

## 2007 CANNED HEAT BIOGRAPHY

Emerging in 1966, Canned Heat was founded by blues historians and record collectors Alan “Blind Owl” Wilson and Bob “The Bear” Hite. They gained international attention and secured their niche in the pages of rock ‘n roll history with their performances at the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival (along with Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and The Who) and the headlining slot at the original Woodstock Festival. Wilson was already renowned for his distinctive harmonica work when he accompanied veteran bluesman, Son House, on his rediscovery album, “Father of the Blues.” Hite took the name Canned Heat from a 1928 recording by Tommy Johnson. They were joined by Henry “The Sunflower” Vestine, another ardent record collector capable of fretboard fireworks at a moment’s notice who was a former member of Frank Zappa’s Mothers of Invention. Rounding out the band in 1967 were Larry “The Mole” Taylor on bass, an experienced session musician who had played with Jerry Lee Lewis and The Monkees and Adolfo “Fito” de la Parra on drums who had played in two of the biggest Latin American bands, Los Sinners and Los Hooligans and then with The Platters, The Shirelles, T-Bone Walker and Etta James.

Canned Heat’s unique blend of modern electric blues, rock and boogie has earned them a loyal following and influenced many aspiring guitarists and bands during the past 40 years. Their Top-40 country-blues-rock songs, “On The Road Again,” “Let’s Work Together,” and “Going Up The Country,” became rock anthems throughout the world with the later being adopted as the unofficial theme song for the film Woodstock and the “Woodstock Generation.”

Right from the start, Canned Heat has been at the forefront of popularizing blues music. Their second album, “Boogie With Canned Heat,” included the worldwide hit “On The Road Again” and a twelve minute version of “Fried Hockey Boogie” that established them with hippie ballroom audiences as the “kings of the boogie!” Their third album, “Living The Blues,” included a 19-minute tour de force, “Parthenogenesis” which displayed the quintet at their most experimental along with their incarnation of Henry Thomas’ “Bulldozer Blues” where singer, Wilson, retained the tune of the original song, rewrote the lyric and came up with “Goin’ Up The Country,” whose simple message caught the “back-to-nature” attitude of the late ‘60s and went to #1 in 25 countries around the world.

The band can boast of collaborations with John Mayall and Little Richard and later with blues icon, John Lee Hooker, the musician that they initially got much of their musical inspiration from in the first place. This union first produced the spirited and revered album, “Hooker ‘n Heat” and then Hooker’s 1990 Grammy Award-winning classic, “The Healer.” The band is also credited with bringing a number of other forgotten bluesmen to the forefront of modern blues including Sunnyland Slim, who they found driving a taxi in Chicago, Skip James, who they found in a hospital in Tunica, Mississippi and took to the Newport Festival, Memphis Slim and Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown with whom they recorded in France and Albert Collins. They brought Collins to California where they had their manager negotiate a recording agreement for Albert that started him on his way to becoming a well known musician throughout the world.

On September 3rd, 1970, the band was shattered by the suicide of Alan Wilson. His death sparked reconstruction within the group and member changes continued throughout the next three decades. On April 5th, 1981, at the Palamino in Los Angeles, gargantuan vocalist, Bob Hite, collapsed and died of a heart attack and on October 20th, 1997, Henry Vestine died in Paris, France following the final gig of a European tour.

Despite these untimely deaths and assorted musical trends, Canned Heat has survived under the leadership of Fito de la Parra since the late 70's. Since 1967, the band has toured extensively all over the world, performing at numerous festivals including Monterey Pop, Newport Pop, the Sturgis Motorcycle Run U.S.A., and the original Woodstock. They have performed at world-renowned venues such as Paris' Olympia, both Fillmore Auditoriums, The Kaleidoscope, Carnegie Hall (with John Lee Hooker), Madison Square Garden and even Royal Albert Hall and have played more biker festivals than any other band in the world including their recent headline stint at Europe's Love Ride.

They and/or their music have been featured on television (In Concert, David Frost, Merv Griffin, Midnight Special, Playboy After Dark, etc.), and in films ("Woodstock," "Flashback," and "Forrest Gump" etc.). Their legend has recently been heard and felt in various television commercials ("On The Road Again" for Miller Beer, "Goin' Up The Country" for Pepsi, Chevrolet and McDonalds, "Let's Work Together" for Lloyd's Bank, England's Electric Company and for Target Stores along with other songs for 7-Up, Levi's and Heineken Beer).

