

THE KISS FAMILY TREE: VINNIE VINCENT

THE YOUNGER GENERATION (1965-1968)

Vincent Cusano
Guitar/Vocals

Jerry Braca
Drums/Vocals

Bob Forte

Skip Smith

It was during his time with this band that Vinnie's first recorded piece of music comes from, financed by his musician father... The band opened for the Young Rascals, who included Felix Cavaliere, a decade before Vinnie worked with him in Treasure.



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 returned to his solo career following his work with Laura Nyro. Vinnie played on three tracks on Felix's 1979 solo album"...



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



NEW ENGLAND #3 / 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.

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KISS
1982-1984
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**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.

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Vinnie Vincent
Guitars/Vocals

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

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...

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Vinnie Vincent
Guitars/Vocals

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

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...

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Vinnie Vincent
Guitars/Vocals

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.

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Vinnie Vincent
Guitar/Vocals

VINNIE VINCENT #3 (1989 – 1991)

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.

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Vinnie Vincent
Guitar/Bass/Vocals

VINNIE VINCENT #4 (1991 – 1994)

Andre LaBelle
Drums

Robert Fleischmann
Vocals

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

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Vinnie Vincent
Guitar/Bass/Vocals

Andre moved on to work with projects such as Buck Cherry, Slyte Psychosis, 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...