

Black Palomino

FOUR OF A KIND

Every deck has four aces. On a lucky - or fateful - night, they all wind up in the same hand.

One such night happened in November 2024, when the four members of Black Palomino first joined forces as a band. While the group is new, the members are far from novices. Nikki Priest, their powerhouse lead vocalist, cut her teeth with professional bands on the Milwaukee Summerfest stage before moving on to become a dueling pianist for nearly a decade at Howl at the Moon in Baltimore. Chase Bowes, the preternaturally talented guitarist, spent years as a ragged southern troubadour, navigating the cutthroat bluegrass circuit and slinging his axe from Virginia to New Orleans. In 2013, drummer Berkley Priest and bassist Kenny Perkins won the prestigious "Ernie Ball Battle of the Bands" as the duo Cata9tales, and were hand-picked to perform on Warped Tour. However, it would be years later, and long roads traveled, before the four of them would form the supergroup that is Black Palomino.

Timing is everything. Only now, after years of success and adversity, and with the advantage of age and life experience, could these four bandmates find joy and passion in playing cover songs for the enjoyment of others. Gone was the relentless ambition and ego of youth, replaced with a calm desire to play the best music possible at the highest level achievable. The goal was simple and spiritual - do it for the love, not for the attention or money. The results were immediate - Black Palomino became a musical organism, a fine-tuned machine of close friends whose talents collide in concert, crafting an instantly unique yet familiar sound.



Photo credit: Dane Ferguson.

Black Palomino, Southern Virginia's Finest Cover Band - Chase Bowes (guitar, vox), Nikki Priest (vox, keys), Berkley Priest (drums), Kenny Perkins (bass).



Photo credit: Lauren Thaxton.

It's all in the details. An obsession with perfection drives all four members. While some bands simply set up and play music, Black Palomino inhabits the space, turning every stage into their own personal sanctum. Chase's bare feet on a worn red rug, Berkley's coatrack slung with his hat and leather jacket, Nikki's wardrobe changes and effortless audience rapport - an evening with Black Palomino feels comfortable, like your favorite whiskey or worn blue jeans. When Kenny's thick, liquid bass fills the room, the spell is complete, and a magical experience is guaranteed.

The music careens from rock to country, from pop to jazz improvisation, yet there is a signature sound to Black Palomino. The voices of Nikki and Chase pay homage to other artists while retaining a distinctive sonic quality all their own - comparisons to Lady Gaga and Chris Stapleton get thrown around in conversation, but only serve as a starting point. Black Palomino is a professional ensemble that chooses to play covers, not a cover band of weekend warriors. Every song, no matter what the genre or artist, drips with the band's blood, sweat, laughter and tears. It all feels genuine, embodied, and poignant - like you're seeing your favorite band for the first time, and they are playing all your favorite songs. Synchronicity.

The band debuted on April 25, 2025 to a packed house at Big Fade Entertainment in South Boston, Virginia. They were immediately booked for numerous private parties, and on July 4, 2025 they headlined the Destination Downtown South Boston Celebration, playing to a crowd of over 1,000 people.

For the band, it's only about one thing - the music. Committed to their craft, the members of Black Palomino rehearse tirelessly, constantly adding new material and stretching their musical boundaries. No show is ever like the last - the song choices and stage setup are constantly evolving, tailored specifically to each space and audience. The result is a musical experience par excellence, setting the bar for what it means to be a cover band.

Get ready to root for the dark horse. Black Palomino has arrived.

**For booking inquiries please visit
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