Now, more than forty years later and with thirty-six albums to their credit, Canned Heat is still going strong. Anchored throughout by the steady hand of drummer/band leader Adolfo "Fito" de la Parra (a member since 1967) and with one of their strongest lineups ever, Canned Heat is well on track to carry the boogie-blues it made famous, well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Starting out 2007, the lineup has Fito on drums, Greg Kage on bass and vocals, Barry Levenson on guitar and legendary bluesman, Robert Lucas on guitar, harmonica and lead vocals. Their most recent CD is entitled "Friends In The Can." This record brings together a number of Canned Heat's musical friends from the past and present to join them in this musical collaboration and celebration of 40 years of Canned Heat blues and boogie.

Fito's book, "LIVING THE BLUES" is available through the band's website at [www.cannedheatmusic.com](http://www.cannedheatmusic.com) and at most popular book outlets. It is the complete and outrageous Canned Heat story of "Music, Drugs, Death, Sex and Survival" along with over 100 captivating pictures from their past.

And, as The Bear would say: "Don't Forget To Boogie!"  
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#### **CANNED HEAT HAS PERFORMED AT MORE MOTORCYCLE & MUSIC FESTIVALS THAN ANY OTHER BAND IN THE WORLD.**

Over 100 European Tours, 20 Tours to Mexico, 15 to Australia, New Zealand & Canada. Tours to Singapore, the Philippines and Columbia / South America. Many U.S. Air Force and Army / Navy Bases around the world.

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WOODSTOCK  
ATLANTA POP FESTIVAL  
HARLEY DAVIDSON 90TH ANNIVERSARY  
TEXAS INTERNATIONAL POP FESTIVAL  
STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RUN, U.S.A.  
FILLMORE AUDITORIUMS (San Francisco & NYC, NY)  
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN (New York)

ROYAL ALBERT HALL (London, England)  
BROADFORD, PONDE & HUNTER VALLEY - MOTORCYCLE FESTIVALS (Australia)  
20th ANNUAL RIVER RUN, LAUGHLIN NV  
MONTEREY POP FESTIVAL  
SWEDEN ROCK FESTIVAL  
BATH POP FESTIVAL (England)  
HOLLAND FESTIVAL OF MUSIC  
KENT CYCLE SHOW (England)  
THE OLYMPIA (Paris, France)  
THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE (Mexico City)  
CARNEGIE HALL (with John Lee Hooker)  
BIKE WEEK, DAYTONA, FLORIDA  
24HOUR BIKE RACE, LE MANS (France)  
CANNED HEAT'S MUSIC HAS BROUGHT THE BOOGIE INTO A WIDE ASSORTMENT OF  
FILMS, TV SHOWS & MAJOR COMMERCIAL CAMPAIGNS IN THE U.S. & OVERSEAS

#### FILM - VIDEO - DVD:

[Links lead to external site: Internet Movie Data Base]

MONTEREY POP: THE MOVIE (1968 - directed by D. A. Pennebaker)  
WOODSTOCK - THE MOVIE ("Goin' Up The Country" opens this classic film)  
WOODSTOCK: THREE DAYS OF PEACE, MUSIC & LOVE (1970 - directed by Michael Wadleigh)  
=> Rerelease: WOODSTOCK: THE LOST PERFORMANCES (1990 - directed by Michael Wadleigh)  
STAMPING GROUND / LOVE AND MUSIC (1971 - Film of the Holland Festival of Music,  
Rotterdam)  
DOMINOES (1990 - Documentary directed by John Lawrence Re)  
On DVD in 2007: BOOGIE WITH CANNED HEAT (Documentary, Eagle Vision)  
ON THE ROAD AGAIN (ABC Entertainment)  
THE BOOGIE ASSAULT (Video/DVD)  
HARD RIDER (1972 - Video, directed by Josef Reeve)  
ALICE IN THE CITIES (Full Credits) (1974 - directed by Wim Wenders)  
FLASHBACK (1990 - with Dennis Hopper and Kiefer Sutherland – feat. "On The Road Again")  
FORREST GUMP (1994 - with Tom Hanks - Academy Award winning film  
- Feat. "Let's Work Together")  
A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER NEVER CRIES (Full Credits) (1998 - with Kris Kristofferson, Barbara  
Hershey, ...)  
HIDEOUS KINKY (1998 - with Kate Winslet. Soundtrack feat. "On The Road Again")  
FREQUENCY (2000 - with Dennis Quaid)  
THE DANGEROUS LIVES OF ALTAR BOYS (2002 - with Vincent D'Onofrio, Jodie Foster.  
Soundtrack feat. "On The Road Again")  
BIG FISH (2003 - dir. by Tim Burton - w/ Ewan McGregor, Albert Finney feat. "Let's Work Together")  
COLD CREEK MANOR (2003 - with Dennis Quaid, Sharon Stone, Juliette Lewis)  
MEET THE FOCKERS (2004 - with Robert de Niro, Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand, Ben Stiller,  
Owen Wilson - Feat. "Let's Work Together")  
INVINCIBLE (2006 - with Mark Wahlberg. Feat. "Let's Work Together")

