



MUSCLE SHOALS

The Newsletter

Welcome

Thank you for signing up to receive the official Muscle Shoals Newsletter.

Upcoming Dates

09.25.2025 The Falcon,
Marlboro, NY 7 pm

10.31.2025 The Falcon,
Marlboro, NY 7 pm

12.06.2025 Frog Alley Brewing
Company, Schenectady, NY.
Time 8pm

The Lineup

Mike Iwanos	Lead Vocals
Rob Biggers	Keys/Organ. Vocals
Ray Wylock	Guitar
Dave Giardinelli-O'Connor.	Bass Vocals
Shane Visbal	Guitar/Slide
Billy Mills	Drums
Sharon Asher	Drums



The Road Goes On!

Muscle Shoals has had a busy few months. The band was proud to be asked back to the 'Angels of Rock' benefit. An amazing cause set up to raise money for children afflicted with life-threatening illnesses. This year's event, held on September 20th, was a great success. The bands who devoted their time and the vendors who aided in making the day memorable left a warm and fuzzy feeling in the MS Family. Thank you to all who came in support, and we hope to see you all at the event in 2026!

Muscle Shoals would like to officially welcome new drummer Sharon 'Ron' Asher into the family!! We are incredibly grateful to have found a player that fits so well with everything we are!





Who is Mike Iwanos?

What first got you into music?

I really don't know. I have always loved music. For as far back as I can remember, I listened to the radio and to my older sisters' albums every night. I've had a song in my head since my first memories of being alive.

Who inspired you to make music?

My grandfather, whom I idolized. He was a painter and a carpenter, but he played the mandolin and sang. When I was a child, I would sit on his bed and listen to him play a couple of songs for me before he went to sleep.

What is one message you would give to your fans?

I play music for my own pleasure. I am always humbled and appreciate whenever other people get joy from my performance.

What is the most useless talent you have?

I guess it would be that I am very good at solving crossword puzzles. I've been doing the NYT puzzle every day since I was a teenager.

Do you sing in the shower? What songs?

No. I don't ever remember singing in the shower.

What would you be doing right now if it weren't for your music career?

I like teaching, I'd be doing that. Probably Earth Science. Also, I spent years in the bar business. I enjoy the service industry.

Where have you performed? What are your favorite and least favorite venues?

I recently played at the Falcon in Marlboro, NY. That is a cool place. I always love big outdoor gigs where there are large crowds. Albany's Riverfront Park, Lark Fest, and May Fest in Washington Park, etc. I also always enjoyed playing in my little dive bar, where there aren't many people, but they are drunk and really appreciate the music. Any club with a nice PA and a good soundman. My least favorite venues are clubs with bad soundmen and poor sound systems, and places that are not really music venues and people don't care about the music at all.





How do you feel the Internet has impacted the music business?

It has made a tremendous impact on how and what we listen to. Now that bands no longer make money selling records, they must make money on concert tours. I find it sad that people, especially young people, must spend so much money to see live shows. I was able to see every concert in a hundred-mile radius before the internet, because bands toured to promote their records and were happy to break even on a tour. Concerts were inexpensive. Obviously, we

consume music differently now as well. We listen to music on our phones rather than buying CDs, tapes, or records and playing them on big old fat, analog stereo systems. It is convenient to have all the music made in the world at our fingertips. Awesome.



What is your favorite song to perform?

My favorite song to sing and play has to be "Whipping Post". My favorite song to just sing is "Willin" by Little Feat and "Not My Cross to Bear" by The Allmans.

Which famous musicians do you admire?

Neil Young, Greg Allman, Jimi Hendrix, Jon Hiatt, Chris Cornell, Steven Howe and all the great studio musicians from the sixties

up to today.



What is the most trouble you've ever gotten into?

I spent a few days in jail once. That's all I'll say about that.

What is the best advice you've been given?

"Playing a wrong note is insignificant, playing without passion is inexcusable"

What's next for you?

Teaching young musicians, not only guitar and voice, but how to play music with other people in a band.