

# Julien Kasper Band



*Julien Kasper is an extraordinary guitarist who tempers his fiery playing with an unerring sense of melody and composition. His music blends elements of rock, funk, blues and jazz with natural flow and passionate intensity.*



“While it’s hard to categorize what Kasper does, he’s certainly one of the most imaginative composers and players working with the guitar today.”  
— *Vintage Guitar magazine*

“Exquisite tones, masterful execution, and innate soulfulness drive this jazzy, funky, bluesy, Sco-and-Beck-meet-Hendrix-for-drinks-at-the-Harvard-Psychedelic-Club instrumental joyride.”  
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“Kasper’s grasp of dynamics and tone as well as his anything goes approach is in the best tradition of Jeff Beck, while his affinity for the harmonic fringe calls to mind John Scofield.”  
— *Guitar Edge magazine*

Eclectic Boston guitar virtuoso Julien Kasper has just released his third CD, *Trance Groove*. As with his previous releases, Julien’s guitar is the nuanced, expressive singing voice of this all instrumental release. Funky grooves, catchy melodies, psychedelic soundscapes, soulful gospel blues, epic rock guitar, and a stunning acoustic ballad coexist with rare, natural continuity.

*Trance Groove* features a guest appearance by Hammond B3 organist T Lavitz (of the Dixie Dregs, Widespread Panic and Jazz is Dead). Live and on record Julien’s choice of rhythm section reflects his aesthetic of groove and group interaction. Bassist Jesse Williams and drummer Zac Casher have, between them, performed and/or recorded with a who’s who of American roots and groove masters: Johnny Adams, Duke Robillard, Mighty Sam McClain, Immani Coppala, D’Angelo, Jay McShann, Henry Butler, and countless others.

The international community of blues and jazz fans became aware of Julien through his work with pianist and Hammond B3 organist Bruce Katz on their extensive tours throughout the US and Europe. He recorded two CDs with the Bruce Katz Band on Audioquest: *Mississippi Moan* and *Three Feet Off the Ground*. Julien has also recorded with Mighty Sam McClain: *Journey* and *Soul Survivor* on Telarc.



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# The Julien Kasper Band

## Trance Groove

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### TRACK LISTING

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Trance Groove | 5. Abyssinia     |
| 2. Chupacabra    | 6. Milk Truck    |
| 3. The Reverend  | 7. The Bumpus    |
| 4. Trash Day     | 8. Riff 53       |
|                  | 9. Carolina Rosa |

### Item Summary

Artist: Julien Kasper Band  
Title: Trance Groove  
Catalog #: TR02  
Format: CD  
Box Lot: 30  
Street Date: 04/20/2010  
File Under: Rock  
Price Code:



*Trance Groove* is currently receiving national and international radio play in college and AAA markets. The CD has been reviewed in several of the leading guitar magazines and *Vintage Guitar* magazine featured an article/interview with Julien in the June issue. Promotional contacts for this release are:

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*"Exquisite tones, masterful execution, and innate soulfulness drive this jazzy, funky, bluesy, Sco-and-Beck-meet-Hendrix-for-drinks-at-the-Harvard-Psychedelic-Club instrumental joyride." — Guitar Player magazine, June 2010*

*"...the groove on this...never stops. Kasper's grasp of dynamics and tone as well as his anything-goes approach is in the best tradition of Jeff Beck, while his affinity for the harmonic fringe calls to mind John Scofield" — Guitar Edge magazine, June 2010*

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## Trance Groove Fact Sheet

Band Origin: Boston, MA

The Julien Kasper Band consists of:

- Julien Kasper: guitar
- Zac Casher: drums
- Jesse Williams: bass

Album release information:

- Latest CD, TRANCE GROOVE released April 20, 2010 by Toulcat Records; distributed exclusively by City Hall Records.
- TRANCE GROOVE features guest appearances by T Lavitz (of *The Dixie Dregs*, *Widespread Panic* and *Jazz is Dead*) and Matt Jenson on Hammond B3 organ, James Driscoll (bass) and Rob Avsharian (drums).
- All tracks written and produced by Julien Kasper, Rudybear Music, BMI
- TRANCE GROOVE was recorded by Chris Rival at Middleville Studios; mastered by Dave McNair at Sterling Sound; cover photography by David Lee Black, graphic design by Tina Meadors and Dominic Pretera.
- Previous releases: THE NEW IMPERIAL (2006), FLIPPING TIME (2003)



Additional Information:

- Julien Kasper is a Professor on the guitar faculty at Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he teaches performance labs he developed on Jimi Hendrix and Jeff Beck, as well as private lessons and classes that encompass rock, jazz and blues. Julien is also an avid all-season surfer.
- Julien has performed or recorded with The Bruce Katz Band, Pat Ramsey, Mighty Sam McClain, Iko Iko, Michelle Willson, and Jim Weider.
- Zac Casher has performed or recorded with Mighty Sam McClain, Imani Coppala, Johnny Adams, and The Ken Clark Organ Trio.
- Jesse Williams has performed or recorded with Al Kooper, Duke Robillard, Tony Lynn Washington, Ronnie Earl, John Hammond, Percy Sledge, Maria Muldaur, Marsha Ball and many others.
- Julien Kasper uses GHS strings; Zac Casher uses Vader drumsticks and Zildjian cymbals; Jesse Williams uses Thomastik-Infeld strings.

