

# 'Buskin' Around' with Jim Austerman

Jim "Sonny" Austerman has been an accordion player since he was five years old. He also plays piano, guitar, a very antique harpsichord, concertina, and a diatonic Cajun button accordion.

Jim lives in Mountain Lake, MN with his wife, Veronica, and six children – five boys, Jimmy, Jason, Jesse, John, and James; and one daughter, Laurie.

Jim studied music under Myron Floren, and the original accordion player for the Whoopie John Band, Larry Malmberg.

Jim's newest CD is titled, "Buskin' Around." There are 16 songs on this CD, and he composed each one. The songs reflect many of his memories of the years he spent playing music for folks all over the USA and in different countries.

The word buskin' or busking is a British word that refers to any performer that does performances in front of the general public. These performers are also called buskers. Some buskers do this for a living.

Busking was always one of Jim's favorite things to do, because he got the chance to meet so many different people, from all walks of life, in places all over the USA, as well as in different countries.

Jim has also been an over-the-road trucker for many years. In fact, one of the most popular songs he wrote is



Submitted photo

**Jim "Sonny" Austerman recently released a 16-song CD, "Buskin' Around."**

called "The Big Rig Polka."

He also wrote a tune called "The Minnesotan Polka." Jim explains, "I knew there was a song titled, "The Minnesota Polka," but it was written by someone other than a Minnesotan. So, I figured, what the heck, I'm gonna write a polka called "The Minnesotan Polka" for all us Minnesotans."

Jim Austerman's CD is available by writing to Jim and Veronica Austerman, Sandcastle Music, 93883 580th Ave., Mountain Lake, MN 56159; or by e-mail at [keyboardtunes@email.com](mailto:keyboardtunes@email.com) or [sandcastlemusic@fiestadiscouts.com](mailto:sandcastlemusic@fiestadiscouts.com).

The cost of the CD is \$12, plus \$2.50 for shipping.

Anyone can listen to samples of Jim's music at [Sandcastlemusic.com](http://Sandcastlemusic.com).