



***How did you come to join Britny Fox as the lead singer/guitarist?***

A friend showed me a trade magazine with an ad for a new vocalist for Britny Fox. I mailed a copy of my band's latest album along with some photographs to their manager Brian. After a week of waiting, I started leaving messages on his answer machine every day. Another week or so went by and he called me and said they wanted to invite me out for an audition.

***Describe the process from when you first heard about it, to them choosing you to be the new lead singer.***



I had to fly myself from Vegas to Philadelphia and had no money at that time. I was going to sell my Volkswagen, (a full-on 70s, yellow Ted Bundy model) to get a ticket but instead, my dear friend Jamie gave me the \$ for a flight. The first day of the audition was basically in a rehearsal studio and we played all songs from their first 2 albums, plus a few spontaneous covers. It was a lot of fun. After a few days, I returned to Vegas. While they were still trying out other singers, they would show me demos of new songs they were writing with no melodies or lyrics. I wrote to those and sent back what I'd come up with. They asked me to come back for a 2nd audition to write new songs with

them. I spent a week or so doing that and then returned home.

In the meantime, Bret Michaels had a guy he wanted them to try out and I figured they'd likely choose that singer. A bit of time went by and I'd basically figured I didn't get it but they called and asked me to be in the band if I wanted the gig, which of course I did.

***You subsequently recorded 4 other albums with them and 2 solo albums, "Tommy Paris Band" and "erthearz"***



***You played all of the instruments and sang all the vocal parts on those albums?***

My wife titled the erthearz album, my son Curtis sang some background vocals, my son Jude did some audio engineering and I had a few lead guitar sections added from my friend's K and Toast. Aside from those, I did the rest.

***When you're playing the drums, you're not listening to anything, just silence?***



Other than following the song in my head, yes, just drums. Sometimes a metronome also. A lot of people do all of the parts on their recordings these days. I've been doing it since the analog 8-track days but never thought too much about it.

***What formal training do you have?***

I took 6 years of classical and jazz lessons on piano starting at the age of 8.



*You sound like you are able to play concert piano if you want to, why didn't you pursue this field?*

I do pretty well on piano aside from sight reading. Instead

of continuing  
traditional studies, I

shifted to writing my own songs  
and exploring other instruments.

*Besides singing, how many instruments do you play?*

I play guitar, piano, organ,  
synthesizers, bass, and drums. I also  
teach them.

*You've engineered and produced a lot of the music you've recorded. How did you get into those fields?*

In high school, I borrowed a Peavey mixer and a bunch of microphones to record my band that I was in with my brother. We recorded live to a cassette deck, adjusted the balance afterwards and just kept doing it again and again until it sounded decent. I took on this role out of necessity, as no one else in the band had the interest to do it.

***Your first major label album, “Bite Down Hard” was with Britny Fox. What was the reaction to it since you had replaced their original lead singer?***

It was recieved well by the fans of the band. The Chicago Tribune deemed the songs "fast, seamless bits of Sunset Strip rock." The Washington Post wrote that, "the usual sexism aside, this is serviceable pop-metal." Not sure what that means but there you are! "Bite Down Hard" was released on October 29, 1991 a month apart from Nirvana's "Nevermind" released by Geffen Records on September 24, 1991. If it had come out a year or 2 earlier, it would have sold a lot more but many fans still consider Bite Down Hard to be their favorite Britny Fox album.

*What does it mean to you at present day?*



I'm very proud of that album and our collective effort to write and record it. I've moved on, but BDH remains special; my solo band plays some of those songs live.

*Your first solo album has been described as pseudo“heavy metal-ish” and erthearz to be more like “heavy, melodic rock.” What is the new record going to sound like?*



It's going to be very immediate, heavy, driving and in your face! Very melodic but with sharp teeth! Gaaaaarrrrrrrrrrrrrr!!!!

*When will you begin recording?*

It will be a little while because I'm still writing material and setting up a new recording studio in New England.

*Anything you would like to say to anyone  
reading this?*



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further, feel free to email me  
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\* Cheers!