#### TELEVISION:

Top of the Pops (London)  
Beat Club (Germany)  
Merv Griffin Show  
Midnight Special  
In Concert  
MTV Closet Classics  
David Frost  
Playboy After Dark  
Tommy Banks Show (Canada)

Nightflight (USA Network)  
VH-1 "Where Are They Now?"  
"Crossroads" @ Subway, Cologne (German WDR TV)  
Munich (German TV, RTL)  
and various other TV shows all over Europe

#### COMMERCIALS:

Tide Detergent  
Target Stores  
General Motors  
Miller Beer  
Heineken Beer  
Levi's  
Pepsi / 7-Up  
McDonalds  
Amtrak  
Hyundai (Australia)  
Lloyd's Bank (U.K.)  
"Smokey The Bear" (U.S. Forest Service)  
Water & Power (U.K.)  
Music City (USA)  
Renault Espace ("Going Up The Country", March 2003, France)  
Daimler-Benz ("Going Up The Country", 2004, Germany)

## 2006 CANNED HEAT INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHIES

### ADOLFO "FITO" DE LA PARRA DRUMS - PERCUSSION – VOCALS

Fito learned to love the blues in Mexico where he was born. After much success playing with two of the biggest Latin American bands, Los Sinners and Los Hooligans and other pop and rock bands during the early '60s, he moved to Los Angeles. There he played with artists such as The Platters, Etta James, The Rivingtons, and Mary Wells before joining a new band called CANNED HEAT in 1967. During his 40 years with Canned Heat, Fito has also played with some of the greatest blues singers of our time, including Big Joe Turner, T-Bone Walker, Albert Collins, and George "Harmonica" Smith. His solid, basic drumming and fantastic solos have led to recording sessions with John Lee Hooker, Memphis Slim, and Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown. Fito has also written his personal history of and with Canned Heat, "*LIVING THE BLUES*" (now available through the band's website and most book outlets). As "Keeper of the Flame," he has remained the rhythmic and spiritual force behind CANNED HEAT's music for over three decades. Since reuniting with the band's original manager/producer, Skip Taylor, in 1998, Fito again concentrates all of his effort as the drummer and leader of the band.

### ROBERT LUCAS LEAD VOCAL - SLIDE GUITAR – HARMONICA

Robert Lucas is known as a superb singer, guitarist and harmonica player in both the acoustic country blues and electric Chicago styles. The first LP Robert bought as a teenager was a copy of CANNED HEAT's very first album. That recording, which covered traditional blues with CANNED HEAT's seminal rock edge, inspired 15-year-old Robert to dig further and discover all of the blues masters, developing his own distinctive style and musicianship along the way. Of his style, *CD Review Magazine* has said Robert has "the meanest slide guitar west of the Mississippi Delta and some of the nastiest harmonica south of Chicago." Then, in 1995, after 15 years and 7 solo albums, Robert came full circle by joining CANNED HEAT for a five year stint! Now, after six years of personal and musical growth, Robert has been welcomed back to front his favorite band. Robert

Lucas is now regarded by many of the most knowledgeable blues enthusiasts, writers and reviewers as one of the most gifted blues men to emerge in recent years. CANNED HEAT's founders, the late Alan "Blind Owl" Wilson and Bob "The Bear" Hite, couldn't have hoped for anyone more suited to carry on the group's forty-year tradition of powerful blues and boogie.

