

Danny Sanderson

One of the most influential performers on the Israeli cultural scene, Danny Sanderson is both a legendary and contemporary pop icon. He is a founding member of the amazing band Kaveret/Poogy, dubbed “the Beatles of Israel” and a top concert ticket-seller for over 25 years and through five reunions. Danny Sanderson also formed the groups Gazoz and Doda, both of which are considered among the cornerstones of Israeli rock music.

Sanderson was born in Kfar Blum in Israel to parents that immigrated to Israel from Boston. He grew up in Haifa and Savyon, and at the age of 10 moved with his family to the U.S., where he lived until he was 18 and studied at the High School of Music and Arts. Sanderson was drawn to music early in life, and played in several rock bands, influenced mainly by mid-60s American pop and rock.

At the age of 18 he was conscripted to the Israeli Defense Forces and played guitar with the Nachal Entertainment Corp. Sanderson was mainly noted at the time as a phenomenal guitar player, but soon also gained a reputation as a composer and arranger.

In 1972, along with friends Alon Oleartchik, Efraim Shamir, Gidi Gov, Meir Feningstein and later Yoni Rechter and Yitzchak Klepter, Sanderson founded a band called Kaveret (כוורת, beehive). The original idea for the band, formulated by Danny, was to create a pop-rock show, centered on the fictional figure "Poogy", which Feningstein and Sanderson created. The show became an instant hit in Israel, catapulting Kaveret into the position of the most successful pop-rock band in Israel then and since.

Sanderson was the dominant force in Kaveret. He wrote the music and lyrics to most of the songs. In 1976, the other band members were anxious to embark on their own individual careers and, following a short performance tour in the United States, Kaveret disbanded.

Danny Sanderson has had an impressive solo recording career and has succeeded in other media such as authoring books and appearing on Israeli television as musician, comedian, and host. He has released 12 solo albums, written four books and has produced several albums for other Israeli performers. Danny Sanderson’s prolific and successful career has won him a prominent place in Israel’s cultural history and in 2006 he received a *Life Time Achievement Award* for his contribution to Israeli culture. His ability to reinvent himself guarantees him a place of honor in Israel’s vibrant cultural future.