

# Ronny Smith

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## Objective

To utilize my computer knowledge, strong communication skills, excellent organizational abilities, and business experience in a property management setting which will allow interaction with people across all levels.

## Summary of Qualifications

- Served the United States Army Bands for 34 years as a Charlie 1 performer/guitarist
- Owner and developer of online businesses, Ronka Music Group, LLC
- Author and writer of books, “Lessons In Jazz Guitar” and “The Essentials Guide for Learning Guitar”, method books
- National recording artist gaining notable status on billboard smooth jazz charts
- Composer and arranger of numerous jazz combo charts

## Professional Experience

**Army Bandsman Various Army Bands**  
**August 2018**

**May 1981 to**

Implement logistic support for concert preparation and performances. Work with host and venues to ensure engagement is properly handled in advanced. This includes planning transportation, mobilization of instruments, musicians, instrument accessories, stage plots, power, lighting, food, sound checks, and travel. Coordinate and manage advanced parties preparation for concert setup and any logistical requirement needed prior to full band arrival. Organized equipment nomenclature and allowance parts lists data; conducted analysis to identify necessary allowances support required for operational availability. Planned and executed logistical support countless entertainment events. Accounted for forty (40) musicians. Serve as brass team leader and assistant team leader for pop and jazz bands. Daily duties consisted of effective communications with superiors and subordinates, research of regulatory guidance, supervision control and accounting for individuals and teams, teaching and counseling, evaluating reports and after action reviews, team development, building spirit and confidence, technical and tactical proficiency, decision making based on commanders guidance, planning, use of automated systems and professional ethics, assignments, professional development and promotions. Responsible for rehearsing and performing in high visibility civilian and military ceremonies, parades and concert performances of symphonic, ceremonial, marching music, jazz and pop music. Taught private instruction in performance, theory, and composition. Serve as Rater and Senior Rater of Senior noncommissioned officers. Approve and keep all personnel informed on changes in policies, directives and procedures. Enforced Equal Opportunity and sexual harassment policies and resolved all formal and informal complaints at the lowest level. Ensured commander's guidance was adhered too and safety was at the forefront of every operation. Assisted the commander in all areas of discipline, accountability, health and welfare, morale, and primary mission. Performed as a Guitar player and clarinetist using a variety of styles in all musical support teams in include

symphonic, concert, marching, jazz and pop ensembles. As Assistant Musical Support Team Leader, arranged and composed music for Pop and Jazz. Provide public information releases, press kits, publicity photos, and recordings for use in band support of community

relations events. Assist the band commander in planning and conducting the unit's training program. Perform appointed duties for internal support positions, to include but not limited to administration, operations, logistics, music library, instrument repair, technical support, and supervise the execution of these duties. Oversaw and coordinated the setup and breakdown of performances. This included having a functional knowledge of lighting equipment, microphones, sound equipment, recording equipment and related software, backlights, floodlights, spot lighting and props.

**Owner/Operator**

**Ronka Music Group, LLC**

**May 2002 - Present**

Establish and manage Ronka Music Group, LLC. Responsible for event planning with local artist, artist companies, booking agents, theaters, and local events and venues. Clients list included Hotels, City Partnerships, Churches and local community groups. Responsible for booking, negotiating and executing performance contracts for live music performances.

Responsible for negotiating and securing all artist fees and rider requirements. Negotiate rates for use of artist with the goal of meeting a budget and acquiring promotional opportunities. . Manage all paperwork, records, bills, and reporting regarding band operations. Develop and provide public information releases, press kits, publicity photos, and recordings for use in band support in community relations. This is to include both audio and audiovisual products (including electronic media such as web-based, downloadable or streaming audio/video) and assuring all information complies with Federal copyright laws. Responsible for the acquisition of entertainers for concerts and solo artist support. This is to include all logistics such as includes planning transportation, mobilization of instruments, musicians, various equipment such as stands, musical instruments, stage plots, power, lighting, food, sound checks, and travel. Assembled a production team to assess recording production. Insuring all needs are met according to riders and contracts.

