

THE BUCK DEWEY BIG BAND

by Chris Hinkley



The Buck Dewey Big Band is without a doubt one of the more original bands currently honing their chops around the Boston club scene. They combine nearly all styles of music into a melting pot of dancey, bouncy, whacky fun that is sure to entertain. Instant recently caught up with the Buck Dewey's and laid the "Standard Instant Insight" question on them.

INSTANT: To start, the standard boring question for all the Instant readers that might not be familiar with Buck Dewey. How and why did Buck Dewey start?

BUCK DEWEY: How: Well, like most musicians today, we were all kidnapped from our respective homeworlds as infants and placed with unsuspecting Earth Families. For one reason or another, we all moved to Boston, and then met by chance via Phoenix Ads or bar room conversations. Why: From the start, we wanted to make music that represented the diversity of our record collections. We were bored with what is going on in "alternative" rock, and were sick of sitting at home listening to the records of our long dead heroes.

INSTANT: Buck Dewey has a very varied style, what are the musical backgrounds of each of the bands primary members?

BUCK DEWEY: Chris Barrett (Trumpet, Keys, and Vocals): Was previously the guitarist in a punk/heavy group called Grandizer. He has the largest CD collection of anyone you've ever seen, and as a result, he hasn't the bread to buy better suits. Jimmy Fox (Guitar, Vocals): Did time in the deep south, where by age 13 he'd memorized every song on the Waffle House Juke Box. Played rock in college (U. of Miami) with LOADFACE and then moved to Boston to try his luck. Daigo Fujiwara (Upright Bass, Flute, and Vocals): Grew up in Japan listening to the Beatles. Moved west and got into a punk band Mona Gritch. Is rumored to have survived the Battle of Pearl Harbor by locking himself in a shipboard keg-o-rator and singing "Oh Lord, Don't Let Them Drop That Atomic Bomb on Me." Matt Myers (Drums and Vocals): Is the experimental brainchild of one Dr. Elmer D. Fudd, who transplanted the brains of long dead jazz musicians into the heads of unsuspecting Midwestern children. And though all of Dr. Fudd's notes were destroyed in a tragic fire, it is generally assumed that Matt got Chuck Mangione's brain. Rob

O' Dwyer (Percussion, Trombone, and Vocals) Spent his youth in suburban thrift stores in upstate New York searching for such classics as Bill Fleming's "Songs the Virgins Love". Then one day he got on the wrong bus and ended up in the big city where he sings for tips and an occasional Manwich.

INSTANT: What has been the primary driving force behind the music of Buck Dewey?

BUCK DEWEY: A desire to travel the U.S.A. on \$10 per day, seeing people who are more fortunate than us dancing to our crazy beats and the deli trays provided by our generous hosts on the club circuit.

INSTANT: As Buck Dewey progresses musically, what direction to you see the band going in? Meaning, do you see yourselves getting more experimental with the music, changing styles, adapting, etc, etc.

BUCK DEWEY: Well, being a band with stylistic diversity is advantageous because it allows your audience to think that any style of music we try is within the realm of possibility. As far as future plans, a few of us just finished recording music to a film, there are solo/side projects in the works, and we hope to have another album out by summerish 1999. We like to stay busy.

INSTANT: What influences Buck Dewey - both musically and non-musically?

BUCK DEWEY: Good Movies; Russian Authors; Charles Mingus; Rap, Reggae, and Dub; the plan; Vaudeville; Country & Western; Louis Armstrong; the blues; Curtis Mayfield; Prince; Wine, Women, & Love.

INSTANT: If Buck Dewey could go on the road with any 3 bands from any era, who would they be and why?

BUCK DEWEY: Emmitt Otter's Jugband Christmas Band, because we like animals that lay stink; "The" Quintet, so we could get some autographs; and Late '50's early '60's James Brown, because even today at 60+ he's the best show around, so just imagine what it was like back when he was in his 20's and 30's.

INSTANT: Who would Buck Dewey consider to be their peers and their idols?

BUCK DEWEY: Idols: Tom Waits, T-Bone Walker, Duke Ellington, Elvin Jones, Bob Dylan, Raymond Scott, Igor Stravinsky, Mother Theresa, Bugs Bunny, and anyone else who does some good for the world. Peers: Any band that's in it now that's trying to do something different with their sound.

INSTANT: Boston is a very competitive scene, what is your opinion of the scene as a hole and where do you see yourselves in it?

BUCK DEWEY: The scene is much better than in any of our respective hometowns, so we can't complain. We wish commercial radio would play more local music in those "prime time" slots and that somebody would start a campaign to keep the bars open later and the T system going 24hrs. As far as where we fit in, we strive to be the best live show you can see in Boston, and we try to give our fans their money's worth every time they come by.

INSTANT: What has been the Buck Dewey's best moment to date and what has been the worst?

BUCK DEWEY: Best: Our CD release party with Down Low Connection, Sway, and Walk Proudly was a great time.

Worst: None. We've had no van breakdowns (knock on wood) and we regret nothing.

INSTANT: Finally, where did the name come from?

BUCK DEWEY: Buck Dewey is a character loosely based on Henry Spencer, blues singer from Central Square. The Big Band Part comes from being five bands in one, and our interest in producing a big sound with interesting arrangements of simple catchy melodies.