

Savage Friends Band Bios

John Savage

John Savage is a Central New York vocalist, guitarist, songwriter, producer, and engineer whose musical journey began in the eighth grade when he and longtime collaborator Robin Stone formed their first rock 'n' roll band together. That early partnership evolved into Savage Stone and ultimately helped inspire Savage Friends — a collaborative live music project built around chemistry, musicianship, and a shared love of roots-driven performance.

Alongside performing, Savage developed a passion for recording and production, building a project studio that became both a creative outlet and a recording space for fellow musicians throughout the regional scene. His work as a songwriter and producer led to the opportunity to collaborate with acclaimed slide guitarist George Deveny, helping shape original material that ultimately earned the group a performance slot at Woodstock '99.

Known for blending blues, classic rock, Americana, and improvisational influences, Savage brings an authentic live-performance approach shaped by decades of experience both on stage and behind the console. Through Savage Friends, he continues to bring together seasoned musicians for performances rooted in collaboration, spontaneity, and genuine musical connection.

Dan Porter

Dan Porter is widely regarded as one of Central New York's premier bass players, known for his deep groove, versatility, and decades of experience across the region's blues, roots-rock, and live music scene. A dynamic and intuitive performer, Porter has built a reputation as the kind of musician other players trust — equally comfortable locking into a tight rhythm section, delivering rich vocal harmonies, or stretching into improvisational jam territory.

Throughout his career, Porter has performed with a long list of respected regional acts including Solid Oak Band, Tattoo, Rollin Easy, the Dustin Devil Band, and Blueprints, earning recognition for both his musicianship and commanding live presence.

Porter has also shared stages with acclaimed artists such as Freddie King, CJ Chenier, and Sonny Landreth, helping cement his reputation as one of the area's most respected and well-rounded musicians.

Blending technical skill, musical instinct, and authentic live energy, Porter brings veteran musicianship and a powerful collaborative spirit to Savage Friends.

Oscar Crandall

Oscar Crandall is a veteran Central New York drummer whose steady groove, versatility, and deep roots in the regional music scene have made him a respected presence on stages throughout the Northeast for decades. Known for his musical feel and relaxed but powerful playing style, Crandall has performed with notable regional acts including Homegrown, Tommy Hoe and the Barncats, the Brian Mulkerne Band, and Blueprints.

Over the years, Crandall has shared stages with legendary artists including Freddie King, CJ Chenier, Sonny Landreth, and Roger McGuinn, experiences that helped shape his dynamic and roots-driven approach to live performance.

Drawing from blues, roots rock, Americana, and classic rock influences, Crandall brings veteran musicianship, stage chemistry, and authentic live energy to Savage Friends.

Robin Stone

Robin Stone is a Central New York musician and keyboardist whose musical partnership with John Savage began when the two formed their first rock 'n' roll band together in the eighth grade. That lifelong collaboration evolved into Savage Stone and ultimately helped lay the foundation for Savage Friends.

A longtime fixture in both the Central New York and Capital Region music scenes, Stone has performed with bands including Savage Stone, Rollin Easy, What About Bob, and Vegas Crush. Known for his expressive musicianship and versatile keyboard work, Stone brings a dynamic live presence rooted in blues, classic rock, Americana, and improvisational rock traditions.

Stone and bassist Dan Porter previously performed together in Rollin Easy, adding another layer of longstanding chemistry and musical connection to the Savage Friends lineup.

With decades of stage experience developed through years of collaboration, Stone brings veteran musicianship, creative energy, and versatility to Savage Friends.

Jon Kelsey

Jon Kelsey is widely respected throughout the Central New York music scene for his distinctive guitar work, expressive musicality, and unique fingerstyle approach. Performing without a pick, Kelsey has developed a fluid and recognizable playing style that blends precision, feel, and improvisational creativity, earning admiration from musicians and audiences alike across the Syracuse and Utica regions.

Over the years, Kelsey has built a strong reputation as both a live performer and collaborative musician, most notably through his longtime association with the popular Syracuse-based band Stroke, where he spent nearly a decade helping shape the group's sound alongside frontman Israel Hagan. Known for his ability to move seamlessly between blues, rock, Americana, and jam-oriented influences, Kelsey brings dynamic energy and seasoned musicianship to every performance.

As part of Savage Friends, Kelsey adds another layer of musical depth, creativity, and live improvisational spirit to a lineup built on chemistry, collaboration, and authentic performance.