Developed overall strategy for a recording projects. Produced and recorded over six CD recording projects that have charted on Billboards Smooth Jazz Charts. Maintain self published jazz charts for combo and small ensemble music through publisher J.W. Pepper Publishing. Responsible for business development in the areas of strategic markets and licensing. Develop avenues to pitch label group artist and songs for use in television programs, films, radio, commercial advertisements, and video games. Oversee and direct and execute the licensing in the areas of music publishing (mechanical, synchronization and performance), for film, television, advertisements, video gaming, online/internet, promotions, customer activation programs, and retail music branding initiatives. Demonstrate knowledge of copyright laws and policy.

Responsible for administering publishing and song catalogs. Draft, negotiate, and issue all writer agreements, mechanical, print, and synch licenses. Responsible for assuring all recordings, arrangement and compositions comply with Federal copyright laws. Hire and manage technical and artistic staff (contract) and supervise volunteer personal for live performance. Demonstrate knowledge of music digital recording software such as Pro Tools; Kontakt 2; GigaSampler; Finale; Cakewalk, Sonar Producer; Cubase; Sony Media Software Acid; Sonic Foundry Loops for Acid; Sound Libraries Formats (Akai S1000/3000, AIFF, Wave, Giga, Halion

## **RECORDING ARTIST**

Grammy considered guitarist left University of Maryland as a music education major to pursue the life as a guitarist and a U.S. Army Bandsman. I toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe and South America. Have shared the stage with such artists as the Marvelettes, jazz

drummer Bobby Durham, vocalist Melba Moore, and trumpeter Donald Bryd. Have recorded with some of the top session musicians of the Nashville and the California scene, to include, Gary Lunn (Peter Cetera), Pat Coil (Michael McDonald), Craig Nelson (Ben Tankard), and Dan Needham (Euge Groove), Scott Martin and Stan Martin (Quincy Jones) and Andy Martin (Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat band).

Was signed to Pacific Coast Jazz record label and soon after released his 5th project, "Just Groovin" and "Shake it up" his seventh release, which is spinning internationally, and soon to go for adds nationally. In 2013, under the Creative Soul Next Level Jazz label, Ronny released "Can't Stop Now" Ronny's sixth release as a solo artist, which features the fantastic singles, "Slim Pickin" and, "City Groove". "City Groove", quickly became #1 on Billboards' BDS New & Active SMOOTH JAZZ chart listing. Shortly thereafter, rose to become #25 on Billboards' BDS radio SMOOTH JAZZ NATIONAL AIRPLAY top 30 charts.

## PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

### **(Fairs, Festivals, concerts, shows)**

US Army Band (Europe)	January 1981 - August 1983
US Army Band (Texas)	August 1983 - December 1984
US Army Band (Washington DC)	January 1985 - December 1988
US Army Band (Baltimore)	January 1988 - December 1989
US Army Band (Delaware)	January 1990 – August 2018

### **(Other Performance Highlights)**

Appalachian Regional Commission	February 26 2015
Jazz at Meade Memorial Episcopal	May 17, 2015
The Hill Chapel Jazz Concerts Series	May 28 2015
Elk Run Jazz Festival	Jun 21 2015
Twins Jazz	Jul 16 2015
The Gordon Center	Aug 1 2015
Downtown Baltimore Harbour	October 6 2015
	October 13, 2015
	October 20 2015
	October 27 2015
Chesapeake Arts Center	Nov 7 2015
Grand Opera House	December 14, 2015
Jazz at Meade Memorial Episcopal	April 17, 2016
The Hill Chapel Jazz Concerts Series	May 28 2016
Elk Run Jazz Festival	Jun 21 2016
Twins Jazz	Jul 16 2016
The Gordon Center	Aug 1 2016
Ronald Reagon Bldg	June 14, 2016
First State Hall	Sep 3 2016
Bridgeview	Oct 1 2016
Grand Opera House	December 11, 2016
Dover Downs	December 10, 2016
Jazz at Meade Memorial Episcopal	November 19, 2017
Crown Plaza Hampton Marina	Mar 26 2017
The Hill Chapel Jazz Concerts Series	May 28 2017

