



Jam 'Til Dawn™

The Music Never Stops

December, 2004

funkUs Orlando's Purveyors of Flavor Rock

The history of funkUs reads like a who's who of Orlando musical lore. Ron Betts, Dave "The Cat" Mann, Adam Freeman and John "Mojo" Jones had been playing independently around Orlando and Central Florida since 1985, often intermingling their respective bands.

In 1990, The Sunday Night Downtown Blues Jam was born, hosted by legendary guitarist Jim Mahoney and The Houseshakers. Through this open mic night, guitarists Betts and Mann were introduced to the Orlando music scene where they became part of a veritable "college" of the blues.



Ron Betts, John "Mojo" Jones, Adam Freeman & Dave Mann

Fast forward seven years, through historic changes and movement in local-Orlando musical history, to 1997.

A new breed of "head" band, 4:20, was fast growing in popularity with their Sunday night freestyle jams and Phish/Dead-like atmosphere. Guitarist Tony Hume invited Mann and drummer Adam Freeman to fill in the 4:20 experience for an evening, which became a landmark in the birth of funkUs. It was an evolutionary spark.

Adam invited Dave and Ron to The Lounge, and on Jim's suggestion, they called on bassist Mojo. In 1998, funkUs came together as a unit. The core four was created with the unified goal of being a different kind of band with a newfound focus on original music.

The project was an attempt to move beyond the confines of the "working bar band" stigma. With a strong desire to break whatever molds they'd cast for themselves, they moved into the new millennium with new music and a fresh, new attitude.

Having formed a loyal following over many years of playing in the Orlando music scene, Dave figured that their music slowly grows on people over time, much like a fungus would. Therefore, funkUs gives a name to a musical form of fungus. The uppercase "Us" within the name symbolizes the sense of community forged through the music, and the lower case "f" is meant to de-emphasize the Funk, since the band does not limit itself to one style of music.

funkUs fits neatly into the eclectic jamband musical melting pot. The band possesses powerful blues leanings and intense R&B and funk rhythms. With an emphasis on meaningful songwriting and freeform jam exploration, their songs range from quirky and catchy to emotionally moving. The combinations result in highly danceable, energetic grooves that reach dizzying, intoxicating highs or soothing, spiritual lows. They describe their music as B.B. King meets the Dead with some funky Meters and Phish mixed in for flavor.

Lead singer and guitarist Betts, delivers powerful vocals juxtaposed with unexpectedly delicate guitarmananship. Mann cuts through every song with perceptible lead guitar delivery, bringing Frank Zappa to mind – in both his style and in some of funkUs' original material. Freeman is a powerhouse drummer, keeping the percussive level at the forefront of the band. And last, Mojo's precision bass playing is augmented by a palpable sense of humor that shines through his playing.

"We like to think of our music as commercially challenged" Mann claims with a smile. Their style has been dubbed "flavor rock" by the local press.

Who is funkUs?

In the spirit of the jam, funkUs' line-up is ever changing, based around core members. The core 4:

Ron Betts – guitar, vocals

Dave "the cat" Mann – guitar, vocals

John "Mojo" Jones – bass, vocals

Adam Freeman – drums, percussion

Other funkies include (but are not limited to):

Jim "Mad Dog" Mahoney – guitar, vocals

Chris "The Iceman" Raynor – harmonica, trumpet, vocals / Clay Watson – trombone, percussion

Chris Charles – assorted wood winded type instruments / Eric Charles - drums / "Super" Dave Scitney - drums / Shawn "Lightning Boy" Rounds - guitar, vocals / Walt "The Country Gentleman" Turner - bass / Danny "The Cowboy" Leech - drums

"J.F." Jean Francois Bedard - bass

Bing Futch - dulcimer / Carter Everett – guitar Tom

"TC" Constanten - piano / Michael "Uncle Jesse"

O'Keeffe - percussion / Bongo Willie – the bongo



Jim Mahoney, Ron Betts, Mojo and Dave

Discography

1. *flavour* – (August 2001) Independent release.
2. *stroke light* – (November 2002) Independent release

funkUs is currently working on a new studio project.



