

# Stefan Malinowski

I'm a **singer / keyboard player / rhythm or acoustic guitarist / bass guitarist / drummer** playing all styles of music with all kinds of ensembles. I've been a full time professional musician for over fifteen years and have fitted in almost every kind of gig including jazz clubs, bike rallies, cruise ships, an aircraft carrier, holiday camps, orchestra pits, weddings, the Royal Albert Hall, U.S. and British military bases, street corners and working men's clubs. Recently I've been working mostly in the Middle East with various rock and chart cover bands.



## *Freelancing*



With an improvement in the rules on performance permissions and an increasing number of freelance professional musicians available in the UAE, it became possible to book a band to suit the gig as I would in the UK. In 2011 I took on a regular solo gig playing acoustic guitar at the '[Potbelly](#)' sandwich chain which had just been imported from the USA, a trio gig with '[The Kicks](#)' at '[Double Decker](#)' in Dubai and fixed a different line-up every week for '[Stars n Bars](#)' in Abu Dhabi.

## *Superkatz*

I ended 2010 in Muscat, Oman completing the set of the '[Rock Bottom Cafe](#)' circuit with Australian band '[Superkatz](#)'. (They've since opened another Rock Bottom in Dubai so I still haven't played at all of them.) I was there mostly to sing rock songs and the rest of the time I played second keyboard parts and rhythm guitar.

## *Loose Cannon*

'Heroes' in Abu Dhabi is a terrific venue to play, a basement sports bar with a largely ex-pat crowd who like to rock. Approaching Ramadan 2007 the resident band there had been in place for three years and had decided to head off in various other directions, they kindly recommended me to take over the job of band leader and over the next three years my band 'Loose Cannon' built a reputation, against some stiff competition, for the best live music in Abu Dhabi. I took care of most of the lead vocals and switched between keys and rhythm guitar. I made occasional changes to the line-up and constantly updated the band's material to keep things fresh and attract a younger audience as requested by the management.

## *Solo*



I landed two simultaneous solo gigs in Abu Dhabi for 2007, 'P.J. O'Reilly's' Irish pub and 'The Club' which kept me occupied for a whole year along with private parties and functions, crooner tribute nights using piano and backing tracks plus occasional novel forays into karaoke hosting and DJ-ing.

As a solo act I tend to go on stage without any kind of plan and take requests or just read the room to find the most suitable play list. After years of playing every kind of music and every kind of venue, I can cope with most of the challenges an audience will come up with, if not playing the exact song they requested, at least finding something by the same artist or in the same style.

## *The International Playboys II*

In 2006, after a warm up contract on the European ferries, I came back to the Middle East with a new band called 'Storm' and a contract at 'The Lodge' in Dubai. It happened that two former members of the 'International Playboys' were also in Dubai just as that gig came to an end and, combining with two of the guys from 'Storm', we found ourselves in an ideal position to take up a contract on the US Navy Base in Bahrain. During that time we had the unique and exciting opportunity to fly out to the USS Enterprise and entertain the crew.



## *Graffiti Park*



I met Canadian band '[Graffiti Park](#)' the first time we came out to Dubai in '98 and we've been around some of the same clubs ever since. In 2005 I joined their line-up for four months at '[Club 1](#)', one of the top bars in Bahrain, then extended our stay to play the US Navy base during the month of Ramadan while all other entertainment on the island was shut down.



## *Solo*

I worked for six months of 2005 as a solo act flying between Dubai and Bahrain. The gigs were mostly just acoustic guitar and vocals, some also used piano and some, like '[The Irish Village](#)' in Dubai, required the dreaded backing tracks.

A new addition for '[Upstairs Downstairs](#)' in Bahrain was what I called my pseudo-jazz piano repertoire, jazz standards and light pop numbers played in my own style.

## *The International Playboys*



For three years I was a member of '[The International Playboys](#)', a six piece covers band who played every style of music, from hard rock to modern RnB, all with their own personal brand of punch. We played almost full time for the Ramee Group in their '[Rock Bottom Cafe](#)' chain, doing three to six month stints around a circuit of Dubai, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi. In Bahrain we also played at the US Navy base and the Bahrain Rugby club from time to time and we won the Budweiser Battle of the Bands in 2002 and 2003.

