



LOCAL BAND

BOSS GROOVE

In Charge of the Deepest Rhythm



"We spend a lot of time rehearsing, so we can get every bar and phrase just right," said Mark Thomas, sax, trumpet, and trombone player. "Wade Jackson, our guitar player, is a perfectionist. You can count on Wade to make sure that we copy the original arrangement down to the very last detail. Then we put our own Boss Groove twist on it," Thomas added.

During its twelve-year history, the band has had its share of personnel changes, but the band's veterans are convinced that with the addition of "hard-knocking" Maz Sietsma on drums and "Chocolate Thunder" Jones on lead vocals the band is better than ever.

"We've had a number of transitions, but this is the pinnacle," said Thomas.

Quite often, the band's "twist" makes for an entirely different song, such as the group's carefully-constructed rendition of Eagles megahit, "Hotel California." (You'll have to hear this one in person.)

Apparently a number of folks have always though the band was "pretty good." Over the years, BG has played all over South Florida and opened for a number of big-time acts: Blood Sweat and Tears, Bad Company, Little Feat, Georgia Satellites, Dave Mason, Molly Hatchett, Marshall Tucker and Dave Mason to name just some.

Not too shabby.

Readily apparent is the sense of togetherness among the band's members. BG's on-stage presence exudes a syncopation that goes far beyond beats and rhythms. Arguably this is due in large part to the band's organization. "We don't have a front man," said Bedwell, who went on to add something else that clearly reflected the feelings of the entire group.

These days your best chance to catch them is at the Ashley Restaurant, one of the Treasure Coast's chicest entertainment venues located at 61 SW Osceola St. in historic downtown Stuart (directly across the street from the Lyric Theatre.) The band has two gigs coming up at the Ashley: Friday, September 7 and Saturday, September 8. (Both performances begin at 10pm.)

"We're seven guys with the same goals. We consider ourselves brothers."

Always more willing to talk about their music than about themselves, the group was also quick to credit their "two guys in the trenches" for the integral role they play in the band's success. "Our two sound guys, Bobby and Ed, do an incredible job in getting things just right," said Andre Boucher, the group's bass player.

Don't miss out on seeing this amazing and incredibly talented show band, Boss Groove.

For more information, go to www.bossgroove.com.

Bedwell ought to know. He and Tom Hoffelder, sax player and childhood friend, helped put together the original band back in 1995.

"From the beginning, I always visualized a full-sized band. I wanted us to be able to do a variety of different things."

That's putting it lightly.

BG plays a sophisticated mix ranging from Chicago and Steely Dan to Elton John and James Brown. But don't think that this is a band that likes to "warm up" a bit before tackling those more difficult numbers. The band's "in your face" style is non-stop, from beginning to end. In fact, BG frequently opens their first set with a Chicago classic like "Beginnings" or "25 or 6 to 4." And a few tunes later, they're more than ready for the Godfather of Soul's "I Feel Good" – a song that's got more stops and fast forwards than a CD player.

"Certain songs really work with the horns," said Bedwell.

Unquestionably, the band's ability to play some of pop music's more difficult compositions is reflective of each member's exceptional musical skill... and work ethic.

By Glenn Swift

If Boss Groove isn't the best band on the Treasure Coast, it's at least tied for first. Then again, this seven-piece, wall-of-sound ensemble can take its act to the big city anytime... and never have to bow its head to anyone.

Featuring some of the greatest, most soulful and melodic covers of rock's greatest artists, Boss Groove is a throwback to another era, when music was more than just a backdrop to a flashy video, and melodies would take you "to that other place."

"I look at us as being keepers of the flame," said lead singer Charles Jones, whose soulful voice is a unique cross between Al Jarreau and Seal. "We're definitely not your typical 'bar band.'"

And how...

If you go to hear Boss Groove, you're not just going to hear music you can dance to. You're going to see a show.

"That's our main focus," said Bill Bedwell, trumpet/keyboard player and one of the band's original members. "We're performers... we want to dig into the senses."