

RADIO DRIVE®
featuring Kevin Gullickson
Official Biography



Kevin Gullickson's decision to keep the cool moniker of his newly disbanded group Radio Drive when he launched his solo career in 2009 proved to be prophetic. Forging an uplifting, sonically eclectic vibe best described as "motivational rock," the prolific singer/songwriter's first three releases—*Dream The Impossible* (2009), *Life Today* (2010) and *I Can See The World From Here*—received impressive reviews around the globe and extensive airplay on online, college and indie stations in the U.S., Canada and Europe. *Life Today* also hit the Top 40 charts on CJSW Radio in Calgary, Canada. Expanding his rich palette of sounds even further, Gullickson's latest Radio Drive project finds the multi-talented artist firmly declaring that *This Is Our Time*.

While it's rare for an indie artist just starting to build a following to put out new albums so frequently, Gullickson's always eager to share his latest sonic discoveries and lyrics that aim to uplift individuals in a time where so many feel deep despair. Like his previous recording, the new 11 track collection was mixed and mastered by Grammy Award winner Gene Paul, son of the legendary Les Paul, who has worked similar magic for many years with legends like Led Zeppelin, Paul Simon, Rolling Stones, Bono and John Coltrane. In an honest assessment of his growth as a writer and producer, Gullickson believes that the songs and production on *This Is Our Time* are more developed than on his previous efforts.

"I think with the first two CDs I tried to keep within a song structure," he says. "It's good to know the rules but after a while, you've got to break them. The most popular songs on *Life Today* were also the most creative ones—which taught me that if I let go of the calculated song structure and let the song express itself and take its own direction, I would be giving the song more freedom. This time, I also spent more time searching for new and different sounds that worked within the songs. I love working with MIDI and have extensive sound libraries. I've added more dimension to the guitar parts, looking for FX to add the right flavor to the part."

The other element that's immediately compelling on *This Is Our Time* is Gullickson's clever way with encouraging, inspiring words. On the bluesy electric rocker "Borders," he urges listeners to "Let your imagination take you far away/Beyond the confines of your only mind...Beyond the Borders you define." On the trippy and hypnotic edgy pop tune "Life Is For Living," Gullickson sings, "You planned and prepared for this day/Tired of Being A Spectator, it's time to play...Life is For Living...Get your game on and participate." And on the shuffling, keyboard and guitar driven "New Direction" (a piece very much inspired by John Lennon), he reflects, "Every Year, every step, needs a new beginning." The singer captures the overall positive minded theme of the album on the hard driving title track: "This is our time to come alive inside/Do more than survive/Time to thrive."

Gullickson brings a rich musical history to his work with Radio Drive. Early on, he received radio play in his hometown of Rochester, Minnesota and followed up with a single that aired on stations in the Twin Cities. He traveled throughout Europe to develop his own sound and style which he later developed with

The Blokes—a band that achieved instant success on the Minneapolis/St. Paul club scene, including First Avenue. The singer later moved to NYC where he continued writing, recording and playing clubs in Greenwich Village as a solo musician. During this time, he received interest from five major record companies and several Grammy winning producers. He set music aside after various disappointments but roared back as the guiding force of Radio Drive. In November 2009, the song "One Life To Give" from his debut *Dream the Impossible* was chosen to represent Sudan Hope, a humanitarian effort to help the people of Sudan. He appeared at a Hollywood fundraiser to perform this song live.

"It seems that the songs and title of each album are a reflection of my life at that time," says Gullickson. "*Dream the Impossible* was about reviving the dream of making music, which I had put on hold for a few years. Likewise, *Life Today* was about enjoying life and some of the things that define it. For me, *This Is Our Time* is a declaration that this is my time as an artist. I'm ready to bust through the other side and take charge of my life and the direction it's going. For years I thought life was something that just happened. But this last year I've seen my part and my responsibility in shaping my future. It's exciting and empowering and I'm ready for it!"

With the release of "This is Our Time" in May of 2012, radio play began immediately. To date songs have been played in the USA, Canada, Europe and South America. Radio Drive has been featured artist on several stations including live interviews.

Critics in the US and Europe began taking notice and writing great reviews of "This is our Time".

"This Is Our Time is one of the best albums we have reviewed this year" NeuFutur Magazine, April 2012

"This is Our Time is certainly an album which has a lot to offer. There is variety and some damn good pop music". Music Emission, April 2012

"...eleven excellently catchy tunes...for guaranteed satisfaction from this talented one-man music machine." MetalliVille, UK Webzine - June 2012

Kevin began production of his first professionally produced video for "Never", which was released in October of 2012. The video has been posted on several sites around the world and has received thousands of views on Youtube. Since then videos have been made for "New Direction" and "Borders" with "New Direction" receiving an award on Beat100 music and video site.