### Press

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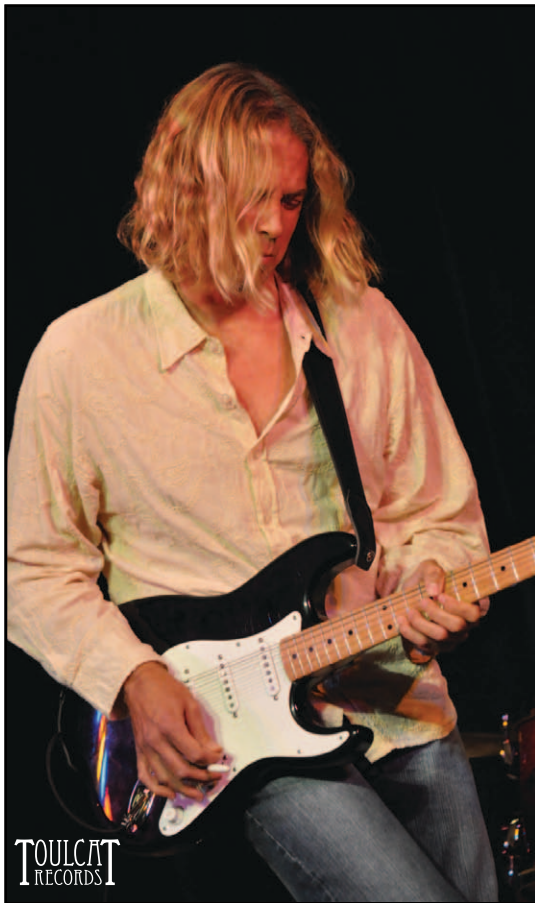
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# TRANCE GROOVE

## THE JULIEN KASPER BAND

On “Trance Groove”, the third CD from eclectic Boston guitar virtuoso Julien Kasper, as on his previous releases, Julien’s guitar is the nuanced, expressive singing voice of this all instrumental disc. Funky grooves, catchy melodies, psychedelic soundscapes, soulful gospel blues, epic rock guitar, and a stunning acoustic ballad coexist with rare, natural continuity.

“Trance Groove” features a guest appearance by Hammond B3 organist T Lavitz (of the Dixie Dregs, Widespread Panic and Jazz is Dead).

**The reviews  
are coming in...**



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— **Guitar Player magazine, June 2010**

**“Julien Kasper is a guitar virtuoso whose instrumental excursions find equal footing in both jazz and blues without being bound to either...Kasper wields a master’s touch even as he alternates between blazing workouts, sinewy grooves and introspective musings...”**

— **M Music & Musicians magazine, March/April 2010**

**“There are soaring runs reminiscent of Sixties’ psychedelia, jazz-tinged riffs that would make Charlie Christian smile, and sonic rock swirls and techniques that any fan of Cream or The Yardbirds could relate to. That’s why “Trance Groove” is such an enjoyable listen—there’s something here for all music fans to enjoy!”**

— **Sheryl & Don Crow, Nashville Blues Society, April 2010**

**“Stripped down and a little spooky, this is some hard core stuff that the hard core guitar fan will take to as a wild diversion...A sure thing for hipsters and those who want to be them. But it’s for real hipsters, not manqué that wear old man clothes for the irony of it.”**

— **Chris Spector, Midwest Record, April 2010**

**“From the vaults of the best jam bands in history comes the latest star in the genre, Julien Kasper. ...Trance Groove is a soulful trip that even the squares might be willing to take. Packed with massive riffs and jams for Dead Heads and Phish Phans alike, this band is both radio friendly and ideal for your next multi-state excursion.”**

— **Christopher Llewellyn Adams, Cashbox magazine, May 2010**

**“while it’s hard to categorize what Kasper does, he’s certainly one of the most imaginative composers and players working with the guitar today.”**

— **Vintage Guitar magazine, April 2010**

**“The opening title track might be the only “trance” tune on this album, but the “groove”... never stops. Kasper’s grasp of dynamics and tone as well as his anything-goes approach is in the best tradition of Jeff Beck, while his affinity for the harmonic fringe calls to mind John Scofield.”**

