

FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE

In 1993, Myron Grant set out to find other musicians who shared his love of swing and jazz from the early twentieth century. His previous band, Footloose, had recently disbanded, leaving Myron...well, footloose.

Grant began playing regularly at local jam sessions with a few musicians from Ann Arbor's rich pool of musical talent and met singer and fiddler Mary Seelhorst. The two clicked, bringing their own favorites into the mix, creating a unique sound anchored by Grant's vocals, guitar, and harmonica. Shortly thereafter Mary and Myron were joined by percussionist Eric Nyhuis and lead guitarist Jake Reichbart. Jake also rounds out Mary and Myron's vocal harmonies with a third part. Last to join was the talented and award-winning bassist, Erin Zurbuchen.

The five discovered a common love for a 1940s swing and jump blues ensemble, Louis Jordan and the Tympani Five. They named their new band after one of Jordan's greatest songs, "Five Guys Named Moe." Just one problem—there were three guys and two gals. But who's counting?

Excellent vocals and high-energy arrangements of old and new standards, soulful ballads, humorous story songs, and unique instrumentals have become Five Guys' hallmarks.

One presenter stated that in addition to providing "professionally and artistically outstanding music," the Moes are also "extremely charismatic... They have the gift of communicating with the audience in a way that transforms the concert into a joint adventure." Mary typically sleuths out some interesting facts about the city in which they are playing and often ad-libs lyrics about the locale during one of her songs. During another song, the band pleads with the audience to participate in a call-and-response version of "I Want You." Myron and Mary reward them for their efforts by delivering a Gatling-gun, high-velocity, duo harmony spectacle that leaves everyone breathless (especially the singers!). In between tunes, Mary and Myron carry on spur-of-the-moment short conversations with the audience, which are always humorous. With all band members taking occasional solos, there is no doubt that the Moes are not only excellent entertainers but also dedicated and outstanding musicians.

Five Guys Named Moe has traveled the Great Lakes states since 1994, performing at college and community concerts, and at music festivals.