

REFUGEE a tribute to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers

Band Member Biographies



Trent LeDrew — Lead Vocals & Rhythm Guitar

Trent LeDrew has been a musician and lead vocalist since age 14, bringing more than four decades of live performance experience to the stage. Originally from Newfoundland, Canada, Trent has spent many years in the United States performing in bands across clubs, festivals, and larger venues, including sharing the stage with major touring acts.

A lifelong fan of Tom Petty, Trent brings that passion to **Refugee: A Tribute to Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers** as lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist. His goal is to capture not only Petty's distinctive voice, but also the spirit, attitude, and unmistakable feel that made Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers iconic.

For Trent, Refugee is about celebrating music he has loved for decades and delivering it **honestly, authentically, and straight from the heart.**

Michael Self — Lead Guitar, Mandolin, Harmonica & Vocals

Originally from El Paso, Texas, Michael Self started playing clubs while still in high school, getting an early taste of the road and the life of a working musician. He moved to Dallas in the 1980s to pursue music professionally, beginning a career that would take him across the U.S. and Canada.

Michael's credits include recording and performing with pop/rock band **ReAckShun**, touring with **Inasense**, and performing and recording with country acts **Perfect Stranger** and **Loaded Guns**. In more recent years, he has performed with the classic rock band **The Pontiax** and spent five years portraying Kix Brooks with the **Dunn & Brooks** Brooks & Dunn tribute.

A versatile vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, Michael currently performs lead guitar and saxophone with a Bob Seger tribute while bringing his experience, energy, and love of classic rock to **Refugee: A Tribute to Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers**.

For Michael, Refugee brings together decades of performing, touring, and making music with a lifelong appreciation for Tom Petty—and a chance to share that music with audiences the way it was meant to be played.

Matt Hunt — Drums & Vocals

A lifelong Texan, Matt Hunt brings decades of experience and formal musical training to **Refugee: A Tribute to Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers**. He studied music at the University of North Texas and East Texas State University before embarking on a diverse career spanning country, alternative rock, shoegaze, contemporary Christian and classic rock.

Matt has performed and recorded with numerous bands and projects, including full-length album releases and a two-year run with a premier Brooks & Dunn tribute.

With his versatility, precision, and deep appreciation for classic rock, Matt provides the steady, driving foundation that defines the sound of Refugee and the music of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.



Dr. Jim Rodgers — Keyboards & Vocals

A native of Tyler, Texas, Dr. Jim Rodgers has been singing and playing music across the country for decades. He began performing professionally at 16 as the lead singer of his first band and, while in college, performed with a vocal group that appeared at events including the **Super Bowl XII halftime show**.

It was also during college that Jim turned seriously to piano, soon working piano bars while completing his education. Over the years, he performed with numerous bands, founded **Nightmoves**, joined **Perfect Stranger** in 1987, and later toured with **Singletree** and recorded and performed with **Loaded Guns** in the mid-1990s.

After taking time away from music to focus on his career and family, Jim returned to the stage in 2020 with the DFW-based **Seeger System** tribute band, performing regionally and occasionally nationally.

Today, Jim brings his extensive experience as a vocalist and keyboardist to **Refugee: A Tribute to Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers**, helping keep the spirit of great American rock & roll alive.

Joel Black — Bass & Vocals

Performing since age 7, Joel has built a diverse career as a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, appearing everywhere from the Majestic Theater and Mardi Gras to Branson and Hollywood. Trained in voice, jazz and classical guitar, he discovered his passion for bass more than 30 years ago.

An accomplished player on 5-string electric, fretless acoustic and upright bass, Joel provides the foundation and backing vocals for **Refugee: A Tribute to Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers**.

His extensive experience spans Jazz, R&B, Swing, Country, Blues, Rock, Variety and Gospel, with credits including multiple recording projects, off-Broadway productions and performances with artists and groups such as Jason Davis, Racing Gravity, Tommy Snyder, Brian Howard, Pure Desire and Patton Leather Rhythm, with whom he released an instrumental jazz CD in 2007.

Joel spent 10 years as bassist, vocalist and songwriter with the acclaimed Celtic folk group **The Selkie Girls**, recording on all five of the band's CDs, including a Celtic Christmas album. He currently also performs with the four-piece jazz group **Cool Resolve**.

Joel's original music and productions can be found on his Audio Instinct YouTube channel.