

# THE KISS FAMILY TREE: VINNIE VINCENT

## THE YOUNGER GENERATION (c. 1965)

It was during his time with this band that Vinnie's first recorded piece of music comes from, financed by his musician father...



## HUNTER (c. 1970)

This band may have included Neil Steubenhaus on bass.



## CASHMIR & LECOUX (1975)

Vinnie teamed with David Wolff to write a novelty song in honor of the American bicentennial celebration of 1976. David would later be the manager and partner of Cyndi Lauper. "Happy Birthday USA" was credited to their pseudonyms of Kid Cashmir (David) and Winnie LeCoux (Vinnie).



## THE HITCHHIKERS (1976)

Strictly a session player during that band's studio recordings. They would use one of Vinnie's songs though.



## TREASURE (1977 – 1978)

**Vincent Cusano**  
*Guitar/Vocals*

**Rick Laird**  
*Bass*

**Felix Cavaliere**  
*Keyboards/Vocals*

**Jack Scarangella**  
*Drums*

Vinnie's first proper professional band on a national label. It was unfortunately short lived and the members soon went on to work on other projects...



## LAURA NYRO (1978)

**Laura Nyro**  
*Vocals/Piano*

**Felix Cavaliere**  
*Keyboards*

**Vinnie Cusano**  
*Guitar*

**John Tropea**  
*Guitar*

**Liberty Mata**  
*Percussion*

**Various Session**  
*Bass/Drums*

A strictly studio session lineup. Vinnie shared guitar duties with John Tropea.



*Felix would return to his solo career following his work with Laura Nyro. Vinnie Cusano would play on three tracks on Felix's 1979 album "Castles In The Air"...*

## DAN HARTMAN (1978 – 1979)

**Dan Hartman**  
*Bass/Keyboards/Vocals*

**Blanche Napoleon**  
*Backing Vocals*

**Vinnie Cusano**  
*Guitar/B. Vocals*

**Hilly Michaels**  
*Drums*

**G.E. Smith**  
*Guitar*

Vinnie started out with session work on Dan's "Instant Replay" album performing on two tracks on the album. Later, Vinnie toured as a part of Dan's band ending up in Los Angeles in 1979, where he remained until signing on for Edgar Winter's touring band.



## THE EDGAR WINTER BAND (1979-1980)

**Unknown**

**Unknown**

**Edgar Winter**  
*Saxophone/Keys*

**Vinnie Cusano**  
*Guitar*

**Unknown**

**Unknown**

This was simply a touring band with which Vinnie did not recording. Still, because of Dan Hartman and Edgar, Vinnie make Los Angeles his home, and after the tour did session work with Tom Saviano on his Heat project, and co-wrote a track that ex-Vanilla Fudge drummer extraordinaire Carmine Appice's solo album. He also got a job as a song-writer for Happy Days/Joannie Loves Chachi.



## CARMEN APPICE'S ROCKERS (1980-1)

Vinnie and Carman wrote several songs together during this period, though only one would turn up on Carman's album "Rockers" on which Vinnie would not play...



## WARRIOR #1 (1981-2)

**Vinnie Cusano**  
*Guitar/Vocals*

**Gary Shea**  
*Bass*

**Jimmy Waldo**  
*Keyboards*

**Hirsch Gardner**  
*Drums/Vocals*

Warrior was a short-lived but powerful project that led to Vinnie being recruited by KISS... Gary, Jimmy, and Hirsch were all former members of the band New England, who had had one of their albums produced by Paul Stanley.



## WARRIOR #2 (1982)

Vinnie Cusano  
*Guitar/Vocals*

Robert Fleischmann  
*Lead Vocals*

Gary Shea  
*Bass*

Jimmy Waldo  
*Keyboards*

Hirsch Gardner  
*Drums/Vocals*

Robert was the former Journey vocalist whom Vinnie badgered to sing on the project, even though he was more interested in resurrecting his solo career. Vinnie had sung on the demos.

