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Meet the Band

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**Gina Palmieri** – Lead Vocals, Miscellaneous Percussion

Gina has been performing and belting out songs since the age of 6. Her passion has always been singing. Gina has been the lead vocalist for the top 40 band R10 for 25 years! She was a finalist in the CT star search contest and found herself singing with Vince Gill at the Chevrolet Theater in Wallingford, CT in front of 5,000 people. Gina's mother was a trained opera singer and studied with Rosa Ponsel for many years. Gina took the tools her mom gave her and translated it into a strong alto voice with a trained ear for great pitch and harmonizing technique. Gina's mission is, "to make people feel as good as she feels when she's singing. "If I do that, then I did what I set out to do!". She is a very versatile vocalist and can sing everything from Motown classics to R & B, pop, disco, and rock. She adds a unique blend to the band's vocals and compliments their stage presence with a great energy. Gina handles all aspects of PR, and is the primary liaison & MC for our clients.



**Ray Plue** – Lead Vocals, Drums, Percussion

Ray Plue is a multi-talented musician acting as both drummer and lead vocalist extraordinaire. Ray has been playing for over 35 years performing the hits from the Big Band swing era, the music of the 50's and 60's, the disco era, classic 80's rock, and the new classics from the 90's up to the present. Ray demonstrates his skill and diverse talent performing music from many ethnic backgrounds and styles: Country to Blues, or Jazz to Rock. Ray delivers a solid performance. When Ray sings, people listen as his voice is strong, flexible and captivating. Ray has been with Higher & Higher for over 24 years and is a well recognized face in the tri-state area having performed at thousands of prominent events. Ray joined Higher & Higher in 1981 and since that time, Higher & Higher has continued to grow in popularity and stature as one of the premier bands in the Northeast. Ray, acting as the business manager for the band, handles most of the administrative and booking responsibilities for Higher & Higher.



**Chuck Pomeroy** – Bass, Electronic Percussion, Backup Vocals

Chuck Pomeroy is a musician's musician and a superb bass player. He provides the solid support that keeps the band tight and grooving. Chuck has been playing for over 30 years and is a consummate performer. As founder of Higher & Higher back in the mid 70's, Chuck has continued to develop his craft and is comfortable playing all popular musical styles and genre. Chuck's Music is a popular music business that is located in Brookfield, CT (<http://www.chucksmusicrepair.com>). It is solely owned and operated by Chuck and his staff. He has a world-wide reputation as a master craftsman, skilled in the fine art of restoring and repairing all kinds of brass and woodwind instruments. Chuck has fine tuned and perfected the instruments of many music industry legends; he is highly regarded and is a strong supporter of live music performance. Chuck's Music offers lessons on all instruments on site at his studios in Brookfield, CT. Chuck is widely respected as a solid and creative bass player providing the driving force in the Higher & Higher rhythm section.



**Christian Martirano** – Lead Vocals, Keyboards

Christian Martirano adds a wide variety of sounds and full orchestrations that add to Higher & Higher's uniquely special sound. From brass, winds, strings, and piano, to record scratches and rhythm loops, Chris provides a wealth of sound colors. Chris has been playing for over 40 years and holds a Masters Degree in Music. Chris lives and breathes music 24/7. Before joining Higher & Higher in 2005, Chris worked with Voices (ATCO - Atlantic Records) for over 10 years as keyboardist and song-writer. Acting as co-arranger and keyboardist on The Solution (Last Kingdom Records - distributed by Vision Records), Chris worked with the legendary Ms. Betty Wright who co-produced the album. He has programmed synthesizers for many major international recording artists, and played on many recording projects.

Chris served as musical director and composer for the off-Broadway show Ministry of Progress. He has recently completed programming synthesizers for A Tale of Two Cities opening at the Hirschfeld Theater on Broadway, and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Whistle Down The Wind out on national tour. He has also programmed synthesizers for A Ring of Fire, the Broadway musical at the Barrymore Theater based on the music of Johnny Cash, and All Shook Up (out on national tour) based on the music of Elvis Presley (<http://www.designsounds.com>), and Curtains on Broadway in NYC.

Chris programmed and performed with Wendy Carlos, world-renowned synthesist, programmer, and performer at the Bach at the Beacon concert held at the Beacon Theater in NYC. Wendy is best known for her works Switched on Bach, soundtracks from Beauty and the Beast, A Clockwork Orange, Disney's Tron and so much more. Chris is known mostly for his work with Kurzweil Music Systems (a leading synthesizer manufacturer) where he directed product development for over 12 years, working with artists such as Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Pink Floyd, Moody Blues and many others. Chris handles Higher & Higher's sound recordings and website.

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**Additional Musicians – Vocals, Guitars, Saxes, Trumpets, Percussion**

Higher & Higher often works with other musicians as specific engagements require. Additional associate members are of the highest caliber players and add to the total musical experience. Higher & Higher is pleased to join forces with Gina Palmieri for this exciting night of live entertainment.