



## *Bio - Mark Bensette Aux Bois*

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#### **6 & 12 string electric-acoustic guitar and electric harp**

Mark started his first rock band at 14, was performing at 16, and toured with concerts and bar gigs in Ontario and the northern United States through the 80's. He moved to the States in 1992 and continued playing with bands in Dallas, then Phoenix. After working a day job and playing in the band till 1 or 2 in the morning, Mark would decompress by turning to another music genre he'd always enjoyed: New Age. Spending hours surrounded by loud music and walls of amplifiers, his "head just full of that", he'd listen to New Age or Classical music, something without lyrics, to unwind on the drive home.

After seeing a performance by Grammy award-winning harpist Andreas Vollenweider he found he loved the music and style and promised to one day create New Age music. When Mark took up the concert harp in 2006 he discovered "there was no training at all", it's all just instinct". Mark found himself with another self-taught instrument under his belt, then put together a home studio and produced three New Age CD's.

In 2009 Mark was diagnosed with cancer. During this time, he lost all interest in music - frustrated and disillusioned, and not finding anyone suitable to work with, he applied his talents instead to poetry and fiction, writing the "Son of Sherlock Holmes" series.

It was watching an episode of "That Metal Show" that reignited the spark. Guest Jack Blades from "Night Ranger" said "you know, when you stop creating, you die inside". With that, Mark started writing and auditioning singers. He also reconnected with musician and recording artist Saggio, whom he had met ten years prior.

Just as a butterfly - the Papillon - adapts and transforms, with Mark's innovative style, he will no doubt find a way to incorporate his love of Rock music with his appreciation of New Age, Classical and other genres into the musical collaborations of Nouveau Papillon and Thunder Of Silence.



#### **Gear:**

**Guitars:** Ovation 6 & 12 String (Adamas, Elite, Legend & Thunderbolt)

**Harps:** Lyon & Healy Concert & Silhouette

**Amps:** Bogner, Fender, Marshall & SWR

**Keyboards:** Korg, Roland & Yamaha

**Effects Pedals:** Mooer



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