



PAUL BAILEY

Paul Bailey is the quintessence of Line dance to many dancers. His talent and style are legendary and his easy going manner makes him a pleasure for organisers and fans alike.

Paul lives in Shropshire with his wife Jane and his two sons Christopher and William. He admits to enjoying “long walks with Jess our border collie and fishing in local river Severn.” Watching the lads play football and the gym are two of this family man other daily pleasures. He says: “My other passion is D I Y and have spent the past ten years renovating an old School but I don’t think I will ever finish it!”

Paul is 42 and remembers that his love for Country stemmed from hearing Glenn Campbell. “It was in Dad’s Cortina old eight track cassette. He came home one with a guitar and put it in my hands, saying: “There you go son, play this.” And play Paul did. His father would be with him during the first tentative steps of his career. “I started to play local pubs and clubs from the age of twelve and Dad would drive me and encourage me every time. Happy days.”

Paul’s father died suddenly at the age of 43 and as a young boy of just 15 years old,

this would be one of the most difficult times he ever lived through. It also made him stronger, “more determined to make Dad proud.” And by 17, Paul was on the road playing Country music clubs up and down the Country.

Life then was busy as Paul would play three or four nights a week and also work as a painter/decorator. It eventually had to stop. “I just could not hack it anymore and I decided at 24, to go full time and make my living out what I loved, singing and playing live.”

He says : “In those early days there was western dance, mostly partner dancing, where people would wear fabulous traditional western outfits. To some, these were the golden days.”

And as you would expect, the music was ultra traditional Country, Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, Kenny Rogers. But newcomers like Randy Travis, George Strait and Garth Brooks were also starting to come out.

Paul adds: “Along with the new age of country music, came CMT. This changed my whole outlook on the country music scene. The new music was rocky and full

of life and the videos were just great.” And British acts began to appear on CMT (The Cheap Seats, The Dean Brothers and one local man Dave Sheriff). Paul remembers: “At that time, Dave was at the forefront of the Line dance scene and I just loved the whole idea of writing your own music and having the major choreographers of the day write the dances. But where to start?” Paul confides: “ I will always be grateful for all the free advice Dave gave me. He gave me confidence to write my own material.”

His self penned song Somewhere In My Heart from his first album hit the jackpot as a number one in the Independent Country Music Charts. Paul’s next Album, Kickin Country, gave him another top ten hit, Lovin’ You Feeling.

By now Paul was touring extensively, “one night in the south of England the next in the North”, a “tiring and lonely” time in his life, he admits

But he would not have it any other way. “The Line dance scene has been good to me. I have been fortunate enough to work in so many different countries. Places like Germany,Holland, Denmark, Ireland, America and many parts of

Paul Bailey is one of those artists whose names will be forever associated with Line dance. In this *Linedancer* magazine exclusive, *Paul* chats to *Laurent* about his music and his life.



Spain, meeting fabulous Line dancers with a love for Country.”

When asked of his proudest moment, he thinks a while. “I think my song Golden Wings is one such moment. My love for Country inspired this song, a tribute to Tammy Wynette and it went on to win many awards. The Country Music Organisation of Americas International Songwriter of the Year award it won was one of my best times. Ever. The song was co written by Patricia Knapton and introduced me to a host of publishers and other writers.”

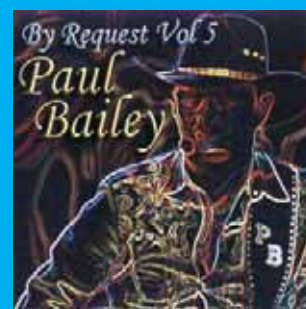
What about the Line dance scene then and now? He pauses. “Some say Line dancing is not what it used to be, the music is too poppy, the dances have too many tags. Though this may be true, you have to remember that nothing stands still. New music and new dances are what’s needed to keep Line dancing fresh. If there is something you don’t like, sit it out and wait for the next one.”

He explains that choosing material for a set is not so hard. “I just listen to the dancers, they are the one who tell me what they want to hear and what they want to dance too. Simple, hey?”

But he does admit that staying relevant and up to date is not so easy. “As my dear old Dad used to say, you only get out what you put in. I spend hours in my little studio producing backing tracks for my live shows, this gives me great feeling of satisfaction knowing that all the instruments heard on stage have been played and produced by me.” This is what gives Paul Bailey his own unique sound, that sense of interpretation of the music. And his future is already mapped out as far as he is concerned. “I would like to continue to write new songs for the Line dance scene, and continue my Dance weekend events which I love. I am fortunate so many people seem to love them too! And there are more countries I want to visit soon.”

Paul insists in finishing our conversation with a special mention. “To all you lovely dancers out there, thank you. Thank you for your continued support. Remember to always keep it fun.” And with Paul alongside, it cannot be anything else but fun and great dancing!

For more information on Paul’s next gig, visit his great website www.paulbaileymusic.co.uk and just click on gig guide for all 2009 gigs.



COMPETITION

We have five copies of Paul Bailey’s *By Request Vol 5* to give away. For your chance to win one answer the following question:

What was Paul’s first big hit. Was it....

- A/ Somewhere In My Heart**
- B/ Golden Wings**
- C/ Lovin’ You Feeling**

To enter go to www.linedancermagazine.com and click on the “competition” area. Alternatively, you can send your answers on a postcard or the back of a sealed down envelope to :

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The editor’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.