

## Biography

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Left to right: Zak McLamb, Daniel Aldridge, Greg Luck, Brian Aldridge, Clifton Preddy

Constant Change was formed in January of 2002 by a group of North Carolina musicians in their twenties with a passion for bluegrass music. For the first several years the band lived up to its name, as various hot young pickers came and went. But once Brian Aldridge (banjo) and his brother Daniel (mandolin) stepped in to join founding member Clifton Preddy (fiddle), the nucleus of a special band was in place. With Greg Luck and Zak McLamb now in the band, they are surely a “band to watch”.

Constant Change has evolved over the years with their musical style and selections. With this new configuration, the emphasis is more on a "band" sound reminiscent back to the BG Album Band era which helped to define the second generation of bluegrass. They are now leveraging and showcasing the strengths of each member while collectively synergizing into a refreshing but familiar sound which is powerful and "in the pocket" as they say. With the new members who are also based in North Carolina, the band is energized more than ever and ambitious towards producing the best music yet.

**Brian Aldridge** - Banjo player and vocalist from Saxapahaw, NC

Born in 1981 and raised in Saxapahaw, NC, Brian grew up in a musical family. He got started on mandolin at age three, and graduated to banjo at thirteen. His father, Mike, now with Al Batten & Bluegrass Reunion, was a long time member of the Bass Mountain Boys. It was with that group that

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Brian first played on stage. His favorite banjo players include Earl Scruggs and Jim Mills, and his picking reflects their precise, dynamic style. His wife's grandfather, award-winning North Carolina banjoist/vocalist A. L. Wood, was also a major influence.

Brian once claimed first prize at two fiddlers conventions back to back, playing "Dear Old Dixie" and "Randy Lynn Rag." His dream is to own a pre-war flathead banjo. Brian is also a master of the Scruggs style of finger picked guitar, which he often employs on the band's gospel quartets. Brian's hard-driving style, tasteful backup licks, and heartfelt vocals are the centerpiece of the Constant Change sound.

Brian's hobbies include hunting and picking, and he's a natural-born mechanic. When he's not playing music, Brian can be found in Chapel Hill where he works as a service technician for the University of North Carolina.

**Daniel Aldridge** - Mandolin player and vocalist from Saxapahaw, NC

Born in 1985, Brian's brother Daniel was inspired to play bluegrass by hearing Illrd Tyme Out. He spent many years listening to and absorbing the music of great mandolin players before picking up the instrument himself at age fifteen. His influences include his father Mike, Wayne Benson, and Bill Monroe. Once he put fingers to strings, Daniel's progress was astonishing. Just barely out of high school, he joined Constant Change in November of 2003. He soon was recruited by Honi Deaton, with whom he toured from March through October of 2004.

Daniel spent the summer of 2005 touring with Jeannette Williams before returning to play with Constant Change. In addition to his dazzling mandolin picking, Daniel is a fine lead singer, and provides much of the baritone harmony in the band's trios and quartets. Daniel is employed at the Alamance County Sheriff's department.

**Zachary (Zak) McLamb** - Upright Bass player from Four Oaks, NC

Zak (as he is most often referred to) is no stranger to Constant Change. He was a founding member in 2002 along with Brian Aldridge and Clifton Preddy. In 2005, he left Constant Change to play with Kenny and Amanda Smith. He started playing music at the age of 7, when his father, a banjo player, bought a bass for his mother. Soon Zak fell in love with the bass and his father taught him a few notes and encouraged him to play. Zak studied under a classical bassist once a week for three years and learned the fundamentals of playing, then took the formal knowledge that he gained and applied it to his true musical love, Bluegrass.

Zak started playing music with his parents in a local group, The Tony McLamb Band, in 1988, and continues to play with them today. He joined the Raleigh-based New Vintage Bluegrass Band in 1992 and played with them for two of his high school years. It was during this time that New Vintage won both the SPBGMA International Band Championship and the Pizza Hut International Bluegrass Showdown. Zak has recorded with many different artist in recent years and is considered one of the top bass players in the industry. We are happy to have him back as part of Constant Change.

**Greg Luck** – Guitar and vocalist from Mt. Gilead, NC

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Greg joined the band in December of 2012 on guitar and vocals. He has quite a bluegrass resume and is multi-talented in not only musicianship and singing, but songwriting and studio recording as well. He started playing guitar at the age of 7 and is a master musician on of the 5 piece standard bluegrass instruments. He grew up listening to the bluegrass classics such as Flatt and Scruggs, Bill Monroe, and the Bluegrass Album Band. He has played with many great groups such as Illrd Tyme Out, JD Crowe and The New South, The Lost & Found, The Bluegrass Cardinals, The Bass Mountain Boys, Lynn Morris, and The Circuit Riders. He is also a great studio engineer and is the owner and operator of Riverside Audio in Mt. Gilead, NC where he makes his home and has recorded many great artists such as Illrd Tyme Out, Country Gentlemen, The Chapmans, Lou Reid & Carolina, Constant Change, and many others. He has written songs that have been recorded by the likes of Dan Seals, Lee Ann Womack, Ronnie Bowman, Illrd Tyme Out, Mountain Heart, and many more. As you can see, he is a welcomed addition to Constant Change.

**Clifton Preddy** - Fiddle player and vocalist from Wilton, NC

Born in 1973 and raised in Wilton, NC, Clifton Preddy has been playing the fiddle as long as he can remember. From age three until sixteen, he took private classical violin lessons and performed at various regional fiddler's conventions, festivals, state fairs, and churches. He further honed his skills playing at regular weekly jam sessions with family members and friends, including the late Gene Wooten, who went on to perform with Wilma Lee Cooper, The Osborne Brothers, and others.

Over his musical career, Clifton has performed and recorded with many bands, including Swift Run, The Virginia Travelers, New Classic Grass, Lynwood Lunsford, New Vintage, Carolina Road, The Navy Bluegrass Band, The Jason Michael Carroll Band, Steel Creek, Carolina Connection, and The Beard Brothers. His greatest influences are Chubby Wise, Mark O'Connor, the Lonesome River Band, and his great-uncle, old-time fiddler Emil "Dunk" Preddy.

Clifton was a founding member of Constant Change, and he takes care of most of the band's business. He has contributed a number of original songs to the Constant Change repertoire. He sings both lead and harmony, and supplies the bass part in all of the band's quartets. Clifton works as a Business Transformation Senior Manager in Research Triangle Park.

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## ~ DISCOGRAPHY ~

- 1) Making Cents - 2003 - Papa Leo Records - PL-03-0001
- 2) Live From The Peppermill - 2006 - Papa Leo Records - PL-06-0001
- 3) Kentucky Comes To Town - 2007 - Papa Leo Records - PL-07-0001
- 4) Hills Of Home - 2009 - Papa Leo Records - PL-09-0001
- 5) Live At The Paramount Theatre – 2012 – Papa Leo Records – PL-12-0001

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6) Evolving – 2014 – Blue Circle Records – BCR-041