

Nice People Productions Entertainment Agency
Tel: 0845 644 3296 or +44 (0) 1603 426 009

X-elle Function and Party Band



X-Elle was born out of demand. The musicians featured in the band regularly perform together for shows and concerts at the Key Theatre in Peterborough. Audiences often asked if the band could be booked for functions—well now it can! X-Elle was conceived by Steve Hession (Key Theatre's Musical Director) who has many years experience in function band, touring, backing, arranging and theatre work. He is joined by an excellent team of similarly experienced professional musicians – Mike Robinson on Guitar, Andy Clifton on Drums / percussion, and Nick Smith (Doctor Bass) on Bass. Top this with the wonderful blended voices of professionals Diana Nash (Lead Vocals), Tor Hills and Amy Bowles and you have a band that looks and sounds truly spectacular. A band able to play and entertain totally live with no backing tracks, click tracks or sequences. Pure musicianship giving the flexibility to perform, entertain and fully engage with an audience. Listen to the demo tracks on the nice people productions website <http://www.nicepeopleproductions.com/X-elle/x-elle.htm> and judge for yourself.

What their Clients say!

"Thank you very much for all your help in making our Awards Night a night to remember.
Sheelagh Smith, Managing Partner, Greenwoods Solicitors, Peterborough

"Just a quick note to express my sincere thanks for the wonderful evening of entertainment provided by X-ELLE. A fantastic range of music, backed by a fabulous sound, made for a really memorable evening thoroughly enjoyed by everyone." We will book you again.

Hamish Phillips, Director– National Accounts, Grey– Dawes Business Travel Management "The best party band I've seen or heard in a long time. It was a rocking good night."

Paul Crosby, Actor, ex Brookside and Blood Brothers "Wow! Fabulous all round entertainment with something for everybody."

Best night I've had in years. Ray Wagner, Ambergate Ltd, Mayfair, London

Plus the following add-ons....

- Full reading / busking band with MD. Able to back any act, anytime, anywhere!
- Professional Sound Engineer who also acts as DJ. No need to book a separate Disco.
- Theme Nights catered for. (Theatre nights a speciality)
- Jazz / Easy Listening dinner music provided live.
- Add Horn Section (two or three piece) and/or dancers if required.
- 5k PA rig (extendable) with full light show and smoke!

X-Elle Song List.

With vast experience and repertoire, X-Elle can cover most styles of music. Selections from the current play list are categorised below.

Pop / Disco Include:

I Will Survive, We are Family, Car Wash, Le Freak, Believe, Kiss Kiss, Murder on the Dance Floor, Get the party started, Movin' on up, Venus, Abba medley, Blame it on the Boogie, Hot Stuff, Lady Marmalade, Streetlife, Don't Stop Moving, It's Raining Men, Let Me Entertain You, Walking on Sunshine, I'm So Excited.....and many many more!

Our very own tribute to Tina Turner:-

River Deep Mountain High, Disco Inferno, The Best Addicted to Love, Nutbush City Limits

The 60's, Motown and Soul include:

Various medleys including songs such as: Dancing in the Street, Mony Mony, Bend Me Shape Me, Do Wah Diddy, Black is Black etc.

It's My Party, Under the Boardwalk, I only want to be with you, Sweets for My Sweet, Needles and Pins, Do you Love Me, Think, Da Doo Ron Ron, Chain Reaction, Supremes Medley, Stuck in the Middle, Midnight Hour, I Got You, Respect, Heatwave, Nowhere to Run, You Can't Hurry Love, Walk on By, Rescue Me, Shoop Shoop Song, Baby Love.....

Party & Rock And Roll include:

Shout, Twist, Let's Dance, Move It, Nutrocker, Blue Suede Shoes, Jailhouse Rock, Oh Boy, Rockin' Robin, Walk of Life, Great Balls of Fire, This Ole' House, Hound Dog, Rock and Roll is Here to Stay, Splish Splash.

Tribute to Chuck Berry incl: Johnny B Goode and Bye Bye Johnny Plus our own "Greatest Rock and Roll Medley Ever"

Ballads include:

Hero, Eternal Flame, Get Here, All Woman, Out here on my own, Ben You're still the one, Save the best for last, Against All Odds

Standards / Other

X-Elle is able to provide a comprehensive package of standards for ballroom dancing and also jazz and easy listening (instrumental and vocal) for dinner/ background music. For example:

Are you lonesome tonight, Top of the World, Unforgettable, Fly me to the moon, Close to you, Killing me Softly, Don't it make my brown eyes blue, Fever, Hello Dolly, Lady is a tramp, Cry me a river, The Look of Love, How Sweet it is. Plus our own special tribute to the Carpenters.

