

Neil Thomas Giraldo is a distinguished American musician, songwriter, accomplished record producer, and a revered member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He was born on December 29, 1955, in Cleveland, Ohio, and his musical journey was nurtured from a young age by his parents, Anthony and Angela Giraldo. Neil's early forays into music included playing Italian melodies on the guitar for family and friends after church services, often accompanied by his sister, Priscilla, on the accordion. By the age of 11, he had already embraced the piano and ventured into drumming. In his formative years, Neil played the guitar alongside his mentor, and uncle, at local nightclubs.

Throughout his childhood, Neil Giraldo was heavily influenced by groundbreaking bands of the 1960s and 1970s, such as The Yardbirds, The Kinks, and The Who. Jazz artists like Count Basie, and Duke Ellington also inspired him, deepening his respect and admiration for the genre. Giraldo's professional music career began in 1978 when he joined the Rick Derringer band after a competition among 200 fellow guitarists. He contributed his guitar and piano skills to Derringer's 1979 recording of "Guitars and Women," setting the stage for his remarkable career.

In the spring of 1979, a serendipitous encounter introduced Neil to singer Pat Benatar, who had recently signed with Chrysalis Records. Together, they forged an enduring musical partnership that has thrived for over four decades, with Neil's exceptional talents as a producer, arranger, and musical director contributing to their joint success. Over the years, he has produced some of their biggest hits, including "Love Is a Battlefield" and "We Belong."

Notably, on August 1, 1981, when MTV launched, Neil & Pat's music video for "You Better Run" became the network's second-ever aired video, establishing him as the inaugural guitarist to grace MTV's screens.

Beyond his collaboration with Pat Benatar, Neil has also performed, written, and produced for artists such as Rick Derringer, John Waite, Rick Springfield (including the number 1 song "Jessie's Girl"), Kenny Loggins, Steve Forbert, The Del-Lords, Beth Hart, and many others. Neil's diverse body of work has sold over 45 million records, five Grammy Awards and four additional Grammy nominations.

In 2001, Giraldo ventured into film scoring, debuting with his work on the film "Nailed," featuring Harvey Keitel. He continued his involvement in the film world as the composer for the 2004 film "Smile," which boasted a cast including Sean Astin, Beau Bridges, and Linda Hamilton.

Giraldo's far-reaching impact on music and advocacy was celebrated with

the AFMX 2019 Music Award, presented as part of the Albuquerque Film and Music Experience Festival.

In addition to his musical pursuits, Neil's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish Steel Bending Spirits LLC in 2017, headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The spirits company introduced its inaugural offering, Three Chord Bourbon, in July 2018. Three Chord Bourbon not only an award-winning whiskey brand; it embodies a beautiful fusion of artistry, meticulous craftsmanship, and the enchantment of live music forming partnerships with local, independent live music venues around the country, forging unbreakable connections between them, the brand, and music aficionados.

Deeply committed to charitable endeavors, Giraldo's philanthropic journey involved hosting and performing at fundraising events since 1996, providing invaluable support to The Children's Lifesaving Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to aiding homeless and high-risk youth in Los Angeles. He also extended his influence to the Oakland School for the Arts, contributing the Neil Giraldo Recording Studio as a gift to the music department.

On April 12, 2016, Neil and Patricia Giraldo were honored with the Artistic Award of Courage, celebrating their joint advocacy to end child abuse. They were also awarded the Children's LSF Foundation's Angel of the Year Award for their continued service to the organization.

In September 2019, Giraldo received the AFMX 2019 Music Award as part of the Albuquerque Film and Music Experience Festival.

In 2019, the United Outreach Foundation welcomed Neil Giraldo as a member of the board of directors. The United Outreach Foundation is a 501c3 organization providing community support for homelessness, food scarcity, education, and animal welfare.

Neil Giraldo and Pat Benatar were married in 1982 and have two daughters, Haley Giraldo and Hana Giraldo, 3 grandchildren, Stevie, Lola, and Cash.