↓  
**KISS**  
1982-1984  
↓

↓  
**CHANNEL/  
SOLO**

*Jimmy and Gary were not disheartened when Warrior did not happen. Instead, they hooked up with ex-Steeler guitarist Yngwie J. Malmsteen and ex-Rainbow vocalist Graham Bonnet in the seminal band Alcatrazz, which would later feature guitar wiz Steve Vai.*

## VINNIE VINCENT #1 (1984 – 1985)

Vinnie Vincent  
*Guitars/Vocals*

Dana Strum  
*Bass*

Myron Grombacher  
*Drums*

This was a studio only recording lineup that Vinnie used while working out demos, at Soundcastle Studios, in Los Angeles, to use to get a record deal. It lasted for several months before Vinnie was happy enough to use the material to submit to George Sewitt. Myron was Pat Benetar's drummer.

## VINNIE VINCENT INVASION #1 (1985 – Aug '86)

Vinnie Vincent  
*Guitars/Vocals*

Dana Strum  
*Bass*

Bobby Rock  
*Drums*

Robert Fleischmann  
*Vocals*

The lineup that recorded the classic "Vinnie Vincent Invasion" album. However, Robert had pulled a trick out of Vinnie's hat, and not signed a contract with the band. He didn't want to tour with the band and thus departed the group...

## VINNIE VINCENT INVASION #2 (Sep '86 – Aug '88)

Vinnie Vincent  
*Guitars/Vocals*

Dana Strum  
*Bass*

Mark Slaughter  
*Vocals*

Bobby Rock  
*Drums*

The lineup that recorded the classic "Vinnie Vincent Invasion" album. However, Robert had pulled a trick out of Vinnie's hat, and not signed a contract with the band. He didn't want to tour with the band and thus departed the group...

*Dana and Mark stuck together following the demise of the Vinnie Vincent Invasion and scored their own recording deal with Chrysalis Records when they formed their own group, building on the focus on Mark Slaughter. With the addition of Tim Kelly and Blas Elias, Slaughter would attain the sort of success that had eluded the Invasion...*

*Bobby would make a big name for himself with his educational drumming packages in addition to his work on Nitro and with Nelson...*

## VINNIE VINCENT #2 (1988)

Vinnie Vincent  
*Guitar/Bass/Vocals*

Jeff Scott Soto  
*Lead Vocals*

Jimmy Waldo  
*Keyboards/Programming*

Not a proper band line-up, but simply used to record Vinnie's song ideas for possible music publishing deals.

## VINNIE VINCENT #3 (1989 – 1991)

Vinnie Vincent  
*Guitar/Vocals*

Chris Lee  
*Bass*

Unknown  
*Drums*

Various  
*Vocals*

Working on demos for a new album Vinnie recorded sometimes using a drum machine, performing the vocals himself, though also auditioning others such as Goran Edman, as well as Robert Fleischmann working with him in 1990. It was during this time that Vinnie first recorded the "Guitars From Hell" material, publishing the copyright for the completed work in September 1990. "Get The Led Out" was the first song completed. One "real" drummer possibly used at this time was Gary Ferguson.

## VINNIE VINCENT #4 (1991 – 1994)

Vinnie Vincent  
*Guitar/Bass/Vocals*

Andre LaBelle  
*Drums*

Robert Fleischmann  
*Vocals*

Vinnie managed to persuade Robert to work with him on some new recordings.

*Andre moved on to work with projects such as Buck Cherry, Slyte Psykosis, and Sly Sullivan.*

## VINNIE VINCENT #5 (1996)

Vinnie Vincent  
*Guitar/Bass/Vocals*

V. Meister  
*Drums*

Robert Fleischmann  
*Vocals*

Vinnie's "EP/Euphoria", released in 1996, was simply a reworking of material recorded earlier with Robert. Many also question the existence of "V. Meister" and believe that to simply be Vinnie, since some of the drums do sound like modern sampling. Regardless, with this Vinnie was on his own, and from 1996 was mostly silent musically...