Elk Run Jazz Festival  
Twins Jazz  
Grand Opera House  
Dover Downs

Jun 21 2017  
Jul 16 2017  
December 14, 2015  
December 10, 2017

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## RECORDINGS

### **Laid Back**

**by Ronny Smith**

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Crossover Jazz, Fusion, smooth Jazz, contemporary Jazz

Genre: Jazz: Smooth Jazz

Release Date: 2002

### **Got Groove**

**by Ronny Smith**

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Crossover Jazz, Fusion, smooth Jazz, contemporary Jazz

Genre: Jazz: Smooth Jazz

Release Date: 2005

### **Simply Stated**

**by Ronny Smith**

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A smooth jazz artist who demonstrates eclectic jazz guitar techniques and a diverse mix of tunes, including Bossa-flavored grooves, funky jams, and smooth ballads

Genre: Jazz: Smooth Jazz

Release Date: 2007

### **Just Groovin**

**by Ronny Smith**

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We need another hero. After Wes Montgomery and George Benson Ronny Smith epitomizes the culture of jazz guitar music. After his albums Long Time Comin (2001), Laid Back (2002), Got Groove (2006) and Simply Stated (2007) he honored us with his new album Just Groovin (2009), scheduled to release on May 19, 2009. With his new album Just Groovin Ronny Smith is on the best way to become a guitar hero stepping out the shadow of Wes Montgomery.

Genre: Jazz: Cool Jazz

Release Date: 2009

### **Can't Stop Now**

**by Ronny Smith**

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If either George Benson or Earl Klugh is your cup of tea, then Ronny is your man. Don't get this thing twisted; he is not a George or Earl wannabe. Smith has developed his voice and his playing style just like those other boys, you feelin me. He is a class act too!

Genre: Jazz: Cool Jazz

Release Date: 2013

## Education

**University of Phoenix**, Phoenix, Ariz.: M.A., Organizational Management, 2002,  
**Elizabeth City State University**, Elizabeth City, N.C., B.S., Music Merchandising, 1990  
**U.S. Army Navy School of Music**, Norfolk, Va., Advanced Leadership, May 2013  
**U.S. Army Navy School of Music**, Norfolk, Va., Music Element Studies, April 1981

## Additional Training

**Building Owners and Management Institute**, Philadelphia, Pa. Jan

**Delaware National Guard Training School**, Bethany Beach, Del.

- Primary Leadership and Directing, August–November 1994

**University of Wisconsin**, Madison, Wis.

- Controlling Building Costs, November 1996

## Honors and Awards

- Superior Customer Service Award,
- Superior Accomplishments
- NAMM/International Music Products Association Scholarship Recipient
- Elizabeth City State University Music Performance Scholarship Recipient, 1989–1990

## Technical Expertise

Pro Tools; Kontakt 2; GigaSampler; Finale; Cakewalk, Sonar Producer; Cubase; Sony Media Software Acid; Sonic Foundry Loops for Acid; Sound Libraries Formats (Akai S1000/3000, AIFF, Wave, Giga, Halion); Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Project, Publisher), Windows7, Internet Explorer8; Lotus Notes; Palo Alto Business Plan Pro.

## Special Skills

Excellent management, public relations, leadership, financial planning, decision making, troubleshooting, organizational and communication skills ... Able to work unsupervised and motivate others ... Possess a high level of self-motivation ... Develop and maintain work schedules

... Able to identify and resolve problems ... Dependable with follow-through abilities ... Work well as a team member with a wide range of people ... Able to use available resources and learn new skills rapidly ... Work well under pressure and stress.