

This may sound absurd, but I've located you. About 10 years ago, I went back to the guitar shop (can't recall name) in Albuquerque and asked our mutual friend (tall blond kid guitar player) about "Strictly Taboo" and he told me the band had dissolved. I was really bumbled -- please allow me to explain why.

In 1991 when you produced your new CD "Strictly Taboo" our mutual guitar player friend took me to see you and the band perform at a local venue in Albuquerque. During that time, I'd just returned from the Persian Gulf War for training at Kirkland AFB. A month later, I returned to the War.

However, listening and watching "Strictly Taboo" blew me away -- magic! You may recall that our mutual friend introduced me to you during a break, and I wanted to buy six of your new CDs. I bought three, and you gave me three as a gift. And, I made a promise to you that I'd get airtime of your CD on Armed Forces Radio. I did! A promise is a promise! In fact, you looked a little doubtful when I made the offer, probably thinking, "who's this guy?" But, the trust was there.

In fact, when your music played on the air, my administrative clerk (a very young female sergeant from Texas) would crank up the radio and tell everyone "listen... listen those are the Major's guys from NM." Also, a young Captain Brynes who also worked for me would say, "that's Major Cook's Band." Steven -- you guys were famous over here!

After the war, I was sent to Italy as a commander of a unit of 120 Air Force combat engineers. In our main building, I had an excellent sound system and often played "Strictly Taboo." In fact, one of my best troops (Staff Sargent Wiggins - a black kid from the Philly Ghettos) who was in the war with me received the Bronze Star. When he rotated back to the U.S. he asked me, "Major, if I could have just one thing to remember you by, could you give me one of your "Strictly Taboo" CDs?" I was blown away! I was honored! I was so humbled by his request -- a "Strictly Taboo" CD. My CD? I gave it to him with honor and pride. Now I was down to only two CDs.

In 1996, I visited family in Costa Rica and took one of the last two CDs with me. My cousin has that one now. Today, that leaves me with only one CD.

I have since retired from the Air Force with great memories; such as sharing music with my troops, and hearing your music played over Armed Forces Radio was truly rewarding, yet personal.

I'm now living and working in Kunming, China, as a professor. Life is great here. For Christmas, my wife and I had friends over and guess what we did? Yes, we all listened to "Strictly Taboo" all the way over here in China! My colleagues from the UK loved it and want a CD! I should go to work for you!

Steven, you're a legend! I want to say thanks from the many of us around the world who've been touched by your magic ... and, for you believing in yourself as an artist and a musician -- "it is noble and virtuous!"

Wishing you much happiness, as your music has brought the world joy and much happiness, too!

Lenny

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