

CHUCK HANSEN

Founder & Chairman of Electro Scan Inc.

Chuck Hansen has a pretty cool life outside of trenchless technology. He has played his saxophone on stage with the likes of Tower of Power, Huey Lewis, Todd Rundgren, to name a few.

His passion for rock n' roll music runs deep — rooted in his childhood and in full bloom as an adult. He plays live music with rock stars, as well as owns a recording studio, where he records his own music (he's recorded 24 CDs) in addition to other artists.

Hansen is known in trenchless circles as the founder and chairman of Electro Scan Inc. (2011) and was founder of Hansen Information Technologies (1983), which developed asset management systems for water and sewer agencies. Electro Scan is an alternative to CCTV cameras to certify a trenchless lining and rehab projects as "leak-free."

He's been playing music for more than 50 years, first learning the clarinet from his brother in the second grade then switching to the big baritone sax in the eighth grade. By high school, he was tabbed to play in the famous Monterey Jazz Festival's All-Star Band competition, allowing him to take the stage with the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Belson and Clark Terry. He went on to play in the U.C. Berkeley Jazz Band.

Today, Hansen plays, in addition to the baritone sax, the bass sax and the contrabass sax. His "real world" job sometimes inhibits when he can play but he says he does each with as much passion and gusto as he can; each requires such enthusiasm and commitment to be successful, he says.

"I was lucky enough to convert one of my hobbies into a full-time business, owning The Track Shack recording studio and record label," Hansen says. "I started juggling business music and business early. I bought my first baritone sax when I was in graduate school at UCLA, playing weekend gigs in Los Angeles to help pay for textbooks and beer. Today, I've been to be doing business in London and have my saxophones shipped in to do a weekend show in Paris."

Hansen's talents have led him to jam with some of the most famous folks in music including Tower of Power, Eddy Money, Huey Lewis and the News, Michael Bolton, Todd Rundgren and Micky Dolenz of the Monkees, as well as Alex Ligertwood of Santana, Bobby Kimball of Toto, Jimi Jamison of Survivor, Mark Lindsay of Paul Revere and the Raiders and many others.

Hansen is grateful for his opportunities and the friendships/relationships he's made through music. "The coolest thing about performing? People stop me when I'm traveling for business and tell me they watched me play on YouTube. When I was 10 years old, I rode my bicycle to the Tower Records Store in Sacramento, Calif., to listen to records of my favorite bands, like Blood, Sweat & Tears and Chicago and Tower of Power. Now, at age 60, I get to play with those same bands."

Advice for those interesting in pursuing a similar passion? "Always try and do what you love, but never quit your day job," Hansen says.



Chuck Hansen appearing with Huey Lewis & The News.

FAST 5

FAVORITE GENRE:
R&B

MUSICAL INFLUENCES:
Blood, Sweat & Tears, Chicago, Tower of Power,
James Brown, Weather Report

FIRST SONG YOU LEARNED TO PLAY:
"What is Hip?"

FAVORITE EQUIPMENT YOU USE:
Benedikt Eppelsheim Eb Contrabass,
Selmer Bass Saxophone, Yanagisawa Baritone Sax

WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD:

"My Type" by Saint Motel,
"Let Go" by Miyavi (Needs a Baritone Sax.);
"Life is a Carnival" by The Band;
"Uptown Funk" by Bruno Mars;
"Savoy Truffle" by The Beatles