

FLAME

How was the idea for the band established?

In 2003, Michelle King won a talent show at Lexington and wowed everyone. Her great voice gave us the idea to start a band.

Were auditions held?

Auditions were and another exceptionally talented performer, David LaGrange, who plays drums, showed up. David and Michelle became the foundation of the band.

How often does the group practice?

FLAME practices twice a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays, unless there are performances on those days.

How was the style of music established?

The style of the music came from the songs that the band members knew. It has been amazing how easily band members could perform so many songs after only knowing them from hearing them on the radio.

Did people know each other before the group was formed?

Most of the eleven members knew one another before the band was formed.

I saw from the web site that the group travels all over. Have there ever been any problems with equipment not arriving on time? Especially when flying was involved?

The band has not flown to any performances yet. We have not had any problems with equipment arriving on time so far.

Do members of the group have other jobs?

Some work on Lexington's mobile work crew, some work in sheltered employment at Lexington

Industries, and some attend Day Hab programs. Were there people that doubted the success of the band?

Due to the incredible talent of Michelle King and David LaGrange, no one ever doubted the band. As they played more and more locally and improved, we realized that the sky's the limit for them.

Has Flame always been accepted by their audiences?

FLAME has always received enthusiastic acceptance from audience members. Usually, after three songs, audience members completely forget that the members have disabilities and are simply entertained by their excellent music.

How are new songs learned?

When someone wants to do a new song they will say "Do you guys know this song?" Then Michelle will say, "Yeah,

I know that song. Dave, do you know it?" Dave will respond, "I know it, let's do it!" and then they play it. If it is a song they don't know, they will listen to it a couple of times and then play it. They are incredible. After only three or four takes they are ready to play new songs in public.

Does everybody in the band read music?

The only person in the band that reads sheet music is Nick Robinson, bass player. Nick does not receive services through Lexington. However, he suffers from paralysis after being stricken with an unknown illness.

Is this a full time job for the band?

FLAME is not a full time job for the band.

FLAME is a rock band that has impressed celebrities, amazed politicians and overwhelmed audiences of all ages and backgrounds. They play over 100 popular classic hits from the past 5 decades and they tour the Northeast playing over 75 paid performances per year. They are changing the world through music and their fame is growing rapidly.

By the way, the eleven band members happen to have developmental and physical disabilities, including autism, Down's syndrome, mental retardation, and blindness. Welcome to the phenomenon that is FLAME.

Order your copy of FLAME's CD today. To see FLAME live, check our tour schedule. To book FLAME for your next event call us at 518-762-0024.

How was the style of music chosen?

The style of the music came from the style of the songs the band members knew.

Did any of the instruments need to be adapted?

The only instrument that was adapted was a set of bongo drums that we put a strap on to help Scott hold them in place.

How was money raised to start traveling?

Traveling expenses are covered by the person that hires FLAME. What form of transportation is used most often?

The band recently purchased a tour bus that was made possible through donations. The bus has a small kitchenette, bathroom and storage space.

Are the stages always accessible for the band?

Not all stages are accessible for the band. At times we have to improvise and move band members around with little to no difficulty. Occasionally, band members that use wheelchairs have to play off stage because there is no safe way to get them on the stage. Safety is always a main priority.

What was the worst gig the band has ever had?

Once, at an outside event, we had to stop playing due to a thunderstorm.

How long did it take to get your first gig?

It took about three months from the time we had the

first audition to the first gig. Once we did our first two gigs the phones started ringing off the hook.

How long did it take to record your CD?

It took approximately five months, which is the usual time for such a CD. The director of the recording studio thought there would be delays because of the disabilities of the band members, but the reverse was true. They rehearsed as long as any other band

without the need for a break. They were serious during recording sessions, and they were very professional.



FLAME band members:

Michelle King, lead vocals and guitar
David LaGrange, drummer and vocals
Scott Stewart, percussion and background vocals
Kenny Dickson, percussion and background vocals
Falon McBride, percussion and background vocals
Shawn Lehr, percussion
Karl Blanchard, shaker/dancer
Debbie Woodruff, shaker/dancer
Jimmy Elwood, shaker/dancer
Nick Robinson, bass player