The Hollywood music awards also took notice of Kevin's song writing and nominated "Never" as best Alternative song for 2012.

The year of 2013 saw Kevin working on the production of his song "A Taste of Heaven". He made the connection with producer Chris Garcia (Celine Dion, Demi Lovato, Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears) to arrange and record the song, as well as adding additional synth parts and playing the bass guitar on the song. Guitarist Nick Lashley who has played with artists such as Alanis Morissette, Avril Lavigne, and David Archuleta, was also brought in as well as L.A. session drummer Ben Rose. Once Gullickson had added his vocals and the final mix was completed by Tom Polce (Bob Dylan) with mastering completed by Grammy award winner Gene Paul, the single was ready to persuade the world and it seems has been instantly taken to.

"A Taste of Heaven" was released in February 2014 and took off big with a nomination by the Hollywood Music Awards for best Alternative song for 2014. Radio stations and online stations began adding Kevin's song to their playlist including getting the attention of Grammy award winner Al Walser who added the song to his show "Al Walser's Weekly Top20", the World's Number 1 Weekly Syndicated Countdown show out of Hollywood CA, broadcast on over 80 radio stations in over 50 countries weekly, attracting over 12.5 million listeners worldwide. The last week of February Radio Drive made the Top 10 Indie Artists on TRS247 Radio broadcasting from NYC.

Also, Kevin was notified that "A Taste of Heaven" will be added to the CBS Radio playlist for their "Tomorrow's Hits Today" show. In addition, Grammy Award winner and Platinum Recording Artist, Oliver Sean added Kevin's song to the WOA FM99 Radio Show broadcasting Internationally with major radio in India and the Middle East. WOA Records was so impressed they included the song on their compilation CD Volume 3 released internationally in May.

Radio Drive has been trending and creating a buzz on Reverb Nation, the internationally acclaimed music site. For the last seven months, Radio Drive has been holding the spot at #1 on the Alternative music chart for St. Paul, MN even climbing to #1 on the National chart and #3 Internationally out of hundreds of thousands of bands.

Kevin's music and videos began making their way to the television networks. July of 2014 Kevin's music video "New Direction" was added to Bongo Boy TV "Bongo Boy Rock n' Roll TV Show No.1030" which airs on 20 syndicated channels across the USA including several NBC Comcast stations. Kevin released his video for "A Taste of Heaven" in July and that was also pick up on the same show. International music and video site, Beat100 awarded "A Taste of Heaven" 2 Bronze Awards. One for well written original song and the second award for high quality original video.

Kevin received news his music has been used in the TV show "Pit Bulls and Parolees" on The Animal Planet Network. Plus, his music has been used in the TV show "Epic Log Homes" seen on The Discovery Channel. International pop star and actress Kym Marsh used one of Kevin's song in a documentary she produced called "Teen Mums and Me".

The first half of 2014 has seen an overwhelming response to Kevin's music including over 60 international radio stations, online and podcasts playing his music along with several feature guest spots. International online magazines and blogs have also received Kevin's music favorable with rave reviews, interviews and feature articles, including an article on Musicians Friend "The Hub" titled "Don't Fret over Your Feelings (or Freaky Fans)—Starting Out on the Electric Guitar."

In August Kevin signed a management deal with the internationally acclaimed management agency, Artista Group. They immediately began working on taking Kevin's career to the next level with plans of a European tour.

In September 2014 "Footsteps" was accepted for Grammy consideration in category #12, Rock Performance. Radio stations around the world continued adding Kevin's music to their playlist. In addition, webzines continued to write rave reviews and feature Kevin. Music webzine, Amused Now chose Kevin out of 2000 Reverb Nation submission to feature on their website. "Footsteps" made #64 on the TOP 180 of 2014 on NBT Music Radio, an online webzine and radio station broadcasting from Berlin, Germany.

2015 began with more success for Kevin's music, as it began playing on even more radio stations and featured on webzines and blogs in the USA, Canada and Europe. "Footsteps" made the Top 20 list on EGH Radio broadcasting out of the UK. "A Taste of Heaven" made the Top 30 Artist list on Pacific Moon Radio, broadcasting in the South Pacific.

In the early months of 2015 Kevin took his band to the local club scene in Minneapolis and St Paul and became a success, as they get their show ready for an upcoming tour planned by Artista Group. Their concert at famed First Avenue, 7th Street Entry was filmed and excerpts have been uploaded online for their fans to see. In April Radio Drive was featured on the popular local radio station KFAI and played a live in studio concert on the "Live at Studio Five" segment.

Also in April 2015 Kevin released several previously released songs in a CD entitled "Restored" which featured a collection of remixed and remastered songs, several of which they had been playing in their concerts.