— **Guitar Edge magazine, June 2010**

**“Kasper can shred or slo-burn with the best of the strummers and pickers, and he’s one of the very few guitarists I’ve ever heard who has a line on Alan Holdsworth’s unique slurs.”**

— **Mark S. Tucker, Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange, April 2010**

**“On Trance Groove...the music goes from jazz-funk to psychedelic to blues...Julien Kasper is an example of what happens when the experimentation goes in the right direction.”**

— **Devin Grant, Charleston Post & Courier, April 2010**

# Julien Kasper Band



## Julien Kasper Biography

**"Soul, groove, melody, tone, and the element of surprise are my priorities as a composer and an improviser... as a guitarist I am coming equally from the schools of rock, jazz, and blues."** (Guitar World, October 2007) The subject was Julien Kasper's 2006 CD *The New Imperial* and with the release of his latest effort *Trance Groove*, Julien has upped the ante while remaining true to his vision.

As with *The New Imperial* (Nugene Records, 2006) and *Flipping Time* (Toulcat Records, 2003), on *Trance Groove* Julien's guitar is the nuanced, expressive singing voice of this all instrumental journey. Funky grooves, catchy melodies, psychedelic soundscapes, soulful gospel blues, epic rock guitar, and a stunning acoustic ballad coexist with rare, natural continuity.

*Trance Groove* features a guest appearance by Hammond B3 organist T Lavitz of the Dixie Dregs, Widespread Panic, and Jazz is Dead. Live and on record Julien's choice of rhythm section reflects his aesthetic of groove and group interaction. Bassist Jesse Williams and drummer Zac Casher have, between them, performed and/or recorded with a who's who of American roots and groove masters: Johnny Adams, Duke Robillard, Mighty Sam McClain, Immani Coppala, Mighty Sam McClain, D'Angelo, Jay McShann, Henry Butler, and countless others.



The international community of blues and jazz fans became aware of Julien through his work with pianist and Hammond B-3 organist Bruce Katz on their extensive tours throughout the US and Europe. He recorded two CDs with the Bruce Katz Band on Audioquest: *Mississippi Moan* and *Three Feet off the Ground*. Julien has also recorded with Mighty Sam McClain: *Journey* and *Soul Survivor* on Telarc.

Julien was born in France in 1962 to American parents and spent his youth as an army child moving around the American south. Inspired by Bob Dylan and the Beatles, he took up the guitar at the age of eight. In 1978 at sixteen, while living in Tallahassee, Florida, Julien began touring with the legendary blues/rock band Crosscut Saw featuring harmonica virtuoso and singer Pat Ramsey. After several years and one album (recently reissued on

Akarma), Julien decided to seek more challenging musical terrain. He moved to the fertile music town of Austin, TX where he gigged constantly, honing his skill among the city's heavy hitting players for four years. Despite the great musicians in Austin, Julien was frustrated by the lack of a vibrant jazz scene so he accepted a scholarship to attend the jazz program at the University of Miami. He put himself through school playing with IKO IKO, the house band at Tobacco Road, Miami's blues and roots mecca, which allowed him to share the stage with a who's who of blues legends and touring artists. An improvisational blues/jam band, IKO IKO gave Julien the opportunity to develop and organically integrate the advanced concepts he was learning in school into his virtuosic blues/rock sound. After graduating from UM Julien received another offer too good to refuse - a jazz guitar fellowship at University of North Texas - which brought him back to Texas in 1992 to complete his Master's degree. While in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area Julien expanded his musical boundaries by gigging in country, blues, rock, and jazz groups and launching the first edition of the Julien Kasper Band with drummer Keith Carlock (Steely Dan, Sting, Wayne Krantz).

Julien is now based in Boston, Massachusetts where, in addition to writing, performing, and recording his original music, he is a professor on the guitar faculty at Berklee College of Music and an avid all-season surfer. **"The Berklee gig is ideal in that I can impart my values and extensive performance experience to younger generations of talented musicians while interacting with a faculty of renowned international artists. The school encourages me to tour and record as my professional profile serves to enhance the reputation of the college and my own artistry. Surfing brings me into elemental contact with nature. Riding a wave is interaction with pure energy and the closest thing I can find to musical improvisation in that technique, knowledge, and experience all are at play but, ultimately, one must improvise and react to the purity of each passing moment."**



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# Julien Kasper Band



## Band Members



### Zac Casher - Drums

**“Zac and I had an instant rapport,” says Julien Kasper about this melodic and articulate drummer.**

Casher’s ability to create personal and commanding grooves in a variety of styles makes him one of the most sought-after drummers in the New England area.