The Band

DIANA NASH – LEAD VOCALS

Diana is a multi talented performer whose career has spanned across musicals, voiceovers for television, theatre and writing and recording her own material. Television adverts her vocals have been used on have been shown worldwide and she was the voice of Morag in Channel Fours animation "Attila The Hen". Diana has been involved with the music for "Me and my movie", an exciting project in association with BAFTA. The website is part of a unique new children's film-making initiative, which inspires and enables kids to make their own films and tell their own stories. Diana continues to do session singing for top producers, alongside writing and recording original material, and performing with X-Elle.

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TOR HILLS – BACKING VOCALS

Tor has been singing since the age of 11. She developed her passion for singing by performing in local dance school shows and many performances at The Key Theatre, Peterborough. At the age of 18, Tor attended the Brighton Institute of Modern Music where she gained a National Diploma in Popular Music Performance. She is now studying a degree at the UK’s top popular music school, Vocal Tech in West London. Tor has been a member of X-Elle for over 2 years now, as well as depping for various other London based Function Bands.

AMY BOWLES – BACKING VOCALS

Amy has been singing and dancing from the age of three. Amy has a wealth of theatre experience and has performed in a number of musicals and pantomimes at the Key theatre in Peterborough including Cinderella in which she understudied the Prince, Dandini and Cinderella. As well as understudying in Panto Amy has played leading roles in musical adaptations of the Merry Wives of Windsor, Much Ado About Nothing. Amy has also performed on the stages of the Royal Albert Hall at which she performed a vocal solo, Her Majesties Theatre and Saddlers Wells. Amy has now been singing with X-elle ever since they formed and thoroughly enjoys the buzz and entertaining people at their special occasions. When Amy is not performing she teaches dance to individuals of all ages.

STEVE HESSION – KEYBOARDS & MD

Steve is an incredibly talented musician and spent many years recording, touring and arranging for a host of top stars before taking up the position of musical director at the Key Theatre, Peterborough. He has worked in many different genres including theatre, pop, classical and jazz. He is an accomplished pianist, composer and arranger and continues to artistically drive X-Elle forward.

NICK SMITH - BASS

Widely regarded as one of the UK’s foremost exponents of the bass guitar, Nick has been playing bass since ‘82 and holds down the rhythm section with long time associate, Andy Clifton. Starting out by sneakily playing along to Shadows tunes on his dad’s Fender, it soon became apparent that the bass would be the main instrument of choice! Not long after the purchase of his first bass and amp, he teamed up with Andy and played many gigs in a band called ‘Sleek’ this group causing much local interest as the average age of the players was only 13! Over the years, Nick has played in countless bands ranging in many different styles of music, including Doctor And The Medics, and a supporting role as bass player for guitarist Bert Weedon! Many other bassists have come to admire his technique, most notably, top players Alan Jones (the UK’s top session bass player) and Colin Hodgkinson (Back Door, Whitesnake, Mick Jagger etc) More recently, as a core member of X-Elle, Nick has played bass in a wide variety of diverse projects, including stints in musical theatre alongside X-Elle MD, Steve Hession, Andy, Mike and the girls. As to the future, Nick is looking forward to writing material for a solo album and a tuition book, as well as continuing to drive X-Elle along as bass player!

Many thanks to Markbass Amplification, Vigier Basses and Status Graphite.

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MIKE ROBINSON – LEAD GUITAR

Mike Robinson represents the X-Elle veterans section, being old enough to have worked with many of the major international stars of the 50s and 60s, though he never did.

An early disciple of Hank Marvin, he eventually saw the light and studied at the Leeds College of Music in the 70s where he learnt some really hard chords (that he's not used since).

His career began at the bottom and went down from there. Balancing peripatetic guitar teaching with the resident guitar spot at one of Nottingham's seedier 'International' night clubs, things were looking so-so until an interminable nationwide tour with Rod Hull, Emu and the Pink Windmill Kids in the 80s just about did for him. The last 20-odd years have seen him mishandle a huge variety of work, from recording with the BBC Radio Orchestra to performing on the QE2, from working in cabaret with the likes of Tony Christie to waterproofing the Forth Road Bridge. X-Elle is now providing much needed rehab and integration back into mainstream society.

ANDY CLIFTON - DRUMS

Began playing drums in 1982 and shortly afterwards joined my first band with some school friends which quickly developed into the band SLEEK (see Nicks biog). At the same time I began playing drums and percussion for local amateur dramatics productions. Over the next few years I played in as many bands and different styles as possible and progressed from amateur to professional engagements. It was during this time (approx 1988) that I first played with Steve Hession in a modern jazz quartet setting. Over the years I have performed with numerous bands and have backed many "named" artists in theatre / cabaret / gig situations both in the UK and abroad. During recent years X-Elle (along with it's associated Greased, West End and Bond tribute productions) have been the main focus of my musical activities but I still play in musical theatre and with other artists, both live and in the studio, as the X-elle schedule permits.

Many thanks to PDP drums and Sabian cymbals.

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