



Ten Ton Flood - Songs By Romin Dawson and Steven Fink

Steven Fink (music) and Romin Dawson (lyrics) have been friends, and creative collaborators, for 30 years. In early 1991, the two met when Steven joined The Grapes - an up and coming Atlanta-based jam band that Romin co-founded a few years earlier- as a keyboard player, lead vocalist, and songwriter.

Originally from Melville, Long Island, Steven took his first piano lesson at the age of 4. From those early beginnings, his musical training took him to the University of North Carolina Greensboro School Of Music, where he enrolled as a piano performance major. After a year, he withdrew from the program and became a working musician, playing with a number of bands before joining The Grapes for the next chapter of his life.

Romin was born in Atlanta but grew up in New Jersey - moving back to Atlanta in the mid 1980s. Although he had a guitar and played informally here and there, he fell into the role of musician and songwriter after meeting Charlie Londsorf and Preston Holcomb - the bass player and drummer for what would become The Grapes. They needed a rhythm guitarist to glue the band together. He jumped in, and it didn't take long for him to mesh his playing style - giving him an outlet for his innately strong musical abilities.

After Steven joined, and over the course of the next 7 years, The Grapes performed over two thousand live shows in forty-four states, sharing the stage with many national and world-wide acts. But there came a time when they decided to back away from the rigors and hardships of life on the road to pursue other avenues. Some moved on to other musical endeavors, including songwriting. But the core energy of the band, and the strong bonds that formed

along the journey, have remained completely intact. The community is still strong, and The Grapes celebrate this by reuniting on an annual basis to a capacity crowd. They also continue to maintain a presence on iTunes and other online music retailers.

After The Grapes, Steven moved to New Jersey where he founded and operates SummerTech and Coditum - which currently reside on the SUNY Purchase college campus. SummerTech, a technology summer camp, has been running strong for 20 years. It has been a staple of computer education for thousands of children, developing hundreds of young leaders and teachers who have gone on to notable careers.

Coditum, a year-round coding and computer science education program taught in person and virtually, has been operating since 2013. It has gained a reputation for teaching computer programming to children at an accelerated level. Both of these programs have changed the conversation of computer pedagogy with great success and results.

Steven also went back to music school, earning a BA in Music Education from New Jersey City University - graduating with honors. Steven has also worked as a music teacher at Washington Middle School in Harrison, NJ. There he revitalized the music program by recreating its curriculum - and establishing performance classes and computer education offerings not before available in the Harrison district.

Steven is married to Karen Schrifft, an attorney specializing in environmental matters. They have a teenage daughter, Genevieve, also a singer, who has already contributed her voice to several Ten Ton Flood songs - proving that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. All three are also avid theater goers and patrons of the arts.

Romin remained in Atlanta where he has continued his involvement in the local music scene - writing songs, and forming and playing in several bands -

including Shot, Bitchy Neighbors and Wayside Riders. He has also become a highly skilled and accomplished photographer and picture framer. His keen eye and strong aesthetic for visual storytelling has greatly influenced and informed his style of composition - which he has continued to hone over the years. More than a lyricist, he may more accurately be described as a word painter - painting vivid, colorful pictures with words to dazzling effect.

The creative fire between Steven and Romin was reignited in the summer of 2020 when one of the drummers for The Grapes, Preston Holcomb, asked Steven to write a song for him that he could work on in his home studio. While Steven had some melodies floating in his head, he had no lyrics to put them to. He reached out to his old partner in crime, Romin, to ask if he might be interested in writing some. With no real framework from Steven, Romin sat down with his guitar, strummed chords, and wrote down some patterns and verses as they came to him.

He shared them with Steven - who then pulled, melody, chorus, other instruments, and arrangements in. In the course of just a couple of days, Ten Ton Flood had their first song - a sweet, uplifting tune with a distinctive narrative, beautiful melody, and expertly nuanced vocals and keys, called Morganton Hill. Happy with what they came up with, they used the same process to write another, and then another, and then another. They have now written over 20 songs and counting.

Songs come about in many different ways. Sometimes just one person writes everything. Sometimes, duos are formed. Sometimes, songwriting pairs sit down together and work through every word and note - in front of a piano, perhaps, - relentlessly jotting, scratching, getting every last detail down until it's just right. Ten Ton Flood has a different approach.

As Steven had moved to the Northeast from Atlanta years earlier, there are hundreds of miles between the two of them, so sitting down together in front of a piano has not been an option. Unfortunate as it has been for two close friends to

live so far apart, this has not kept them from continuously sparking each other's creativity in the most amazing ways.

It has proven to be a winning formula, in fact. Romin will put down some words using some chord progressions and patterns to guide him. Then, in a leap-of-faith of sorts, he hands them over to Steven and says goodbye to them - not having much of an idea about what will happen next. Steven then pulls out one or more of the many ideas - diamonds in the rough - floating around in his head and starts cutting and shaping and smoothing to fit it perfectly with the words and the story. And a song is born.

This songwriting project called Ten Ton Flood is in its infancy, but has already produced an extraordinary tapestry of rich, memorable songs - full of knowledge, wisdom, and love - that will happily find homes in a wide spectrum of playlists. This story, this adventure, continues to reveal itself in the most inspiring and magical of ways - and nobody knows where it will go next. The creative meeting of these two minds captures the imagination and doesn't let go. We hope you enjoy the ride with us.