Mp3 Elastic - Rock: Funk Rock



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Aurally nutritious while at the same time a tasty treat that will satisfy your sweet-to-spicy sonic cravings, ELASTIC are crack musicians playing jazz-tinged groove-laden rock/pop tunes with storytelling lyrics. 13 MP3 Songs ROCK: Funk Rock, ROCK: Modern Rock Details: ELASTIC "My muse hadn't found me Or she was keeping it hid But then she caught me in the jungle and she ripped off the lid." With these lyrics, ELASTIC frontman T.J. Holsen describes how two years he spent in the remote mountains of New Guinea seemed to open up new creative sources for him. "I started writing music in college, when I was going after a degree in classical and jazz guitar. But when I went to New Guinea for the Peace Corps I still only had a handful of original tunes. Maybe being away from my album collection and the music scene forced me to figure out how to really plug in to my own stuff. I had to come up with my own songs to interest and entertain me, and the music's been flowing ever since." Returning from the jungle with a trunk full of songs, Holsen began playing around Chicago with various musicians and bands. Inevitably his unique approach to songwriting, blending sophisticated chord voicings and jazz-tinged progressions with funky rhythms and a rock sensibility, attracted drummer Marc Gratama and bass man Michael Weimann. The three of them form the core of ELASTIC, so named because it describes their ability to stretch and incorporate many musical influences, and because they always envisioned their trio-based band as incorporating guest musicians to fit whatever the music demanded. Dutch-born drummer Marc Gratama is a graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston. He has performed with many well-established musicians including Cuba Gooding ("Everybody Plays the Fool"), Phil Wilson, Hal Crook, Dave La Spina, Hans Dulfer, John Abercrombie, George Garzone, and Jerry Bergonzi. Marc has performed with various rock groups, funk groups, jazz small groups and Big Bands in the United States, Holland, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden and Hungary. He is also currently a member of

Chicago-based group Starcandy. Hailing from the home of the funk, Cincinnati, OH, is bassist Michael Weimann. Mike played in groups in Ohio, Colorado and the Pacific Northwest before moving to Chicago in 2001. Mike's influences include Paul McCartney, George Porter, Jr., Cachao and James Jamerson. He also currently plays with local group Saful Rumba. ELASTIC's current line-up includes lead guitar wizard Dennis Shepherd. Born and raised in the small town of Menominee, MI, Dennis started playing guitar at age 12, and was hired by the age of 13 for his first professional gig playing the club scene in Northeastern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Influenced by rock virtuosos early on, he soon turned his ears to the sounds of Jimi Hendrix, Jeff Beck, Mike Stern, John Scofield, Eric Johnson, Mike Landau, Steve Lukather, Jim Hall, Pat Metheny etc. to form a guitar style that is truly his own. Dennis has won numerous awards for his playing, and in 1995 had the unique opportunity of lending his fiery guitar work to a concert with Victor Wooten of Bela Fleck and Steve Bailey of Larry Carlton's band for their Bass Extremes concerts. Dennis has also performed on stage with the likes of Chicago Blues legend Pinetop Perkins and his band, Texas Blues Virtuoso Chris Duarte, and Greg Koch and the Tone Controls. He has been in various bands over the years and has opened for Cheap Trick, Ian Moore, Bloodline, Alan Parsons, Kansas, Molly Hatchet, Foreigner and other cheese. ELASTIC recently completed their first full-length CD, recorded at Chicago's School Street Studios, which includes 13 songs that deftly demonstrate the group's tight arrangements, musicianship, and compositional prowess. Guest musicians include Anibal Rojas (anibalrojas.com) on tenor saxophone and Perry Meritt on guitar.

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