## BARRY LEVENSON GUITAR

After studying arranging at the Berklee School of Music in Boston and backing numerous soul greats, Barry moved to Southern California. He immediately began working with such blues greats as Big Mama Thornton, Pee Wee Crayton, Percy Mayfield, Lowell Fulson and J.D. Nicholson. Levenson then formed his own group called the Automatics, which landed a recording contract with Kent Records where he also became the house producer. The guitarist then landed a deal with the prestigious European jazz and blues label, Storyville Records. Levenson's first release, *Heart to Hand*, received critical raves and was one of the most popular instrumental releases of the decade. This was then followed by the *Closer to the Blues* release and his latest release for Storyville, *Hard Times Won*, garnered him a Handy Award nomination for Blues Song of the Year. Levenson is an in-demand, studio guitarist whose work has appeared in many movies, television and commercials. After being recommended to Canned Heat by Robert Lucas, with whom he played with for a number of years as part of Luke & the Locomotives, he is proud to now be playing with one of America's greatest and most loved bands, Canned Heat.

## GREG KAGE BASS – VOCALS

Greg is no stranger to blues and boogie music. Born and raised in Chicago, Greg cut his chops as a drummer before relocating to Los Angeles and joining a host of thriving local blues, rock and R&B bands. During the '80s, Greg switched to bass guitar and was soon working proficiently and steadily in the popular Southern California group, The Buzzyrds, recording an album with them during that time. In 1995, Greg began playing with CANNED HEAT as a backup drummer and fill-in bass player. He became a permanent member in 1996 and played on their album, "*Canned Heat Blues Band*." Greg has become an important piece of the CANNED HEAT family and is featured throughout their latest two CDs, "*BOOGIE 2000*" and "*FRIENDS IN THE CAN*" on both bass and vocals. Now, with the band for eleven years, he has the longest association with Canned Heat other than Fito.

## LATEST PRESS REVIEWS... 2006

"The finest gut-wrenching boogie this side of Heaven."

*Roger Crosthwait, Sydney Daily Telegraph newspaper, Australia*

"CANNED HEAT'S legacy is that they always come to boogie, always come to throw down a hell of a party and kick out some nasty, nasty blues. Few bands have such magic and firepower, and the luxury of so many great players as CANNED HEAT."

*Michael Whitmore, [www.Woodstock.com](http://www.Woodstock.com) (official site of Woodstock)*

"The band's incredible tightness and energy had the crowd boogie-ing their butts off. This is the best CANNED HEAT lineup since the '60s!"

*John Strummer, BEAT, Music Magazine*

"The years have only improved CANNED HEAT, who seared the crowd with 'Blues 'n Boogie' smokers that showed ZZ Top and Stevie Ray fans a thing or two."

*Music Connection, Los Angeles Music Magazine*

"At the Summer of Love Festival, Oct., 2002...Canned Heat played fabulous versions of 'On The Road Again,' 'Goin' Up The Country,' and 'Let's Work Together.'" They were great in the '60s and '70s, but are even better today... the best band of the day!

*Bob Jones, San Francisco Weekly*

“CANNED HEAT laid down a solid set of blues and boogie which mightily pleased the audience and this reviewer. Let’s hope we can see them back in Scotland again real soon; they were something special!”

*Phil Wright, Glasgow Newspaper, Scotland*

“If the music industry ever decides to award a Grammy for guts, heart, pride and sheer determination, that award should go to CANNED HEAT, hands down.”

*Easy Rider Magazine*

“Jeff Beck and B.B. King had a really hard time tonight following the real ‘kings of the boogie’ Canned Heat!” “This is the best blues jam and boogie band in the world, pure and simple.”

*Geoff Davidian, The Milwaukee Journal Madison Blues Festival 2003*

“If indeed there is a Rock ‘n Roll Heaven, CANNED HEAT will undoubtedly be installed with full honours at the left hand side of God, right there with the best.”

*Dimitri, On The Street, newspaper, Sydney, Australia*

“Their course of 40 years, 40 members and 40 albums has helped put CANNED HEAT at the top of the official members of American rock history. They are the kings of blues and groove-oriented boogie rock. Why aren’t these guys in the Rock ‘n Roll Hall of fame yet?”

*Bevyn Rowland, Portland City Search magazine*

“CANNED HEAT defines the term ‘boogie.’”

*Jon Niccum, Pitch Weekly, Kansas City*

“CANNED HEAT’S blow-out concert wasn’t just a jam session packed with hits and great blues ... it was the return of legends. And it’s not often that legends come to earth so readily, and even rarer when they forsake the traditional trappings of rock ‘n roll stardom and give the audience what they want: great music, fantastic solos, good times and somethin’ to dance to.”

*Steve Robles, San Bernadino County Sun*

“Thanks for coming down from the country, guys; it’s like you never left.”

*Ed Harrison, Billboard Magazine*