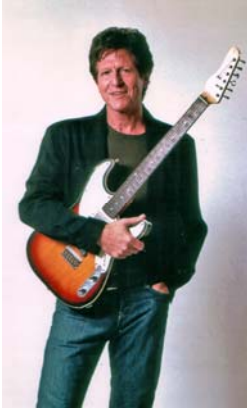


## PHIL COLEY BIO



**Phil Coley** is lucky to be raised in Bowdon, Georgia. When he was a kid growing up, Bowdon was loaded with other kids---who, just like Coley, got the 'Rock-n-Roll' fever and became musicians. As a result, the little Georgia town, located about 3 miles from the Alabama line, was a hot bed of musicians during the 60s and 70s. Coley went through the same musical journey that many of his friends took. First came piano lessons, then he played in the school band, and by age thirteen he had picked up guitar. By the time he had entered West Georgia College, which was located 14 miles away in Carrollton, he had become the guitar player in one of the most popular bands in the area, The Sewer System. He also worked at the local college radio station with future famed Atlanta radio personality Rhubarb Jones. He and Jones would remain lifetime friends.

During the early seventies, not only did he work as a guitarist with many local groups, but he also started began playing the banjo. He later formed Possum Trot, an eclectic bluegrass band, and actually toured Poland entertaining crowds of people with American bluegrass.

In 1974 Coley was accepted to the Berkley College of Music in Boston. Although he excelled there, after two years he decided to leave the school to play professionally. On returning to Atlanta, he auditioned for a Dallas, Texas based band called Flyer. Flyer was a hot show band, and had auditioned over 30 guitar players. Coley got the job not only because of his playing, but also for his singing ability. Within a few weeks, he was only the road with Flyer. This would last until 1978.

By 1978 Coley grew tired of touring with Flyer. He moved to Atlanta and started playing with Possum Trot once again. This worked for a while, but playing for Flyer had given Phil the confidence he needed to front his own band. He quit Possum Trot and put together the Phil Coley Band. It was during one of the band's performances at a local club that he met his wife, Kitty. They have been married for 29 years and had four children.

It was also during one of the band's shows that two TV producers spotted Phil while he was on stage. One of the producers approached Phil about auditioning for a role in a commercial. At first, Phil did not believe the guy, but he eventually did go to the audition. Unbelievably, Phil beat out nearly 100 veteran actors for the part. He played a recurring character in dozens of commercials for the Hardee's restaurant chain for the next four years.

In 1980 Coley opened his own recording studio, and he was immediately successful in this venture. Not only did he record and produce local acts, but he also recorded many of the soundtracks for the Hardee's commercials in which he was

appearing. His studio was home to some of the best musicians in the area. Many of the players who worked with Phil in the studio went on the work in national touring bands.

In 1988 Coley and his wife decided to open a music/venue restaurant on the square in Carrollton, Georgia. They named the club Bradley's, and it became an immensely successful live music location. For four years the club attracted up and coming bands from around the country. Hootie and the Blowfish was one of the bands who appeared there. Although the club was successful, eventually Phil wanted to return to simply being a session player, producer, and working musician.

Since 1992 Coley's career has been moving upward. In that year he joined Watusi Rodeo, a popular local band, and he immediately found himself entertaining audiences all over the Southeast. In that band he also appeared in the Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, *To Dance with a White Dog*. The movie feature Jessica Tandy, and was and still is a very popular show during the holidays. The band also backed Travis Tritt during a concert in Marietta GA. Coley on his own appeared with country singer Mark Wills when Wills did his showcase for Mercury Records. In 2005 Phil released his own album, *Tropical Colors*. The album featured jazzy Latin flavored songs and has been so well received that is still sells on CD Baby.

Working in the studio is still one of Coley's passions. His studio, Phil Coley Demos and Masters, is located in Bowden, GA. Coley constantly turns out tight, professional tracks on a weekly basis. He has now produced and played on more than 100 albums, which were all recorded in his studio. His radio spots can be heard daily around the West Ga. area. Songwriters from all over the United States use Phil to demo their songs. Whether Phil is playing guitar, producing music, or writing music, he can be counted on to give a 100 percent in any situation.

Phil Coley  
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