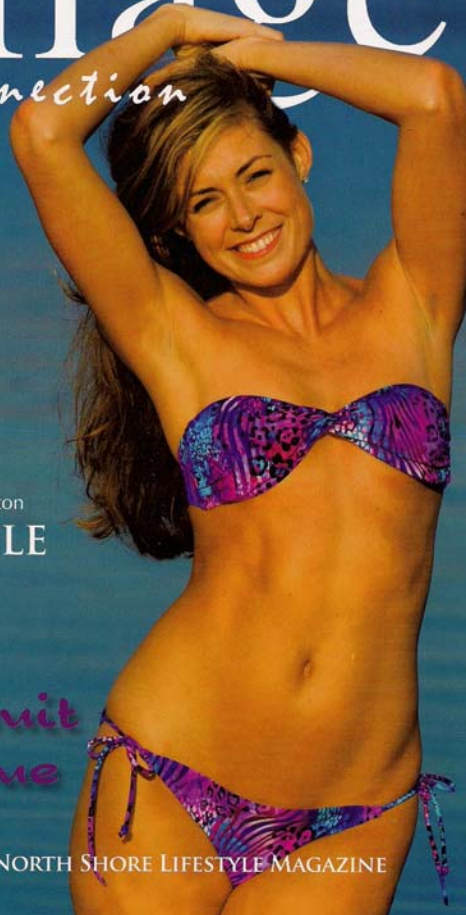


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The Bossa Nova Beatniks

Making Good-Time Music For 20 Years And Counting

The Bossa Nova Beatniks were born in Greenwich Village in January of 1992. The quartet debuted at the Village Gate on Bleecker Street clad in leather outfits akin to The Police.

Now, 20 years later, the band members are still wearing leather (albeit to a lesser degree) and their music has evolved to incorporate more Latin rhythms (bossas, sambas and bongos), but the Beatniks don't look as if they'll be slowing down anytime soon.

"It's been 20 years for this particular band, but we're always looking to do new material and explore new musical avenues," said Tom Gould, the Beatniks' lead vocalist who also plays bass and guitar. "I feel we're just scratching the surface with what we can do as a band, and I hope we can keep doing so for another 20 years."

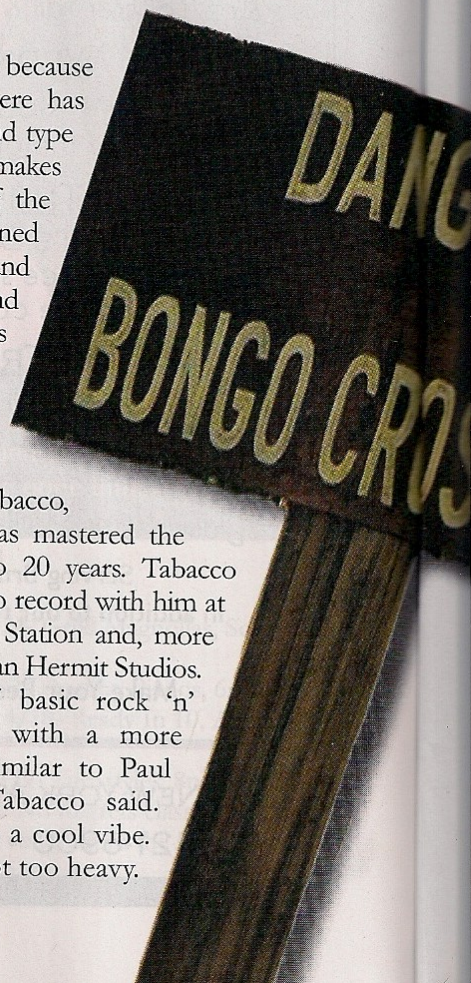
Since getting together on that fateful January evening, the Beatniks have produced a dozen CDs and have been playing at venues in and around Huntington ever since. This group of local rockers from Huntington (Gould and guitarist Michael Bifulco), Oyster Bay (Tim Stapleton; back-up vocals, guitar and percussion) and Bethpage (drummer George Vahamonde) have played countless shows throughout Long Island and Manhattan.

"It's fantastic to play in and around your home town," said Gould, who has lived in Huntington since he was four years

old. "You basically give back because obviously growing up around here has contributed greatly to the style and type of music we play. Huntington makes for an interesting mix because of the closeness to New York City combined with the beauty of the shoreline and the harbor. And putting the band in Huntington, I think really gives us the magic to make our music possible and to make it real."

One person who has gotten an up-close-and-personal look into the band's sound is John Tabacco, a producer and engineer who has mastered the Beatniks' recordings for close to 20 years. Tabacco explained that the Beatniks used to record with him at Backdoor Studios in Huntington Station and, more recently, in Stony Brook at Suburban Hermit Studios.

"Their music is a blend of basic rock 'n' roll from the '60s morphed with a more contemporary sound that is similar to Paul Simon's Graceland record," Tabacco said. "It's really just rock 'n' roll with a cool vibe. It's very good-time music. It's not too heavy."





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It's good-time music that's great to dance to. It's good party music."

He added, "Fun, fun is they key word for the Bossa Nova Beatniks. Their music is a lot of fun."

Fred Burns, a local poet and fan of the band for close to 20 years, said he finds the music of the Bossa Nova Beatniks to be unique, above all else.

"I enjoy the natural, original sound of the Bossa Nova Beatniks," Burns said. "It's a mix of jazz, calypso and rock 'n' roll, but it's their own sound. Even though it's a combination of a lot of different types of music, it's original and unique music. It's real and honest. The music seems like it comes from the heart. There's no one else around that sounds like them."

Burns added that one thing that attracts him to their music is the honesty of the songs of the Bossa Nova Beatniks. "The words to the songs are about real people, real events and feelings. In this day and age that's kind of hard

to find, but that's what I get from them. Tom's not going for mainstream; he's going for what comes from himself. That I admire a great deal."

Gould confirmed that the Beatniks aren't in the music business to make mainstream music lovers happy.

"Creatively we're doing our own thing, playing and having a great time," Gould said. "One of the advantages to not being in the whole record company, corporate music world is that we don't answer to anybody else. If we want to make music, we make music. As long as it's artistically satisfying, that's all that matters to us. And we are extremely artistically satisfied and continue to have great experiences playing music."

But Gould said no matter what kind of music the Bossa Nova Beatniks are making that he knows someone, somewhere is enjoying it.

"Now with Internet and Facebook, YouTube and iTunes, we have people all over the world that are getting to enjoy our music," Gould said. "People are downloading our songs every day. Somewhere, right now, someone is downloading a Bossa Nova Beatniks song."