

MARDI GRAS MAMBOFEST

by **RHYTHMTOWN-JIVE**

“All New Orleans R&B Revue”

TIM ESCHLIMAN • bass, lead vocals
KETA BILL • vocals (from Big Bang Beat)
KATHY KENNEDY • vocals (from Big Bang Beat)
KATIE GUTHORN • vocals (from Big Bang Beat)
KEVIN ZUFFI • vocals, piano
WILLY JORDAN • drums
MICHAEL PELOQUIN • sax, vocals
MIKE RINTA • trombone
KEN “SNAKEBITE” JACOBS • bari sax, rubboard

The Mardi Gras Mambofest show by Rhythmtown–jive is a celebration of many styles of New Orleans music: the 30's swing of Louis Armstrong, marching brass band numbers, the rhythm & blues of Huey "Piano" Smith & the Clowns and Professor Longhair plus the funk of the Meters and Dr. John. This combo has a long relationship with New Orleans music, having recorded many original compositions in that vein (some co-written and recorded with Zigaboo Modeliste of the Meters) and having backed Earl King and Lee Allen. Various members of the group have also worked with Ernie–K–Doe, Frnkie Ford, Gary “U. S.” Bonds, Leo Nocentelli and the Grammy-winning New Orleans Nightcrawlers and Pacific Mambo Orchestra. The annual Mardi Gras Mambofest shows on or around Fat Tuesday have drawn rave reviews and capacity crowds anticipating a wild and festive occasion with bead-tossing, outrageous costumes, and even second line parading. The band were regulars at Bill Graham's "New Orleans By The Bay" at Shoreline Amphitheatre.

Many in the San Francisco Bay Area and up and down the West Coast may be familiar with the “....shoutin’ and honkin’ jump-jive...” of the traditional smaller combo version of Rhythmtown-jive (formerly Five Guys Named Mo), but the Mardi Gras Mambofest show adds the lovely vocal stylings of the girls from Big Bang Beat plus expands to a 3-man New Orleans-style horn section.

With vocal duets and harmonies as well as hard-driving sax–based instrumentals, the Mardi Gras Mambofest features original compositions inspired in the New Orleans tradition as well as the music of Fats Domino, Dr. John, The Neville Brothers, Clifton Chenier, Shirley & Lee, Allen Toussaint, Irma Thomas, Paul Gayten, Little Richard (yes, his big hits were all from New Orleans), Kidd Jordan, Charlie & Inez Foxx, Clarence "Frogman" Henry, Professor Longhair, Lee Dorsey, Frankie Ford, Barbara George, and Smiley Lewis.

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