

# Jon Dretto Band

The Jon Dretto Band, founded summer, 2017, is Rochester, New York based and comprised of three young, talented musicians. Their sound is guitar-based hard-driving rock and blues. The band was formed in response to many requests from promoters, booking agents and venues requesting Jon's own band. The Jon Dretto Band performs at festivals, corporate and municipal events, clubs and private parties in Upstate New York. They travel throughout the state.

Jon started guitar at age eight and at just nineteen, is the hottest young player in Upstate, New York. His broad range of influences include Steve Vai and Paul Gilbert; classic Bluesmen like Freddie King, Stevie Ray Vaughn and country artists like Chet Atkins, Brad Paisley and Keith Urban. Beginning in the summer of 2010, Jon began playing in Upstate, New York area jams. He soon found he could hold his own with the "big boys" and as word got around, he became a frequent guest with several Rochester and Buffalo area bands.

In June, 2012, Jon's music teacher made him aware of a competitive audition at a Syracuse, New York music store, for the opportunity to perform with the Paul Reed Smith company band, the Rocky Mountain Stoneflies, at the Watkins Glen 2012 Grand Am. Jon took the top honors and was awarded a PRS guitar and amp and performed to a crowd of 15,000 at The Glen and describes it as "The best night of my life." After the event, Jon's Dad-Manager, John, and PRS Management stayed in touch. Jack Higginbotham, PRS President, signed Jon as a PRS Artist in summer, 2013. Jon uses PRS guitars and amplifiers exclusively. At the time of his signing, at age fifteen, Jon was the youngest artist ever signed by a major American guitar company. He has performed at a number of New York State blues festivals, including four straight years at the Niagara Falls Blues Festival, countless club dates throughout New York, House of Blues in Los Angeles, B.B. King's Blues Club and the Boogie Bar in Nashville, plus clubs in Washington, D.C. He has traveled Canada extensively, including several performances in Calgary and the Rogers Centre in Toronto, for the 100th Grey Cup. The Grey Cup is the Canadian equivalent of the American Super Bowl.

## The Band

**Sam Klotz** is another young, experienced performer. He started with 6 years of classical piano, adding drums and percussion in 6th grade. He moved into jazz during his time at McQuaid Jesuit High School, earning a scholarship to pursue a Jazz Percussion degree at the University of Maryland. While there, he began playing guitar and bass as well. Sam was a founding member of Tomato Dodgers, an action-funk rock and roll band in the DC area. For the last four years, he has worked for Nik Entertainment, Rochester, New York, as a drummer, background vocalist, bassist and guitarist. Sam is the Band's bassist.

**Pete Griffith**; gut, grit, heart and soul. After high school he hit the road and landed in Charleston S.C., singing the blues and playing drums. He then landed a gig playing drums for a Ska/Funk band in NYC in the late 90's. After that, he fronted a bluesy rock-n-roll band, Kings Jealousy, in Rochester, New York. When they parted ways, he got back to his roots without missing a beat. Pete formed The Dirty Bourbon Blues Band, singing the blues and hittin' the skins. The DBBB is well-known to Upstate New Yorkers. He has shared the stage with the likes of Chris Duarte, Commander Cody, Carolyn Wonderland and Blues Traveler. Pete is the Jon Dretto Band's drummer.

[www.jondretto.com](http://www.jondretto.com)

Contact:

Maestro Management

585-732-5100

[maestromanagement@rochester.rr.com](mailto:maestromanagement@rochester.rr.com)