BAND BIOS

**Relish Members**

* **Amy Nordstrom** - Lead Vocals & Percussion
* **Warren Mays** - Vocals & Guitar
* **Chris Conte** - Vocals & Guitar
* **Mikey Johnson** - Drums & Digital Sampler
* **Eric Williams** - Bass



**Amy Nordstrom**

**Lead Vocals & Percussion**

Singing professionally for 25+ years, Amy has recorded and performed with many top musicians in Southern California. Amy started her career singing backup and lead vocals for local bands and recording artists, as well as pursuing some of her own recording ambitions. Over the years, Amy has performed with successful groups such as Ashland, Kindred Souls, Play of Colors and for the past 14 years, Relish.

Amy's greatest talent is her vocal versatility, stamina and range, allowing her to effortlessly perform many different styles, from Rock to Soul to Country and modern pop hits. Her gift is including the audience in the emotional musical journey of each song. She also takes a guilty pleasure in a bit of Karaoke, winning several contests over the past few years, and even performing on Dick Clark's "Your Big Break"!

Amy also sings with the rock n’ roll band Out of the Blue which is another rockin’ Southern California band with outstanding musicianship and of course power house vocals by Amy Nordstrom.

Amy's ultimate passion is Music. She enjoys singing all types of songs, and coloring them with her own special style. It is her purpose in life to bring music to audiences, that they too can share her fire and love of the art of song.

Amy uses the Shure Beta 58 microphones and plays a multitude of percussion instruments including Super Guiro Scraper, Shakers, Claves, Cowbell, Tambourine and Harmonica.



**Warren Mays**

**Vocals & Guitar**

Warren is a guitarist-singer-songwriter originally from central Illinois. Beginning in 8th Grade, he traveled, performed and recorded with several locally popular groups on the same circuits as early lineups of Cheap Trick, REO Speedwagon and Bob Seger.  Early career highlights with his Chicago-based band called Gambler include two albums on Capitol/EMI and opening act appearances with Foghat, Dire Straits, Styx, Foreigner and Journey. A Gambler reunion show was successfully organized in March 2018  
  
Warren moved to LA pursuing new musical horizons and warmer climate. Sunny Southern California has opened opportunities with many talented artists before finding a comfortable musical 'harbor' with Relish. He also performs 60's-70's retro Rock and Soul with The Homewreckers as well as the Celtic-inspired Staggering Jack.  
  
Current equipment choices include several non-vintage Stratocasters, a Gibson Les Paul Cherry Sunburst Custom, a Goldtop Standard from early 70's and a Gibson Blues Hawk through London and Soho models from 65 Amps. His pedalboard currently includes GigRig switching and Keeley Tone Workstation and Strymon Deco O/D units as well as Source Audio Nemesis Delay, Strymon Flint and Lex, EH POG2 and MXR effect devices.



**Chris Conte**

**Vocals & Guitar**

Chris Conte is a guitarist, singer and songwriter from Southern California. Playing for more than 30 years, Chris has worked with numerous musicians primarily in the Los Angeles and Las Vegas areas. His guitar playing style leans towards rock and blues music but has strong influences in jazz phrasing. Chris is a GIT graduate (Guitar Institute of Technology in Hollywood); which gave him invaluable influence and learning experiences from some of the finest musicians in the industry. Chris joined Relish in January 2006 and enjoys the versatility and talent of this top-notch dance band.

Chris uses many guitars including guitars made by Jack Briggs (Saturn Deluxe), Music Man (LUKE), Taylor “T5” Thin Line Acoustic, and a Tim Rocco “Ruckus” Telecaster. Chris’ pickup preferences are Lollar Mini Humbuckers, Suhr Single Coils, Tom Anderson P-90s, Dimarzio Area Ts and Transition pickups, and EMG 85s and SAs. For amplifiers Chris prefers that “American” Fender style tone and has always leaned towards “Dumble” clones such as Brown Note D’Lite and Fuchs ODS amplifiers. Today Chris plays through a wonderful Red Plate Open Range. He also uses numerous pedal effects including the Ethos Overdrive, AC Booster, and BB Preamp, a Keeley Compressor, GNI Analog Chorus, and a Hermida Zen Drive as well as an Eventide Delay and Boss Vibrato.

Chris passion for unique gear and tone is culminated on his personal website named Guitar Gear Enthusiast.



**Michael Johnson**

**Drum & Drummer / Acoustic & Electronic Percussion**

Michael joined Relish in the spring of 2012.

Born in Santa Ana, CA; Michael was raised in Kansas City and started playing bongos [and anything that he could hit to make noise] at the age of 2. While listening and emulating Elvis Presley records, he got his first drum kit at age 7 and credits Elvis’ music for his initial inspiration for being a musician… or shall we say, a drummer -wink wink.

It was Jr. high school band class where Michael forged his technique and discipline. Around that time, he discovered the talents of Buddy Rich. During at a high school Tri-State competition Michael witnessed Buddy perform and experienced an unforgettable, once in a lifetime opportunity of meeting Buddy after that performance. This 15-minute experience of listening to the World’s Best Drummer boasting taught Michael the most important lesson. Buddy Rich knew he was the best ever and let everyone know he was by telling them. Although he could back it up when he would say “I’m the best”, there was not a note of humility; he was full of pride/judgement. The lesson was humility; Be humble knowing the difference in “the best” and “doing your best”. ‘The best’ is simply another’s opinion.

In 1976 Boston released their first album and led Michael to understand the value of melody and production, and more importantly how to ‘serve the song’. Then a band called Rush released their epic album; 2112. Other than Elvis, Michael credits these two albums as the most influential works to shape his musical direction.

In 1988; Michael moved to California; entering the local music scene, playing with anyone and everyone and eventually joining a few bands; including the original/cover band Rider and cover band DVS. Michael eventually joined the Rush tribute; Caress of Steel. Michael still plays a few shows each year with Caress of Steel. In 1996 the members of COS formed an original group Afterlife and recorded an original [self-titled] CD; performing only a few rare shows. Along with performing with Relish; Michael also plays with another rock cover band, The Saloonatics.

As a drummer/musician; Michael tried to live by the motto: “Be humble and Serve the Song”.



**Eric Williams**

**Bass**

Eric was born the only child of seven, and was originally predestined to be a syndicated cartoonist by God almighty whom, as such, saw fit to deny Eric any inherent musical talent whatsoever. As puberty set in, Eric enviously watched old newsreels of young girls breaking through German police barricades to touch the Beatles, and noticed that his syndicated cartoonist heroes seemed to require no barriers at all. So Eric acquired (through questionable means) a bass guitar in hopes of hiding behind a barrier one day.   
  
Lacking any talent, Eric was forced to learn music through math, making such groundbreaking discoveries such as pentatonic scales were actually shaped like trapezoids. This gave Eric the blues, which coincidentally heavily utilized those trapezoidal pentatonic scales, and this allowed Eric to fraudulently feign musical brilliance.

Somehow this worked and Eric has been extraordinarily busy in the music industry for over 30 years, and somehow even manages to pay his mortgage doing musical things. When there’s money left over, Eric spends it on G&L basses and Ashdown amplifiers. Ha! That’s not true. There’s never any money left over. Eric is in debt up to his earholes.  
  
Eric joined Relish in 2015 and now knows hundreds of songs. He doesn’t know hundreds more.