



BRUTE VAUGHAN

Brute grew up during the formative years of both “Rock *n*’ Roll” and Rhythm & Blues music. In 1961, living within walking distance of Lakeview Park in Colonial Heights with a dance hall on the premises, he took the opportunity to dance bop-style to contemporary music. At age 17, he became involved in live band music with The Creations, with whom he recorded an album as lead vocalist. He subsequently performed with The Soul Searchers from 1967-68.

Brute established the long-running, successful Rotations Band in 1996, which lasted through 2014. This gave him a thorough grounding in Rhythm & Blues and Beach music. He joined the Richmond Shag Club (RSC) in 1998 and took coaching from several VSHOF members, including Tom Varney, Dink Slaughter and Doug Strother. During the Rotations era, he exchanged music and knowledge with the late great VSHOF Hall of Famer and DJ Cliff Merritt. He started DJing, somewhat reluctantly, in 2016 and by 2017, he was solidly enjoying DJ work.

During the Covid-19 years, he was able to secure a venue where Shaggers and Boppers could dance weekly which proved to be a lifeline for the Richmond Shag Club for 21 months. Then RSC President Kenn Ward approached him about stepping in as the RSC’s house DJ, first at weekly dances at the Meadowbrook Country Club and later at the RSC regular venue, the Visions Dance Club, where he continues to play weekly for the RSC.

He has DJ’d at the Boogie on The James party, the Flip Flop Boogie Party for the Boogie on the Bay Club and at SOS for the Virginia Shag Clubs' Shooter Party. He has attended SOS for 25 years and is the DJ for the RSC's popular Beach Ball gathering on the beach at Fall SOS in North Myrtle Beach, SC. In summation, he has supported and been a part of the dance and music for fifty years. He is an ambassador and lover of Shag dance and Beach music, and is truly deserving and qualified for this honor.