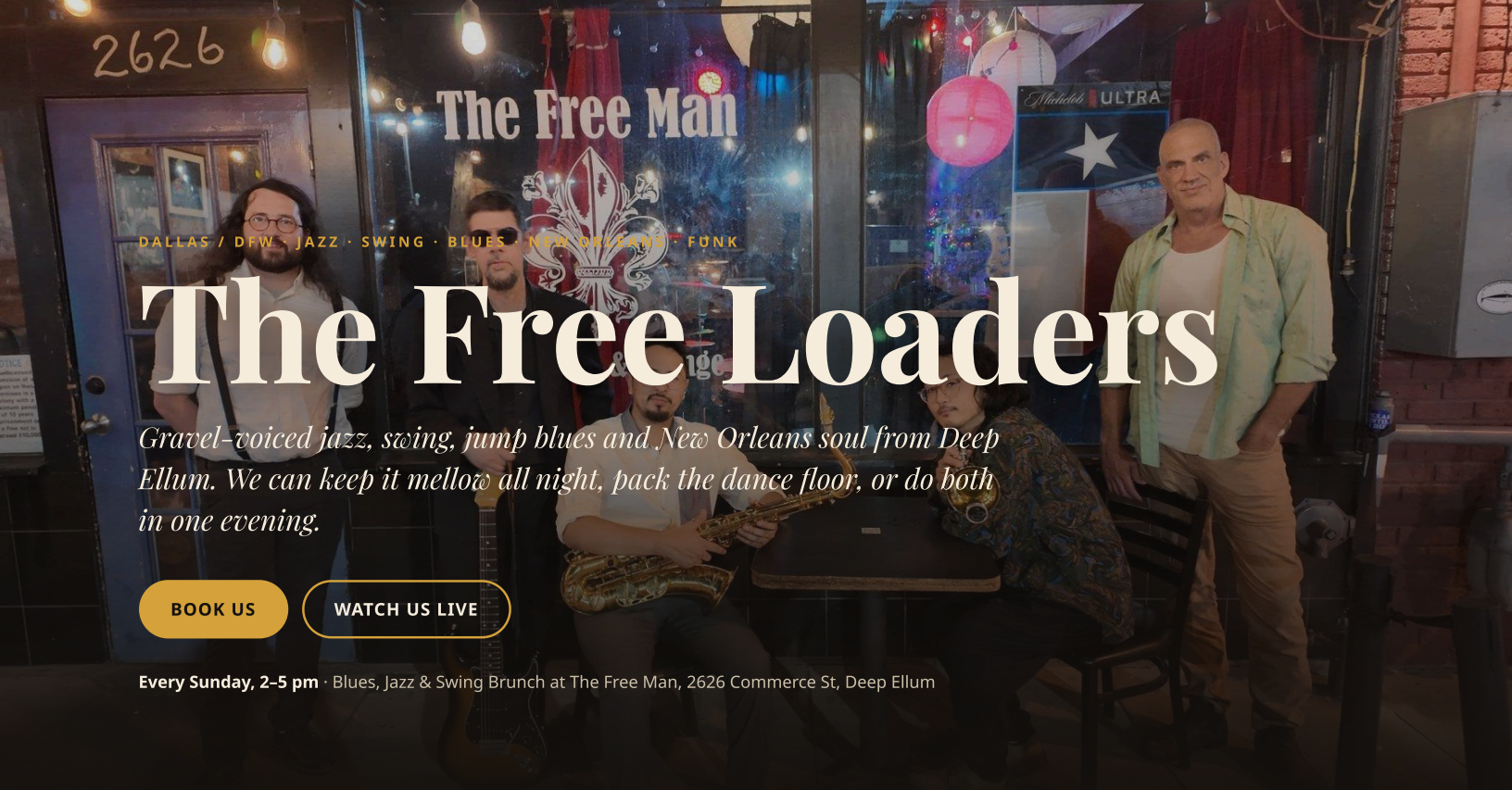




The Free Loaders

Gravel-voiced jazz, swing, jump blues and New Orleans soul from Deep Ellum. We can keep it mellow all night, pack the dance floor, or do both in one evening.

BOOK US

WATCH US LIVE

Every Sunday, 2-5 pm · Blues, Jazz & Swing Brunch at The Free Man, 2626 Commerce St, Deep Ellum

BIO

Like Tom Waits doing jazz standards.

The Free Loaders have been a Dallas band since 2012, led by gravel-voiced crooner John Jay Myers, who sings from behind the drum kit. The music runs from the 1920s to “Uptown Funk”: jazz standards, swing and jump blues, New Orleans second-line, and the funk and soul hits that get a room on its feet.

We read the room. We can play three hours of lounge-style jazz for a dinner crowd, three hours of party for a dance floor, or build from one to the other over the night. We’re the house band at The Free Man Cajun Café & Lounge in Deep Ellum, and the lineup scales from a tight trio to an 8-piece with a full horn section. Our album *Howl* (2015) features originals like “Howl” and “Sweet Little Ella.”



