



Meet The Musicians 5 Questions for Jody Maddie The UpTown Sound

1. How long have you been playing polka music and who was your inspiration?

I have been playing polka music for 54 years and my biggest inspiration I would have to say was my father, Leo Maddie. He was also a musician who played accordion, piano, alto sax, guitar and fiddle. In his early teens he played around the Indiana, PA area. In later years he settled in Warren, OH and had his own local band. He later formed our family band, *Maddie's Polish Princes* which was made up of himself and five of his sons.

2. What was the first instrument you learned to play and is there any instrument you would like to learn.

In 1967 my father bought me a b-flat clarinet and gave me my first lesson of how to play clarinet. Part of my first lesson was to learn how to play *Fortunes Of War Polka* and *Our Katie Oberek*. Through the years I learned how to play trumpet, tenor, alto and soprano saxophones, bass guitar and fiddle. I would like to learn to play piano someday.

3. What do you enjoy most about performing or preparing for a performance?

What I enjoy most about performing is seeing people dancing and enjoying our music. Whether the crowd is big or small, as long as they enjoy the music is what counts.

4. Your brothers are also musicians and play in your band. What are some of the rewards or challenges involved in that?

Two of the members of my band, the UpTown Sound, are my brothers Tony & Verne Maddie. The rewards of having them in the band are countless. Every time we play a gig it's like having a mini reunion. They enjoy pleasing the crowd as much as I do and play to the best of their ability to do so. It's also a pleasure traveling with them, my wife Sandy as well as the other band members to the out of town gigs. (Road Trip!)

5. You and wife, Sandy are rather recently retired. Can you share some of the plans for your 'free time'?

Some of the things we would like to do is travel a bit, possibly a cruise or out west, things that a vacation from work just didn't allow enough time for. And of course, spend more time with family and friends. Since I retired, I actually don't know how I ever found the time to work!!