

Melvin Gradiz Band

Forging a sound that is both timeless and refreshingly modern, the Melvin Gradiz Band is a dynamic three-piece force emerging from Southern Maine's vibrant music scene. Since coming together in late 2024, the band has honed a sound that moves seamlessly between blues, funk, R&B, and pop-rock sensibilities, creating original music built on groove and soul.

The project was sparked when veteran drummer Gary Lowell discovered a video of Melvin Gradiz performing and immediately recognized a singular talent. A single jam session confirmed their undeniable chemistry, and the two set out on their musical journey. Their debut single, "Every Little Thing," was released in the spring of 2025. The lineup was completed by Randy Runnels, a longtime friend and musical partner of Lowell's, whose inventive bass playing became the trio's essential anchor.

With a growing catalog of road-tested originals and new co-written material, the band is hitting its stride. They are currently in the studio working on their debut EP, slated for release in early 2026, and will be releasing new singles along the way.

Meet the Band

Melvin Gradiz - *Lead Vocals, Guitar* The voice, vision, and vibrant guitar at the heart of the band. Melvin is the primary songwriter and sonic visionary, with a distinctive, soulful vocal style and a flair for funky, intricate guitar work. A graduate of Full Sail University, his background in sound engineering provides the trio's polished, powerful sound.

Randy Runnels - *Bass, Backing Vocals* As the harmonic foundation of the rhythm section, Randy's bass lines are both solid and expressive. Originally a guitarist, he discovered his true musical home on the bass, where his keen ear provides grooves that are foundational and musically rich. His harmonies and backing vocals are crucial to the band's full, layered sound.

Gary Lowell - *Drums, Backing Vocals* The master of the pocket and the heartbeat of the band. A drummer who prioritizes feel over flash, Gary lives by the "less is more" philosophy, always playing in service of the song. He masterfully glues the rhythm section together and often adds backing vocals from behind the kit. Gary also owns The Groove Barn, a music video studio dedicated to showcasing Maine's original artists.

Praise & Press

"An unforgettable live experience."

"Led by dynamic front man Melvin Gradiz, along with his partners, Gary Lowell, and Randy Runnels - Collectively known as the Melvin Gradiz Band - are hitting the stage with a powerhouse set of original music, blending blues, funk, and alternative into an unforgettable live experience. Praised for his "soulful grooves" and "vibrant, colorful sound", Gradiz delivers the kind of performance that keeps audiences moving and wanting more!" — **Timothy John (aka Papa Tim)**

"Everything's always alright in this harmonious solar system."

"Melvin Gradiz' opening entreaty to "Feel that breeze a-blowin', feel that sunlight on your skin" is also a survival tip these days, a reminder that (at least this time of year around here) the world hugs us with warmth to assure us everything's always alright in this harmonious solar system. The smoky-voiced, Miami-born, Portland R&B man knows you don't have to rent headspace to "all that noise and doubt," and "every little thing is paradise when you've got your peace." Amen!" — **The Bollard**