

# Electric News Magazine

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The  
String Beans

# KIDS LOVE THESE BEANS

## The String Beans to Perform at the Gage County Fair

Whether you are under age 8 or over age 80, you are sure to enjoy the music and talents of "The String Beans," a Lincoln-based band that performs fresh and funny music.

A genuine "band of brothers," Randy and Curt Bright write and perform silly songs to the delight of kids and adults alike. "Kids and adults over 80 are quite similar," said Curt Bright. "You may not have all your permanent teeth, you cannot drive, you take naps and you love the music of The String Beans!"

The group will be performing live in two appearances during the 2005 Gage County Fair. On Saturday, July 23, you can take in a show at the Gage County Fairgrounds from 2:00 to 2:45 p.m. in the Open Air Canopy. Also from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Main Livestock Barn. They will also be performing at other events during the month of July. "We are excited to be able to perform at the Gage County Fair," said Randy Bright.

The toe-tapping, knee slapping songs are originals written by both Curt and Randy Bright. A mix of country, rock 'n roll, blues, pop and polka, the songs are both educational and entertaining. Many of the songs they have written are inspired by life experiences, such as "Oliver," which talks about Randy's yellow labrador getting sprayed by a skunk; or "Rodeo," which relives memories of going to the rodeo with their grandpa.

Growing up, the Bright brothers always enjoyed music. Their mother taught herself how to play guitar and wrote many songs that she sent off to Nashville to artists such as Dolly Parton and John Denver. She wrote songs for fun, but never played in a band. As a child, Randy took guitar lessons but admits "he stunk at it" and quit. Neither Curt nor Randy can read music. Randy is the lead singer and Curt plays the guitar and keyboard. They also have a third band member, "Freddy Kerr," who joined the group in May.

When the group is not busy performing, they are working full-time at their day jobs. Randy is a graphic designer for iUniverse in Lincoln, where he designs

book covers for authors. Curtis teaches preschool at Gymboree Play and Music Center in Lincoln. He is also a freelance cartoonist for a greeting card company from New Jersey. Freddy Kerr is an educator with the Lincoln Public Schools system.

The String Beans formed their band in the winter of 2003, after friends and family had heard them play and sing. They told them they needed to do something with their talent. So they bought some sound equipment, wrote a few songs and did a lot of practicing in the basement of their grandparents home.

Their first performance for children was held at Norris Elementary School, where Randy's children attend. Randy's children include Katelyn, Caleb and Tessa. Curtis has a daughter, Heather; and Freddy Kerr also has a daughter, Meg. The group has performed at July Jam in Lincoln, the Lincoln Children's Museum, various Lincoln libraries and at Haymarket Park. Having the String Beans perform at birthday parties is always a hit. They have also entertained at retirement centers and for charity events for children who are diagnosed with cancer.

This past January, they cut their first CD, "Gophers in Loafers," which contains ten of their songs, with such hits as "Kindergarten Blues," "Opposites," and "Diggin' Dinosaurs."

Randy Bright used his design talent to create the CD cover, and their dad is in charge of burning the CD's for them. The music was recorded by Rod Koehler of Hedgewood Studios Engineering and Production. Additional vocals on the CD

are from Katelyn, Caleb and Tessa Bright, as well as Austin, Carlee and Mandalyn Koehler.

Curt Bright used his artistic talents and illustrated the title track "Gophers in Loafers" into a coloring book which the group has available for sale at their performances. Their CD is available at performances, Lee's Booksellers in Lincoln, the Lincoln Children's Museum, Gymboree Play & Music, Avant Card, Barnes & Noble, Homer's, Crescent Moon Coffee and London Bridge Toy Shoppe.



*From left: The String Beans: Randy Bright, Freddy Kerr (kneeling) and Curt Bright.*

Below: The String Beans' debut CD, "Gophers in Loafers."



Right: The String Beans' summer performance schedule.

**Upcoming String Beans Shows**  
(Held in Lincoln Unless Otherwise Noted)

<b>Saturday, July 16</b>	Noon- 1:00 pm Barnes & Noble, 52nd and M St.
<b>Saturday, July 23</b>	2:00- 2:45 pm 4:00- 5:30 pm Gage County Fair grounds, Beatrice
<b>Wednesday, July 27</b>	10:30- 11:30 am Bennet Martin Library, 14th & N St. 1:00- 2:00 pm Eisely Library, 1530 Superior
<b>Thursday, July 28</b>	10:30-11:30 am Gere Library, 56th & Normal Blvd 1:00- 2:00 pm Walt Library, 6701 S. 14th
<b>Wednesday, Aug 17</b>	1:30- 2:30 pm Lincoln Children's Museum
<b>Sunday, Sept 25</b>	12:30- 1:30 pm Juvenile Diabetes Walk, Haymarket Park

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Above: The String Beans perform at the Lincoln Children's Museum. From Left: Randy Bright, Freddy Kerr and Curt Bright.