Adam Freeman

We're in the studio now making the album we've always wanted to make. Our goal is to capture the energy levels we maintain during our live shows, which is a challenge most bands seem to face in the studio. We have high hopes we'll succeed with this project because we're very happy with the working environment we've created and feel the material is our strongest yet. We've got a few surprises for everyone on this upcoming release, as well!

We've seen increased interest in our music with hundreds of live shows downloaded online at The Internet Archive.

Our path is through our live show, which is about the experience as much as it is about the music. Unlike most bands I know, the coveted "record deal" has no lure for us. In fact, we're happy to do without it, a trend we're beginning to see at every level of the music business.

--Dave Mann, December, 2004

www.funkUs.com



THE MUSIC: A wide range of musical styles can be found within the songs of Mohave. With roots in Bing's African/American Indian heritage, the core of the music takes slave chants and spirituals, ceremonial percussiveness and tribal beats, mixing the together with the celtic thunder and southeastern bluegrass tones of the Appalachian mountain dulcimer. Tunes that deal with dusty drunk tanks, star-crossed robbers, spicy food, interminable interstates and ill-fated gators get appropriate dashes of Dixieland, progressive rock, pop, country, blues, jazz and soundtrack music.

With a hot combination of fun, compelling stories and catchy tunes, Mohave delivers good-time, positive music!

THE SHOW: The phrase "hold on to your hats" applies to each and every Mohave performance. From the traditional opening tune "Nowhere, Nevada" that sets the stage for each show, Bing is one part storyteller, one part balladeer, another part ringmaster with a solid chunk of *tribal wildman* at the heart of every second of showtime. Cutting an unusual profile, with the mountain dulcimer projecting straight out into space, this frontman and instrument are one, dipping and dancing with the music. The on-stage chemistry has a palpable energy that's hard to resist. Obviously having a good time, the band is a kinetic sideshow of movement, sheer passion and unexpected detours as they lay out an ever-changing array of styles, breaking into improvisational grooves and following the unpredictable direction in which the dreadlocks fly. When accented by video screens that display imagery behind the band, its a fully immersive experience that plays out like a rock musical. All drama aside, the best moments of a Mohave show are those that involve the audience. Whether it's engaging the crowd in sing-along's, whipping up impromptu songs for folks with cause for celebration or simply acknowledging and appreciating every group, the love affair between this Americana band and its "extended tribe" is evident at every gig. It's the kind of show that people are still talking about on Monday morning! www.MohaveMusic.com



THE TRIBE

Bing Futch (*lead vocals, Appalachian mountain dulcimer*) In 1986, along with Marc Plainquet and Sean "Shaka" Harrison, he helped spawn post-punk outfit Crazyed Bunnyz, which enjoyed international acclaim in the '80s college radio scene. In 1989 Bing concentrated on scoring music for film and theater until Mohave became a reality in 1999.



Randy Kemp (*bass and vocals*) Randy has been active in music for years, jamming in a number of bands including Calamity Jane, The Shrubs, Red Club and Naked Head. Originally a drummer, Randy switched to bass a few years ago and his inventive stylings are already solid.



Carolyn "Bunky" Garrabrant (*vocals, melodica, trumpet, pennywhistle, mandolin*) Though quite shy in person, "Bunky" is a powerhouse player, singer and songwriter in her own right, bringing a formidable magic to the band. Her ever-increasing arsenal of instruments enhances the eclectic nature of Mohave.



Automatic John (*vocals, keyboards, harmonica*) John performed in Red Club and is marking his return to the stage after a conspicuous absence from the central Florida music scene. His mastery on the keys and mouth harp provide emotional heft for Mohave's dramatic music.



