

played their first paying job (for \$100.00). By the late 60's, the nascent Styx was performing regularly, gaining valuable experience. Young fans responded enthusiastically to the combination and they soon rose above the plethora of "high school dance bands" around Chicago.

1969 was a landmark year in the Styx history. Nardin left the city to continue his education, leaving Dennis and the Panozzo brothers in need of a guitarist. All three were enrolled in Chicago State University where they met John (J.C.) Curulewski. Impressed with J.C.'s musicianship and knack for song-writing, they asked him to join the group, then performing under the name "TW4". DeYoung had been writing his own songs for some time, but with the added strength of J.C., TW4 began integrating original material into their show. This development helped speed the growth of their already sizeable following. Eventually word-of-mouth excitement over "this group from the south side" drew the attention of local record company scouts.

Guitarist-singer-songwriter James (J.Y.) Young joined TW4 in 1970. A flurry of changes followed, including a recording contract with Chicago-based, RCA distributed, Wooden Nickel Records. The group was dissatisfied with the name TW4 and began searching for a more suitable one. Dante's Inferno describes the river Styx as a flaming body of water separating the Greek