



D.C. & Co.

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Dave Costarella

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MusicHead Magazine Dec. 2003

- Dave Strange

DC & Co.

If you've seen the movie "The Commitments," you can really appreciate what D.C. & Co. are all about. The movie – a story about a working-class Irish R'nB/Soul band from Dublin (the Commitments) who view their musical mission as nothing short of "returning soul to the Irish people" – could easily be about D.C. & Co. Because, in the end, D.C. & Co. are doing the same thing: returning soul to the people of Lancaster, PA...

It ain't an easy job. Just ask D.C. (Dave Costarella) how tough it is to hold together (let alone pay) an 8-piece band. But the fact is D.C. would have it no other way. "My fans demand the horns," he says. "I got no choice."

For sure, the 3-piece horn section (Eric Ensminger on trumpet, sax Doug Hill, and Big "D" on trombone) places D.C. & Co. in a special category all it's own. It lifts the listener higher and adds a brassy boastfulness to DC's sound, allowing the band to strut the streets of Blues, jazz and alleys between.

It's no secret, the band's genre-bending forays into R'nB, Blues, Jazz, Rock, Funk, Swing, and Soul keep boredom at bay and legs on the dance floor. D.C. & Co. plays music that moves you, and music that makes you want to move...

So what's the band's secret? Well, for one, D.C.'s own electrifying brand of original music is top-notch. With the recent release of *Ain't That Somethin'* (and the band's previous, *Somethin's Happenin'*), D.C. keeps the party happenin' all night. Inject a few classics like Santana "Black Magic Woman" or War's "Low Rider" into the live mix, and you have the recipe for one helluva hot night of music.

Fronting the band on keyboards and lead vocals, D.C. cooks up songs that are witty, gritty, and honest, with enough clever hooks to reel in listeners and turn them into devoted fans. Powered by a souped-up rhythm section of dual percussionists (Dave Santana, drums and Gary Miller, congas and bongos) and a driving, jazzed-up bass (Bobby Fry), they invite you along for a thrilling ride, through an ever-changing musical landscape peppered with blues, jazz, soul, salsa, and more. Still others claim the band's secret weapon is Big Tone Torres who keeps the music from becoming too polished, adding a raw, rock 'n roll guitar sound to keep the music fresh.

"The blues people say it's more rock, the rock people say it's jazz, and the jazz people say it's Blues," laughs DC. He likes to call it "Live Music for Live People."

One thing's for sure: D.C. and Co. has cultivated an impressive audience with their top-shelf soulful sound. Just check out any club or event where D.C. & Co. are performing and you'll find the joint jumping. Who would've thought the fertile fields of Lancaster could yield such a bountiful crop of Soul instead of Soybeans?

"We write and play music that excites us," explains D.C., "we try to entertain the way we like to be entertained."

D.C. & Co.... it's live music for live people!!!!