John Jay Myers outside The Free Man, 2626 Commerce St, Deep Ellum

“Patrons who frequent the venue know that when The Free Loaders are on stage, the room will move.”

CraveDFW, Feb 11, 2026, calling the band The Free Man's house band and “musical anchor”

Based in Dallas, TX

Playing since 2012

Dallas Observer cover, 2025

Singer-drummer: John Jay Myers

Trio to 8-piece

Album: *Howl* (2015)

House band, The Free Man

Built to fit the room.

The core is a 5-piece. We can scale down for a patio or a cocktail hour, or bring the full horn section for a ballroom.

3

TRIO

Drums and vocals, guitar and vocals, bass. Intimate, swinging, and easy to fit into a small room or a restaurant corner.

5

STANDARD LINEUP

Our everyday band: guitar, bass, sax and trumpet, with John Jay Myers on drums and lead vocals.

6-7

EXPANDED

Add keys and more horns for a bigger, more colorful sound on stages and at private events.

8

FULL HORN SECTION

The big band sound: trumpet, sax, trombone and clarinet up front. Ideal for weddings, galas and corporate nights.



John on drums and lead vocals, at the same time.

Every chair has a sub

John keeps a trusted sub for every position, so the date you book is the date we play.

Sound & production

We can bring our own sound system, and for larger events we'll handle hiring the right sound for the room.

Sets & timing

Standard pricing covers a 3-hour window with three 45-minute sets. Early load-ins or long waits before showtime (for example, arriving mid-afternoon to set up and playing hours later) are quoted separately.



Second-line through Deep Ellum. Photos: Mike Brooks (commiebike.com)

NEW ORLEANS-STYLE RECEPTIONS

Second-line / marching option

Throw a New Orleans-style reception with a marching second-line band: drums, tuba and horns parading right through the party.

From Ellington to Earth, Wind & Fire.

A deep book that moves easily between eras. Here's a taste of what you might hear on a typical night.

Jazz standards

Crooner classics for dinner and cocktails.

Fly Me to the Moon

At Last

All of Me

Autumn Leaves

The Nearness of You

Feeling Good

Swing & jump blues

Big, bouncing, built for dancing.

Jump, Jive an' Wail

Caldonia

Sing, Sing, Sing

Minnie the Moocher

It Don't Mean a Thing

I Put a Spell on You

New Orleans

Second-line grooves and Crescent City soul.

When the Saints Go
Marching In

St. James Infirmary

Do You Know What It Means
to Miss New Orleans

What a Wonderful World

Deep Ellum Blues

Funk & soul

The dance-floor closers.

