

## Johnny Vadnal

### Music



Johnny was born in 1923, the fourth of five children. He was raised and schooled in the Collinwood area and graduated from Collinwood High School in June 1944.

Johnny came from a family that was inspired by their mother, Anna, to play a musical instrument. This inspiration launched a musical family affair called The Vadnal Quartet. The group became well known not only in Cleveland musical circles, but also in the rest of the U.S. and Canada for popularizing polkas known as the "Cleveland style".

His first recording contract was signed in 1947, and through the ensuing years, the Johnny Vadnal Orchestra became a great force in creating a variety of musical adaptations.

Johnny was the first polka bandleader in the country to have his own television show in a major market. One of the many highlights of his career was in 1950 when he recorded "The Baseball Polka" and introduced it before a crowd of 64,000 at Cleveland Stadium during a Cleveland Indians game.

For his dedication to music, Johnny was bestowed with numerous honors, awards, and the coveted title of "Cleveland Polka King".

Johnny and his wife, Alice, have three children. He is retired and they reside in Mentor.