attitudes... and of course... we bring our own pianos.

Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Justduetduelingpianoshow](http://www.facebook.com/Justduetduelingpianoshow)

or our website:

<http://www.justduetpianos.com>



**For information about booking**

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