Superstition

September

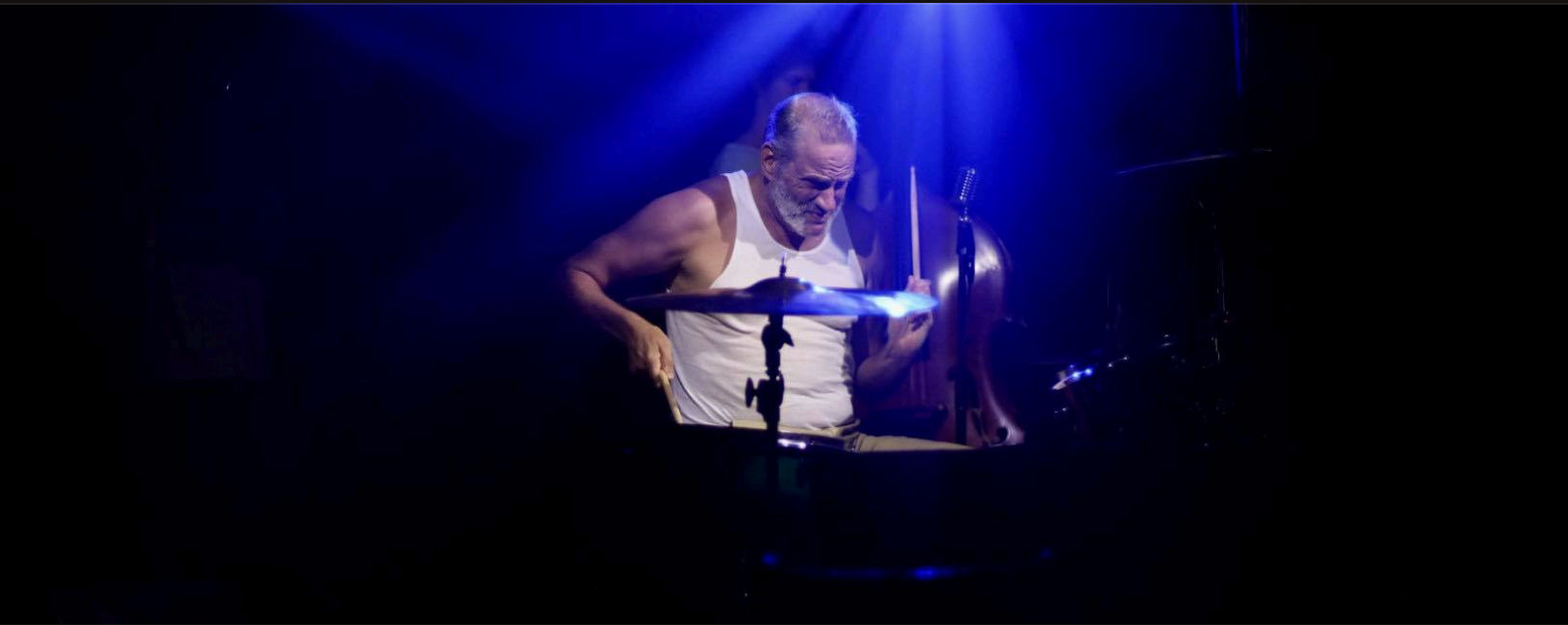
Brick House

Uptown Funk

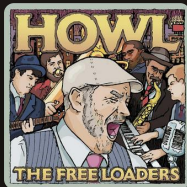
Play That Funky Music

I Feel Good

Plus instrumentals like Caravan, A Night in Tunisia and Misirlou, and our own originals. Have a first-dance song or a must-play? Ask us.



Hear it for yourself.



Howl

2015 · 11 tracks · including the originals “Howl” and “Sweet Little Ella”



Play *Howl* on Spotify

SPOTIFY

APPLE MUSIC



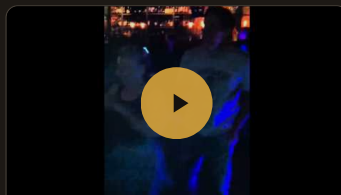
“The Free Loaders Celebrate with The Free Man”

The Free Loaders celebrating 14 years of The Free Man



The Free Loaders Jazz Lunch

Sundays at The Free Man
Sunday Blues, Jazz & Swing Brunch, 2-5 pm (watch on Facebook)



Mark Cuban dancing to The Free Loaders

Live at Standard Pour, Dallas



“I Feel Good”

The Free Man, Fat Tuesday 2016



“St. James Infirmary”

The Free Man, Fat Tuesday 2016



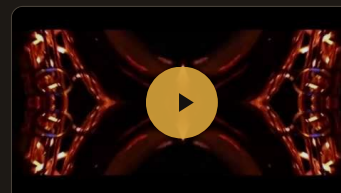
“When the Saints Go Marching In”

The Free Man, Fat Tuesday 2016



“When I get Low I get HI shot with 360 camera.”

Our cover of the Ella Fitzgerald song
“When I Get Low I Get High”



“Howl” (fan video)

Filmed by Krystal Dawn

More on our [YouTube channel](#), and recent clips on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

PHOTOS

On the bandstand.



At the mic



Under the lights



Outside The Free Man, Deep Ellum



Standard Pour, Dallas



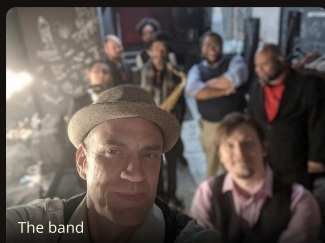
The horn line



Full band, full room



Through the window at The Free Man



The band



Belting one out



Photos: Mike Brooks (commiebike.com)



On The Free Man stage

Hi-res photos available on request.



PRESS

On the cover of the *Dallas Observer*.

[READ THE STORY](#)

The Free Loaders on the cover of the *Dallas Observer*, Nov 20–26, 2025, for “Giving Jazz a Hand” by Eric Diep, a story on Dallas codes and live jazz.

PERFECT FOR

Wherever people gather.

Public shows & festivals

A crowd-pleasing set for stages, patios and festival lineups.

Bars, clubs & restaurants

Seasoned house-band pros who know how to keep people ordering and staying.

Private parties

Birthdays, anniversaries and backyard blowouts, set to your crowd.

Corporate events

Polished background jazz for the mixer, a dance party for the after-party, or a marching band to wake up the sales meeting.

Weddings

Cocktail hour to last dance, plus an optional New Orleans second-line send-off.

STAGES WE'VE PLAYED

- The Free Man Cajun Café & Lounge, Deep Ellum (house band)
- Granada Theater, Dallas (opened for Rusted Root, Oct 2015, and Rebirth Brass Band, May 2016)
- Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival, Richardson (2026)
- Legacy Hall, Plano
- Rollertown Beerworks, Frisco
- The Double Wide, Dallas
- Standard Pour and The Londoner, Dallas

BOOKING & CONTACT

Let's make your night.

bookingthefreeloaders@gmail.com

Tell us your date, venue or city, the type of event, roughly how many guests, and the band size you have in mind. We'll send availability and a quote for your event. Based in Dallas and playing all over DFW. We also travel outside Dallas-Fort Worth, with travel quoted separately from our standard rates.

BOOK THE BAND

 Instagram

 Facebook

 YouTube

 Spotify

 Apple Music