A Berklee College alumnus, his credits include performing and recording with Mighty Sam McClain, Scott Shetler and Michelle Wilson, touring with Imani Coppala, Ben Swift and Johnny Adams and performing with The Ken Clark Organ Trio.

Zac has also produced and performed his own original rock project, Naked Wednesday.

### Jesse Williams - Bass

**Jesse Williams is a fantastic electric and acoustic bassist, the consummate professional musician.**

In addition to his work with Julien Kasper, Jesse recently has played on an upcoming film by John Sayles and a CD from Al Kooper.

He has toured extensively all over the globe and has recorded on five records with Duke Robillard, as well as with such artists as Paul Rishell and Annie Rains, Toni Lynn Washington, Ronnie Earl, Jimmy McGriff, Michelle Wilson and Bruce Katz.

Jesse has performed with Al Kooper, Duke Robillard, John Hammond, Maria Muldaur, Percy Sledge, Johnny Johnson, Jay McShann, Billy Boy Arnold, Marsha Ball, Grand Mixer DXT, Mike Phillips, Henry Butler and many others.



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# Julien Kasper Band



## Performance Highlights

Julien Kasper has an international reputation for his “incendiary” (Boston Herald) and “inventive” (Blueprint) performances. The following are highlights from his international festival appearances:

- **Blues in Meudon** - Paris, France
- **Edinburgh Jazz Festival** - Edinburgh, Scotland
- **Merryport Blues Festival** - Merryport, England
- **Notodden Blues Festival** - Notodden, Norway
- **Sildajazz** - Haugesund, Norway
- **du Maurier Atlantic Jazz Festival** - Halifax, Nova Scotia
- **International Guitar Festival** - London, England
- **Taste of the Blue Ridge** - Roanoke, VA
- **Blues & Ribs Fest** - South Bend, IN
- **Park City International Jazz Festival** - Park City, UT
- **Portsmouth Blues Festival** - Portsmouth, NH
- **Boston Blues Festival** - Boston, MA
- **Rock the Resort II** - Kerhonkson, NY
- **Discover Jazz Festival** - Burlington, VT

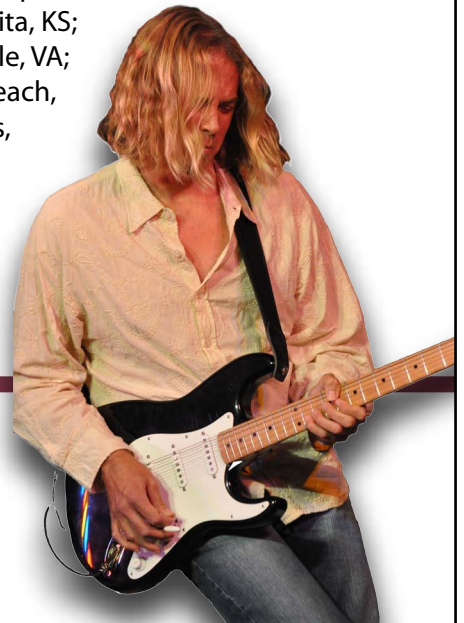
Julien Kasper has played in virtually all of the principal live music venues in the New England region, but his club and concert appearances encompass the US, Canada and Europe. The following are highlights from Julien’s club and concert appearances:

- Mood’s - Zurich, Switzerland
- The Blues Cafe - Apeldoorn, Holland
- Roots Music Brussels - Brussels, Belgium
- The Borderline - London, England
- Smuget - Oslo, Norway
- The Lemon Tree - Aberdeen, Scotland
- Tower Arts Center - Winchester, England
- Buddy Guys’ Legends - Chicago, IL
- The Grand Emporium - Kansas City, MO
- Biscuits & Blues - San Francisco, CA
- The Turning Point - Piermont, NY

Other cities where Julien has performed within the last 10 years include:

In the UK: Bishops Stortford, Oxford, Nottingham, Rochester, Worcester

In the US and Canada: Toronto, Canada; New York, Buffalo, Albany, NY; York Beach, ME; Atlanta, GA; Chattanooga, Knoxville, TN; Columbus, Toledo, OH; Indianapolis, IN; Minneapolis, MN; Des Moines, IA; Key West, Tallahassee, FL; Ann Arbor, Lansing, Grand Rapids, MI; Oxford, MS; Lawrence, Wichita, KS; Bethesda, MD; Charlottesville, VA; Charleston, WV; Hermosa Beach, Santa Monica, CA; Las Vegas, NV; Phoenix, AZ; Portland, OR; Chehalis, WA; Lincoln, NE; Denver, CO; Salt Lake City, UT



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*Trance Groove* is available now at Amazon.com, iTunes and other retailers



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