



CLASS OF

1968

RICHARD TORRANCE

Soon after graduating from Bismarck High School in 1968, Richard Torrance made his way to California in pursuit of the contemporary music recording industry.

Richard’s first attempt at recording his own music attracted the attention of Denny Cordell and Leon Russell, who owned Shelter Records. Richard signed his first recording contract with Shelter in 1972 and began recording his first of seven albums, “Eureka”. Along with recording came the organization of his first touring band by the same name. Eureka toured nationally and was the opening act for many classic rock and roll concerts.

His second album, “Belle of the Ball,” sold well and established Richard as a viable performer and touring act. Richard impressed the head of A&R for Capitol Records and was signed to his second major record contract in 1976. “Bareback”, his first album for Capitol, had his most famous song “Rio De Janeiro Blue.” “Rio” has been recorded by more than thirty artists worldwide and is still played on many smooth jazz radio stations as a classic.

Richard performed in Las Vegas for twelve years; he worked in nearly every casino lounge and broke into main showroom productions. He played in two different country shows in the Aladdin Hotel and the Golden Nugget.

He later moved on to cruise ship entertainment with Royal Caribbean Cruise line.

Richard returned to his homeland in 2004. He taught in the school system as an artist-in-residence, played several concerts, and mentored young musicians. Richard also became music director for Trinity Lutheran Church in 2005 and later at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church as worship and music minister.

Still making his home in Bismarck with his wife, Julie, and their two daughters, Richard continues to play for music events and has reconnected with one of his early loves, horseback, riding the prairies of North Dakota.

