

KIM GARDNER

Kim Gardner was born in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1961 and grew up on a tobacco farm, just outside of town. Much of his early experience in music came from Saturday night jam sessions that were held at old barns and country stores all around rural eastern NC. He started playing guitar around age 10, but when he was 14, a family friend took him to a festival where the Seldom Scene was playing – when he heard Mike Auldridge playing Dobro he was hooked! For Christmas that year he was given a Dobro and the rest is history! His biggest influences musically from that point forward were Mike Auldridge and the new kid on the block (soon to be legendary) named Jerry Douglas.



Being from NC, Kim had a chance to hang out with some great players. One of his best friends growing up was Steve Dilling of Illrd Tyme Out. During their teenage years, Steve and Kim played together for several years in a local group called Stoney Runn. Eventually the band split up and Steve started playing full time, while Kim went to college.

Kim graduated from UNC-Wilmington in 1983 with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration/Management. For the next several years he worked for a computer company in Apex, NC and was in and out of different bands, most notably, Wes Golden & Surefire, as well as Reminisce, which featured Ronnie Bowman as lead vocalist and Alan Bibey on mandolin.

In 1991 he was asked to play Dobro on the CD *Carrying the Tradition*, by the Lonesome River Band, which won IBMA Album of the Year in 1992. He also did the Dobro work on *Cold Virginia Night* by Ronnie Bowman, which won the IBMA Album of the Year in 1995 and *Souvenirs*, by the Country Gentlemen, which won SBGMA Album of the Year in 1995. Kim can also be heard on many other projects during this period with other bands, such as Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver and Wyatt Rice & Santa Cruz.

In the mid 1990s, Kim was playing with the NC based band After 5, where he and Booie had the chance to meet. In 1995, they won the SPBGMA national band championship together. In April of 2002, Kim moved to Nashville and was a band member for the 2001 SPBGMA Female Vocalist of the Year, Dale Ann Bradley and her band, Coon Creek. Kim joined Larry Cordle in October of 2002.

Kim plays a custom built Frank Harlow Cherry Resophonic Guitar and endorses Black Diamond Strings and Elmer Bradley capos.