Working together with a radio promotional company in Europe, Kevin's music began receiving radio play on a larger scale alongside major artists. In May, "A Taste of Heaven" hit the well known indie music chart Top IndieCourvertes at #18 the first week and began climbing the chart. The second week it reached #7 and the third week #2 spot.

In mid August 2015 Kevin finished a project with internationally recognized producer, Stuart Epps (credits include George Harrison, Oasis, Led Zeppelin, Elton John, Bad Company, and many more). The result was a song called "Humanity". Already in the first few weeks the song was added to radio stations online and FM networks around the world. "Humanity" made number 10 on EGH Radio Top 20 songs for Sept 2015.

During 2016 Kevin continued to receive radio play around the world including featured guest on indie radio shows. He also continued to receive rave reviews and feature articles in several online music magazines including Bellus Magazine, Strife Magazine, Indie Music Plus, just to name a few. In the fall of 2016 Kevin released a video for his song "Humanity".

In 2017 Kevin was chosen by BEM Wireless to endorse their products. Currently Kevin has engaged in a European radio campaign and is receiving extensive radio play of his music and in September and October has been in the Top 20 on the ToP INDÉCOUVERTES—Official European Independent Music Chart and in October has landed at #8.

April 2018 Kevin released his 5th full CD "She Colors My World", mastered by Robert L. Smith (credits include David Bowie, Aerosmith, Paul McCartney, just to name a few). Songs from this album were instantly recognized by the Akademia Music Awards before the official CD release, winning in three categories for March 2018: "Sweet Thing" winning Best Pop Rock song, "Hey Bulldog" winning Best Cover Song and "A New Start" winning Best Rock song. A few months later in August, the entire album received an Award of Excellence from the Akademia Music Awards. Since it's release, songs have been placing on indie music charts, receiving massive radio play and receiving rave reviews.

Early in 2019 the Akademia Music Awards contacted Kevin to inform he has been nominated for both Artist of the Year and the Akademia Executive Award, which is their highest honor. Their annual awards will be held in April, at which time Kevin will find out if he won.

Later in June 2019, Kevin was awarded Top Finalist by the World Songwriting Awards for his song "A Taste of Heaven". In May, Kevin connected with a film crew in Venezuela and began discussing a video for his song "Sweet Thing". They began work and completed later in June, at which time Kevin worked with a local film crew in St Paul, MN to add his parts to the video. The music video was released in July to rave reviews.

In August 2019 Kevin released his 6th album "In The Light". Kevin connected with an online community called AirGigs where he began working with Grammy nominated engineer Bryan David, Anthem Recordings. Kevin played and recorded his parts at his home studio, which included all guitars, bass guitar, keyboards, vocals and harmonies. Kevin connected with Italian drummer, Matteo Andriago who added his talents to the recording. The album was released in August 2019 to rave reviews, massive indie radio play, with songs topping the indie music charts in Europe and the USA. In addition, two stations featured the entire album, including NetFrance with over 200,000 daily listeners. "Moving On" from the new album was honored with the Top Finalist Award by the World Songwriting Awards.

The big surprise came later in August when Kevin received word that his song "Sweet Thing" from his previous album "She Colors My World" was given honorable mention in Jay Goldberg's book "Neon Radio's Top 1000 Best Songs of All Time".

During the cold nights in December 2020, Kevin filmed and released a video for his song "I Have a Voice" from the album "In The Light". Kevin reassembled the band and began rehearsing for shows coming in the new year.

At the start of 2020 in January, Kevin and his band performed for the first time in almost 5 years at the Minnesota Music Café. More performances were scheduled, but with the onset of the Coronavirus, all concerts were cancelled. To keep connected to his fans, Kevin streamed a series of house concerts from his home studio. These concerts were then compiled into a 30 minute house concert and aired on the TZiK Independent Music Channel.

Early in January, BWH Music Group Announces National Indie Radio's 'BEST SONGS of 2019' Radio Event, which included two of Kevin's songs: "Moving On" and "Sweet Thing".

During the next few months, Kevin's song "Sweet Thing" and "Moving On" landed on the Indie Alliance Music Chart and the Top IndieCouvertes Official European Music Chart. As of early May, "Sweet Thing" has remained at #1 for five consecutive weeks, and has remained in the top 10 for several weeks past that. "Moving On" also remains in the Top 20 on the same chart.

In late April Kevin received four nominations from the International Singer Songwriter Association (ISSA): Kevin - Best Male Single and Best Male Vocalist and for Radio Drive - Best Band and Best Album.

In June Kevin released a music video for "Run", a high energy song featuring clips from their concert in January.

In July Kevin released an EP: Radio Drive – "2020 Vision" featuring 6 of his most successful songs, all of which have topped indie charts and won awards and nominations. Two songs, "Borders" and "Footsteps" were both totally remade for the album. The other 4 songs were remastered to match the overall sound of the album.

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