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# Chains Required: The soundtrack of your life

By Kim Mathie

Four years ago in a basement rehearsal room in Sonora, 10 band members, their wives, girlfriends and children were looking at a decidedly uncool list of potential band names. Among the hopefuls was "Regroovination," which, four years later, still solicits groans and laughs from the group today.

"It was my worst nightmare of a name," says saxophone player David Rhoades with a laugh during an interview with seven of the 10 members.

The name Chains Required made the list mostly out of desperation; a band member described the road conditions to get to band practice and mentioned the moniker in a throwaway kind of way. Given the uninspired choices in front of them, Chains Required quickly earned favor that night as a name and, not surprisingly, later in the community as the band hit the road.

The brainchild of trombonist George Greenfield and friends, Chains Required is a 10-piece rhythm and blues band featuring a four-piece horn section a la Tower of Power; a band out of the '60s that features a hard-hitting horn section and a soulful sound.

While they don't aim to be Tower of Power, they do share a lot in common. Chief among those similarities is that hot horn section backed by a solid rhythm section; the difference comes from the fact the group is fronted by female vocal leads. In the end, what they've got is a very energized and talented band.



What initially began with five members quickly evolved to 10. The horn section quickly set Chains Required apart from other bands in the area. The horn players are George Greenfield on trombone, Glenn Babros and Bob Russell Jr. on trumpet and David Rhoades on saxophone. The rhythm section includes Jim Anderson on drums, Dan Parks on bass, Tracy Girard on guitars and Kevin Jachetta on keyboards. Kerry Tweedy and Shelly Jachetta sing out front.

At first, Greenfield took on a lot of the responsibility organizing the band and hosting rehearsals in his living room and now the converted rehearsal room in his basement.

"Everybody has a piece of the band to be responsible for," Russell said. He handles the band's information and technology needs.

"It keeps members involved in the band," Greenfield said, "and I get to enjoy things more. My wife, Chris, is the biggest saint!"

Parks handles promotions; Babros takes care of merchandising; Rhoades cuts the checks; and Tweedy schedules the band for things like this interview, but they all keep their eyes and ears open for opportunities to play.

"It's definitely a labor of love," Greenfield said.

All the band members are accomplished musicians in their own rights; some have played instruments going on 30-plus years in and out of formal educational settings. Most, if not all band members play or have played in other area bands like the Columbia College Big Band and Columbia College Jazz Band, Crazy Ivan and The Flashbacks.

For Anderson and the rest of the band, it's the music that makes playing in Chains Required especially fun.

"I love making giant, big sound," Anderson said. "It's a bonus having girls up front."

Babros says he likes the song list. "I've always played the type of music we play, like Chicago and Blood, Sweat and Tears."

Rhoades has been a musician practically his entire life, playing the flute, baritone, trombone and

The horn section of Chains Required gets foothill audiences grooving in no time.

Courtesy photos



## The lineup:

George Greenfield, trombone  
Glenn Babros, trumpet  
Bob Russell Jr., trumpet  
David Rhoades, saxes  
Kerry Tweedy, vocals  
Shelly Jachetta, vocals and sax  
Tracy Girard, guitars  
Jim Anderson, drums  
Kevin Jachetta, keyboards  
Dan Parks, bass  
Band info: chainsrequired.com



Above: Jim Anderson on drums and Dan Parks on bass keep the Chains Required sound moving right along.



Left: Shelly Jachetta, left, and Kerry Tweedy sing lead on songs like "In the Midnight Hour" and "Saturday in the Park."

## Chains Required show

### WHEN:

9 p.m. Friday, June 10

### WHERE:

Willow Creek Lounge, Black Oak Casino, 19400 Tuolumne Road North, Tuolumne

### COST:

Free

### MORE INFO:

blackoakcasino.com or call (877) 747-8777

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DAILY.....4:50.....7:00  
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LATE SHOW FRI-SUN.....9:35  
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LATE SHOW FRI-SUN.....9:20  
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DAILY.....4:10.....6:55  
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saxophone. But he said his musical knowledge ends somewhere in the 1950s.

"I made it to the '60s without hearing Tower of Power," he said with a smile. "I'm learning a lot of new music."

The band likes to stick to the B-sides of records for its song list, Parks said, frequently opting for

music that's not overplayed but still familiar, perhaps somewhere on the periphery of popularity.

"Whatever works for the band," said Greenfield, particularly proud of the democratic way the band works. "We all bring in our ideas and see what happens."

The rest of the set list puzzle involves finding songs that stretch the band musically, but also satis-

fy an audience hungry for entertainment.

"It's an evolutionary process," Anderson explained. "We always try to gauge the response of the audience, constantly thinking of what's going to work."

Russell, Rhoades, Babros and Greenfield study the music to be true to the original, but then put their own spins on tunes to bring them to

life and make them their own.

"We have to make our own arrangements," Russell said. "You can't find sheet music with the instrumentation the band requires."

While some songs like "Mustang Sally" and "God Bless the Child" are fast favorites, the popularity of "Temptation Eyes" by Grass Roots surprised some band members.

"I'd never even heard of that song," Rhoades said. "But it quickly became one of those magic moments for me."

The audience plays an important part, too.

"Our music comes down to the relationship with the people in the band and the people in the audience," Anderson said. "We play dancing songs that are positive and remind people of good times in their lives."

The fan base for Chains Required is decidedly varied; the band appeals to a wide range of people and personas.

"From businessmen to hippies ...," Anderson said.

"To biker chicks," finishes Tweedy with a smile.

Tweedy joined the band not long after moving back to Tuolumne County from Santa Rosa, where she sang lead vocals for a band called Misdemeanor.

"I always dreamed of being in a band with horns," she said. "But I was a little overwhelmed at first."

When she walked into the Chains Required rehearsal room – a converted portion of Greenfield's basement – the horn players and rhythm

section were arranged in a circle and in the center was a lonely microphone, Tweedy remembers.

"She was a perfect fit," Russell says. "This band was designed for her."

While her background includes singing lead vocals and participating in Columbia College's Jazz Band, performing with Chains Required was something else.

"This band challenges me more than any other experience because of the demands of the music," Tweedy said. "As a singer, I'm a conduit from the band to the audience and the audience back to the band. Every song feels different depending on who's out there in the audience."

Parks knows exactly what she means. "When you're in the moment, groovin', feeling great playing music, the euphoria is hard to duplicate otherwise," he said.

Given audience responses to Chains Required, the players should have ample opportunities to re-create that euphoria.

"I think the audience sees how well we all work together," Tweedy said.

And that's not an easy feat with 10 members in a band.

"If we wanted to make money, we wouldn't be in a 10-piece band," Greenfield admits. "But that's not why we're here. We do it for the fun and the music."

Contact Kim Mathie at [kmathie@sierralodestar.com](mailto:kmathie@sierralodestar.com).



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David Rhodes, left, Bob Russell Jr. and Glenn Babros brass it up in Copperopolis.

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