

Irvine received bass guitar on 12th b-day

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doesn't rely on drinking or drugs to produce great sounds.

Irvine was raised in upstate New York and started attending blues jams at a young age. He received a bass guitar on his twelfth birthday; at 19, he landed a gig with James Brown's sax man, Alfred "Pee Wee" Ellis. He performed with the experimental pop band, Clang; instrumental jazz fusion trio, Beanstalk; and international recording and performing artist, John Wesley.

He estimates that he has played with about 50 different bands in his life, and has recorded 25 full-length albums. But the nightlife of the professional music world got the better of him, so he accepted a job with a small booking company in Winter Park in 2000.

A year later, he saw the funk jazz group Carlos Washington and The Amazing Giant People. He joined the group and toured consistently with Giant People, composing his own tunes

and honing some of his funkier bass guitar playing.

But during this creative period of relative success, Irvine's drinking began to take a toll on him, and he returned to Winter Park to his now wife, Kay, and to seek help to quit drinking.

Locally, he has played with Huge in Germany, Stereomaid, Juicebox, The Johnny O Band, and the aforementioned Wapiti Jazz Project. Irvine also promotes 10 bands, including his own four, through Irvine Entertainment.

He hopes to spearhead his efforts to get involved with musical projects in the schools with the Masquerade Ball this Friday.

"Teaching is more giving back, but it has its benefits. It makes me review the fundamentals, and sometimes students have creative ideas. The learning goes both ways. It keeps me thinking and learning; it challenges me," said Irvine. "I want to serve a useful purpose in this community."