

## **R. Lee Townsend Class of 1973**

### **Musician**

Shortly after graduating from Franklin in 1973, Lee decided to make a career out of music. He played with the popular eclectic group Climbadonkey from 1974 to 1978, performing in mostly the Baltimore and Ocean City areas. He helped form The Ravyns in 1979, who eventually became a nationally popular band in the 80s after securing a song on the soundtrack of Fast Times at Ridgemont High film. This led to a record deal with an MCA affiliate, and the group toured the US promoting its records until 1986. After a stint as record engineer/music producer, Lee wanted to get active playing again, and formed Never Never in 1988, playing with them until 1996. He eventually got a real job as an audio/visual systems designer, with expertise in digital signal processing and control system integration, staying in the field until the present. Married a few times in the course of his life, he has four children and one grandchild. Lee went into semi-retirement from music in 2003 and moved to Roanoke VA. In 2010 he returned to the Baltimore area, and got active with music again, presently a freelance musician and partner in a Westminster recording studio as chief engineer and music producer.