I did some extra work on the side in Bahrain playing solo gigs at '[Fiddler's Green](#)' and doing some music programming and voice overs for local radio, hotel promotions and commercial airlines.



### *Solo*

In the Summers of 2000 and 2001, I worked as a solo act for Haven Europe at '[La Réserve](#)', a Red (really big) site about 40Km North of Biarritz on the South West coast of France. I was the only resident musician on the site, catering mostly to the British holiday makers but also picking up a couple of French songs, a couple in Spanish and one in Dutch.

I appeared in some of the in-house shows performing songs from Les Miserables, Sunset Boulevard, Jesus Christ Superstar, Miss Saigon and Oliver! Later on I programmed backing tracks for the 2001-2002 shows that went out to all the European sites.

### *Lexx*

For winter 2001-2002 I joined a hi-tech band called '[Lexx](#)' as the keyboard player and singer but when the drummer got himself fired, I played the rest of contract singing from behind the kit. The gig was '[Diggers](#)' bar in Bahrain which was frequented by the RAF posted there and involved plenty of after hours drinking and partying.

## *Legal Racket II*

Coming back to '**Legal Racket**' as a keyboard player and lead vocalist, I played the club and pub scene in the UK for another year although it felt like ten, days on end in the van or digs, busking and sometimes roughing it. Eventually we got a lucky break and made the giant leap from UK club band to International show band with our first gig at '**Jules Bar**' in Le Meridien, Dubai.



From there, word of mouth took us to '**The Warbler**' in Bahrain who kept us coming back for more between 1998 and 2000 and also got to do some music programming work for a commercial video studio. After a gig at the flagship '**Rock Bottom Cafe**' in Dubai, we had a change of line-up, became '**The Sonic Avengers**' and headed back to Bahrain for more at '**The Warbler**' and the opening of a new venue '**The Wrangler**'.

## *Haven and the Ships*

In late 1995 I left the band behind to take a three month gig as the singing & drumming half of a duo on a top-of-the-line Cunard cruise ship '**Sea Goddess II**'. This was an incredible experience, playing for a very exclusive clientèle, we spent a month touring the Mediterranean and two months on a circuit of Caribbean islands. Summer the next year brought me back home to the house band at Haven's '**Reighton Sands**' where I got the chance to sharpen my sight reading skills backing the touring cabaret acts as well as massively expanding my singing repertoire.

Winter 1996 took me back to sea on P&O's '**Pride of Bilbao**' which cruises for three days between Portsmouth and Spain with a one day booze cruise at the weekend. This time I was drumming for an eight piece show band with charts whilst braving a choppy Christmas in the Bay of Biscay, not quite the Caribbean glamour but good work. Summer again and back to '**Reighton Sands**' where the name of band was all that had changed. This time I tried my hand at writing arrangements for the band sets with useable results after few corrections by the keyboard player.

## *Legal Racket*

'**Legal Racket**' formed in 1993 when I met the rhythm guitarist by chance, in a pub in Scarborough. We played our first gig in that same pub supporting another local band and went on to work every weekend, gradually expanding our range from the pubs in town to the next town, to the whole county. I was in college at the time but the band continued in the gaps around day jobs, more courses and part time professional gigs for the next two years. My first real gigs were one-off's in local hotels with my dad, followed by a regular night on a Haven camp, '**Barmston Beach**' and a Panto season at '**The Neptune Theatre**' in Liverpool.

## *Pre-Gig-Story*

When I was four years old, my dream was to play the drums and my dad obligingly built me a wonderful kit using old tubs and barrels, before I got near the real thing though, he made me take piano lessons. Eventually at nine years old I got my sticks on some real drums and a couple of years later I was in the East Area School's Youth band. There were always three or more drummers so instead of playing kit all the time, I learned to play orchestral, latin and tuned percussion. In the Sixth Form College big band there were only two drummers, but no bass player so we split the bass guitar parts between us.

The E.A.S.Y. Bands and my school and college bands all regularly entered and won national competitions which afforded me the chance to play all over the country, abroad and in prestigious events such as the National Festival of Music for Youth and the Schools Proms at the Royal Albert Hall.