



# Kim Maynard 2002

## KIM MAYNARD

Throughout my 40 years of "fast dancing", no one has enjoyed it more than I have. During those years I have been blessed with a good sense of timing (having fantastic partners at the right time and feeling the timing of the music).

I started dancing when I was 15 at high school and social club parties. Being one of the smallest guys in my class, I found early-on that you could catch the girls' eye on the dance floor where size didn't matter. My senior year in high school, I would go to the Crystal Lounge in Spartanburg to dance some, but mostly, to watch- one guy in particular. He seemed to have lock on all the steps and the girls, who were "buzzin" around him all night long. I had to get to know this dancer, and after a while, "Buzz" Sawyer became my mentor and my friend for life. I became part of the lineage that started with A.V. Franklin, who taught Mike Osborne, who taught Buzz, who taught me. Buzz used to say, "Maynard, don't think about doing the steps just listen to the music. Let it go in your ears and out your feet". Over the years, the more I paid attention to what he had said, the more I was able to let the music guide my dancing.

The summers that followed were spent working at the beach and dancin' into the night at the Little Patio, The Rathskeller, Sonny's, The Pad, and the Forks. I would watch guys like Mike Asborne, Tommy White, Shad, Don Reed, Jim Jayroe, and Donny Christenbury dance to songs like "Symphony", "Think a Little Sugar", "Voice your Choice", "One Mint Julep", "Night and Day", and "Green Eyes". Back at my place, I'd try to adapt their moves to my own way of dancing.

College days at Clemson found me rooming with my best friend, David Little, and dancin' more than studying. On Friday, or even on Thursday, I'd find Buzz and we'd go to the Lounge, the Cellar, the Box, the Castaways, or any of the joints in-between that had a jukebox. Sometimes we'd have'em standing 3-deep watching us- Buzz mostly- dancin' to the music and doing our drop spins, fly back, and splits. We usually traveled in Buzz's of Comet, listening to music on his 45 record player. It would be precariously balanced on my lap, and I'd always catch it if the record skipped! Back at school I'd spend a short time in the middle of the week "studying", and then it was back to "jukin" and "jivin'" up and down I-85.

In the late '60s, like most of us, my carefree days ended with serious things like Viet Nam, USC, Marriage, Children (two beautiful daughters)... and divorce. I didn't do too much dancin' during that time, but not too long after my divorce in '78, I returned to Charlotte where I met "fast dancers" like Joann Johnson and Judy McDougall and renewed old friendships with folks like Slim Mangum and Randy Rowland. I entered my first contest in Charlotte at Johnny Dollar's with J.J. and we won. That started a 5-year ride of dancin' competitively that I'll never forget, winning 23 out of about 40 contests with 7 different partners, and never finishing out of the money. During that time, I had a lot of fun, danced with beautiful women, and met great dancers, many of whom were my fellow Hall of Famers. What made it even better was that I made Charlotte Maynard proud!! She was, without a doubt, my biggest fan and best dance partner- ever!!!

I'll never forget some great advice I received early-on from a couple of judges, after we won our first big contest. Doug Perry and Fleet Jones took me outside "My Place" in Wilmington, and sat me in between them in the front seat of the car. They said, "You can be a "dancer's dancer", if you don't allow your success to spoil your fun or who you are". I took those words to heart.

After leaving the "circuit" in the early '80's, I remarried, got more into my real career, continued studying the martial arts, and riding and racing motorcycles. We still frequented various beach clubs like the new Groucho's, the Bushes, Bostic's, And Red's, and went to functions like SOS, Shagattack and Mid-winters.

Then about 6 years ago, I met this "fast-dancin' Yankee", Kathy Lasnier. She has taken my heart and become my best friend and my 2<sup>nd</sup> best dance partner-ever. This little stepper feels the music better than I could, and has rekindled my zest for the dance.

In closing, I want to say that this dancer is deeply honored to be in this art form's Hall of Fame, and I'll continue to dance as long as the music's playin' and my feet can move. I would like to be remembered as a versatile dancer, who could dance to Bobby "Blue" Bland, Prince, Glen Miller, Rick Lee Jones, or Lou Rawls, and a dancer who did his best to transfer the artist(s)' lyrics and music from the song onto the dance floor!