

The Critics Rave about Rob Carlson (what a guy!)

- “If you want to have a terrific night out go see Rob Carlson. He’s bitinglly clever, and his thoughtful side is very moving too.”
Christine Lavin
- “Serious, joyful, irreverent, reflective and belly laugh funny.”
The Norwalk Hour
- “Carlson has a gift for inextricably welding words and music, sound and sense into personal dramas of clarity, impact and completeness.” *FM Guide*
- “A big, lovable teddy bear of a man with a wicked sense of humor and a genuine gift for imitating other performers. His voice is warm and inviting...” *David Hurst, “Show Business”*
- “Rob Carlson is a scream...” *Scott and Barbara Siegel, “Back Stage”*
- “...a sophisticated melange of songs and comedy. In short, Rob Carlson entertains.” *Westport News*
- “His style is refreshing, his versatility amazing.”
The Fairfield Mirror
- “While most singers aren’t comedians and most comedians can’t sing, Rob Carlson accomplishes both feats...” *Fairfield County Weekly*
- “... a refreshing change of pace from conventional pop product.”
Billboard Magazine
- “Carlson’s songs are gems that sparkle with empathy and warmth.” *FM Guide*
- “Carlson brought a refreshing taste of good-natured wit, warmth and general songwriting skill to the stage.” *Danbury News-Times*
- “... a multi-dimensional talent” *The Bergen County Record*

Rob Carlson & Benefit Street

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Rob Carlson & Benefit Street



Rob Carlson



Vincent Pasternak



Paul Payton



Sam Carlson

“Serious, joyful, irreverent and belly laugh funny...”

—Norwalk Hour

From the classic *Peaceable Kingdom*, through his syndicated parodies and “Ramblin’ Bob” songs to his award winning work with Modern Man, Rob Carlson has delivered a remarkable body of work as a singer, writer, comedian and producer.

When you’ve heard one... keep listening!

Now with a new band, Benefit Street, Rob takes his song writing to new places that defy categorization. With multi-string player Vin Pasternak, keyboard wizard Paul Payton and drummer Sam Carlson backing Rob’s guitar and vocals, Benefit Street serves up songs ranging from folk to country to pop, rock to rhythm and blues with satirical songs, reggae and a dash of Tex-Mex thrown in to spice things up. Vin and Paul contribute songs as well, with every song original, every song different, and every song remarkable. With Benefit Street, when you’ve heard one... keep listening!

Having a ball

“Benefit Street is the band I always wanted to do,” says Rob, “Modern Man was great fun, but it was almost entirely comedy. With Benefit Street there’s an outlet for the serious songs as well and the musicianship to cover a range of genres. I’m having a ball!”

Albums and booking

Rob’s solo album, *Pieces of Paradise*, was released in January of 2010 with the eponymous *Rob Carlson & Benefit Street* album following in September of 2011 on the What Cheer label.

For more information, visit www.RobCarlsonMusic.com. For bookings, email booking@RobCarlsonMusic.com or call What Cheer Partners, (973) 701-0928.

“...a sophisticated mélange of songs and comedy.
In short, Rob Carlson entertains.” —Westport News

After graduating from Brown University in 1970 **Rob Carlson** led the original Benefit Street and later recorded the critically acclaimed *Peaceable Kingdom* with singer Jon Gailmor, released internationally on Polydor in 1974. After the duo broke up he continued playing concerts and clubs in the Northeast and Caribbean and helped found two recording studios in Connecticut. In 1986 he went to work in radio creating jingles, commercials, records, industrial music, lyrics and scripts for a host of clients, winning multiple awards. His song parodies and comedy bits for the American Comedy Network and the ABC Radio Networks included five years as “Ramblin’ Bob” for ACN, writing and performing a topical/satirical song each week in the style of Bob Dylan. In 1998 he joined David Buskin and George Wurzbach to become Modern Man, recording three albums and performing all over the US and Canada for the next eleven years. In 2008 they received the New York Nightlife Award for best comedy group in New York.

Multi-instrumentalist **Vincent Pasternak** (mandolin/violin/viola/guitar) worked with Rob in a previous life during the late seventies and early eighties, both in bands and on numerous jingle and industrial sessions. He’s a video editor and producer as well as a fine musician, capable in several genres. In the course of his world travels Vinnie fell in love with Brazilian samba music and has written and produced an album of sambas featuring his sister, jazz singer Nicole Pasternak, on vocals. For more about Vin try www.folkstogether.com/vp.html.

Going back even further Rob first worked with keyboard player **Paul Payton** in college. Paul studied at Julliard and was a music major at Brown. Right after graduating Rob and Paul formed the Benefit Street band and played all over New England. Later Paul went on to a successful career in radio and as one of the New York metro area’s best, and busiest, voice over artists. He is also a walking encyclopedia of rock and pop records, with a life long love of “doo-wop” music. Recently, Paul issued a CD of the original Benefit Street recordings on his label, Presence Records, which has also issued doo-wop and other music. For more about Paul and Presence, go to www.presenceproductions.com.

Drummer **Sam Carlson** is the younger of Rob’s two sons and a student at Southern CT State College. He studied drums under Jim Royle and plays guitar and mandolin as well. He also performs with guitarist Ilya Gitelman as “Ports of Spain”.

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