

MUSIC-LOVING ACCOUNTING  
PROFESSIONALS MARCH TO A DIFFERENT

*beat*

Members of cover band Roshambo joke around before a recent performance at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Brookfield.

By Cynthia M. Hodnett



Members of Roshambo entertain the crowd.



Ethan Bach serenades the crowd on saxophone.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHELLY WITSTOCK ORLANDINI

**H**ow do six professionals from accounting and business unplug after a long day at work? They find work-life balance on the stage as members of the local cover band, Roshambo.

"I used to tell people — when they asked about the things I do — that I'm in a band," said Carver Smith, CPA, SPHR and vice president of professionals in executive recruitment and search at Wegner and Associates in Milwaukee.

"People who know me well aren't surprised," said Smith, a vocalist and drummer in the band. "Those who don't are surprised, I think, because of the stereotypical reasons that exist about CPAs. I think you see a lot of accountants who break down the stereotypes these days."

Roshambo performs popular songs from the last 40 years including "Vertigo" by U2, "A Little Less Conversation" by Elvis Presley and "Mustang Sally" by Wilson Pickett. The band performs at various events throughout the year including festivals, corporate parties and Summerfest.

"We play songs that have high energy, that people can listen to and dance to," he said. "We don't want to be the band you hire because

you want background music. We are the band you hire to have a good time and dance to."

According to Smith and the band's promotional materials, the group initially formed under different name, The Potentials. The Potentials were formed when a couple of friends, including Smith, attending University of Wisconsin-Madison, performed at a college graduation party. The band continued to perform at festivals, bars, weddings and corporate events in Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago.

The Potentials performed six more years before disbanding. After establishing successful corporate careers and playing in several reunion shows, members decided to get back together.

Reuniting also meant choosing a new name for the band. The group selected Roshambo, which is also the name of the common game of Rock, Paper, Scissors.

The group had difficulty with coming up with a new name until one of the members suggested that they “roshambo” for it, Smith said. Besides a new name, the band also added several members. Every member has been involved in music in some capacity for nearly 25 years, he said.

“I never took a formal (drum) lesson,” said Smith, who began playing the instrument in college. “I had been watching others and it was something that came fairly natural to me.”

While skills such as networking, teamwork and creativity are typically associated with the workplace, they also come into play during the band’s rehearsals and performances.

“Back when I was serious about being a musician, I was doing a lot of improvisation where you are operating off the music that is in front of you,” said Ethan D. Bach, partner at Virchow, Krause & Company, LLP in Chicago and band member. “You know that chords are playing in background and you have play off those chords.”

“Playing in the band has given me some ability to think on my feet and to be flexible,” said Bach, a vocalist who plays saxophone, acoustic and electric guitar. “When you are sitting down and talking with clients, you have to be able to communicate and think on your feet.”

Most of their performances, along with breaks, last about four hours. Band members said performing provides them with work-life balance.

“In my day job, there are so many distractions, distractions from all of the multitasking,” said Bob Quinn, executive vice president-finance and administration for the Milwaukee Brewers and guitar player in the band.

“The fact that it’s such a diversion from my day job is what I love about it the most,” Quinn said. “I play the guitar for 45 minutes. That’s 45 minutes where my mind is in the zone and where I can do something that I really love to do.”

Long-lasting friendships have also developed among band members. Each year,

they organize a special performance for their families and friends.

“We’ve been able to maintain deep friendships with people we really care about, plus it’s cool for our families to get together and see us perform,” Bach said. ●●●

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- BOB QUINN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION FOR THE MILWAUKEE BREWERS AND GUITAR PLAYER IN LOCAL COVER BAND, ROSHAMBO.



## LAUGH YOUR WAY UP THE CORPORATE LADDER

A good sense of humor can be a professional catalyst, according to Robert Half International Inc., a specialized financial recruiting service. How? Here are a few ways levity can help your career:

- **People enjoy working with you.** Using humor is one of the best ways to enhance your relationships with others. Working with someone who’s fun to be around feels good and tends to make the day go by more quickly. When people enjoy themselves, it builds rapport and camaraderie among team members.
- **You think more creatively.** Comedians are observant and look at the world a little differently than most, seeing things a lot of people overlook. This allows

them to see humor in everyday items and situations. If you exhibit a good sense of humor, it’s likely you’re fairly creative, are able to approach challenges from different angles and have an open mind.

- **You help relieve stress.** You’ve probably heard the phrase, “Laughter is the best medicine.” This advice is especially true on the job as well. The workplace gets stressful, and humor is very effective at relieving that tension. If you are able to feel at ease during pressure-filled situations, you’re more likely to work through the task at hand in an efficient manner and help others who are frustrated by the challenge overcome it.

### WRENSCH MOVES INTO NEW JOHNSON CREEK OFFICE, JOINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Richard J. Wensch, CPA recently moved to a new location in Johnson Creek and joined the Johnson Creek Chamber of Commerce, according to the *Daily Jefferson County Union*. Wensch provides business/individual tax preparation, retirement/financial planning, and consulting.

### AICPA’S OFF-RAMPING RETENTION GUIDE AVAILABLE

Throughout their careers, 37 percent of professional women will voluntarily leave their jobs early, or “off-ramp”, and 30 percent will opt to take a flexible work arrangement, leaving fewer people to do more work. To address this issue, the AICPA Work Life & Women’s Initiatives Executive Committee has created a free *Guide to Building a Successful Off-Ramping Program*. The brochure provides innovative ideas to build employee loyalty and keep “off-ramped” individuals connected to the organization through improved technology options, flexible work arrangements, training, strategic communications, support systems, and suggestions for facilitating the on-ramping process. To receive a hard copy, e-mail [womensinitatives@aicpa.org](mailto:womensinitatives@aicpa.org).

### AICPA WINS CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AWARD FROM PR NEWS

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants recently received the Cor-

porate Social Responsibility award from *PR News* at its annual Corporate Social Responsibility Awards luncheon at the National Press Club. The AICPA received the award for the corporate citizenship efforts it initiated following the relocation of the majority of the AICPA’s operations from New Jersey to Durham, N.C. in 2006. The AICPA maintains offices in New York; Washington, DC; Durham; Ewing, N.J.; and Lewisville, Texas.

### CLIFTON GUNDERSON ACHIEVES HIGHEST MARKS ON PUBLIC COMPANY ACCOUNTING OVERSIGHT BOARD INSPECTION

Clifton Gunderson has successfully completed its Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) inspection, achieving the highest marks possible in the profession. The report identified no deficiencies based on the review of audit engagements and

review of the firm’s quality control system. The PCAOB inspections are required for accounting firms registered with the Board, and are used to assess compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the rules of the Board, the rules of the SEC and professional standards.

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