



## Dennis Cotton

Dennis Cotton was fifteen years old when his band was chosen to play several concerts around Texas with British super group, The Who. He remembers, "Two of the guys mothers had to drive us to the concerts and when I returned home I had to get money from my dad to pay for my share of the expenses."

At nineteen he joined Fred's Wire Band and traveled throughout the US and Canada as the featured act with Liza Minnelli. They performed in major hotels such as the Playboy Plaza in Miami and the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. His favorite experience was at the Princess Hotel in Hamilton, Bermuda.

He became involved in recording studio work both as a musician and arranger. He lent his talents to a variety of record projects as well as television and film work. During this time, a large portion of the year was spent as a member of the thirteen piece Lagoon Band at Astroworld.

As a member of "Expressway" he has played at private parties, corporate events, weddings and at countless fairs and outdoor festivals. At the Freedom Festival, his group was the opening act for Chicago to an audience of over 100,000. He has opened for and served as an accompanist for artists as diverse as Lou Rawls, ZZ Top, Charlie Pride and Merl Haggard.

Dennis takes his musical inspiration from Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Dr. John and "anyone who plays from the heart and soul." He plays guitar and harmonica as well as an assortment of keyboard instruments. His main passion is reading and you will rarely find him without a book in his possession.

He has been married to Theresa for thirty six years and she is the one who "makes everything seem possible". They have two sons who keep them exposed to young people and ideas.

His goal with the Barry Sea Paradox is "to share the fun we're having with our audience."