J.D. Fosse (*drums*) Known in southeast music circles as a solid and passionate player, J.D. kicks up the jams a notch. Formerly a member of Blackbird Abbey, he's also performed with guitar whiz Marcus Machado and rocker Linda Nunez.

www.MohaveMusic.com

☞ **Happy Holidays to all of the amazing musicians and wonderful friends who have made me feel at home in Orlando. You have all inspired me so much, I had to write a song. This one's for you! -Love, Toni**

Orlando Rocks! By Toni Brown

Was only passing through, had no reason to stay
Just shed the winter chill, then I'd be on my way
Seemed like a plan, I had it all worked out
Funny how it changed as soon as I stepped out!

Thought I'd have some fun, read a classic book or two
Maybe do some painting, write a story, buy some shoes
It seemed so very simple, not a worry in the world
Just head down to Orlando and let my life unfurl

CHORUS:

Brought the dance back to my heart, and the music
touched my soul
Put a smile back on my face, got my life back in control
Found a new groove in my step, inspiration found my mind
Never dared to dream that there'd be so much to find
Here in Florida, sunny Florida!

So, much to my surprise, I was led into the light
And there I found the music that made things seem so right
Now my guitar's been abused and I've got blisters on my fingers
Orlando's music woke me up, and I'm a born again musician!

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TONI BROWN
A Brief Bio

Toni Brown is best known as the publisher of *Relix Magazine*, a bible amongst Dead Heads and a visionary link to "intelligent music alternatives" (1980-2000).

Having helped propel the improvisational jamband scene, Toni has taken her place as a performing

participant. As a singer, songwriter and guitarist, she's been regularly performing her eclectic musical styles—including psychedelic country rock, ethereal folk rock and blues. She has discovered a treasure of talented local musicians in her new hometown of Orlando, Florida.

Toni has appeared at clubs, theaters and festivals nationally, in Japan, Europe and the Caribbean. She has shared the stage with many musical friends—including Blues Traveler, Hot Tuna, Big Brother & The Holding Co., Vassar Clements, Derek Trucks, Warren Haynes, Merl Saunders, Vince Welnick/Tom Constanten and Donna Jean of the Grateful Dead, Bela Fleck, Yonder Mountain String Band, Peter Rowan, JGB, New Riders of the Purple Sage, Flying Burrito Brothers, Commander Cody, Zen Tricksters, Leftover Salmon, David Nelson Band, ekoostik hoo-kah, Max Creek, String Cheese Incident, Kynda, funkUs, Bluelegs, The Goldminers, Mohave, Juggling Suns and Living Earth.

Axis Mag. Voted Toni one of Orlando's 20 Coolest People of 2004!

www.ToniBrownBand.com

JAM 'TIL DAWN

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December 31-January 1
Kynda New Year's Weekend
Lazy R Ranch, Bull Creek, FL
www.Kynda.com

Friday 12/31/04:

Mobius (7:00 PM - 8:30)
Sonar (9:00 PM - 10:30)
Kynda (11:15 PM til we drop)

Saturday 1/1/05:

Field Day (12:00 PM - 3:00)
Open Mic (12:00 PM - 1:00)
Grateful Dead Set (1:00 PM - 2:30)
Tarpon Trees (3:00 PM - 4:00)
The Fat Americans (4:30 PM - 5:45)
Bonobos (6:15 PM - 7:15)
Toni Brown Band (7:45 PM - 9:00)
Bluelegs (9:30 PM - 12:00 AM)
Kynda (12:30 AM > segueing into >)
The CreateaBand Jam

January 29 2PM-2AM
Sunshine Daydream Festival
Deadhead Gathering
Kate O'Brien's, 42 W. Central Blvd.
Downtown Orlando

407-649-7646 for tickets & info

Featuring
Tom Constanten (Grateful Dead)
Crazy Fingers
Toni Brown Band
Bluelegs / funkUs

Jambando All-Star Jam & more!

Come on out and shake those bones!

www.JamTilDawn.com

Jam 'Til Dawn is created in an effort to support live music. Please send upcoming concert info to JamTilDawn1@aol.com