

The Smooth Glide



mike dalton band

by Hal B. Selzer

The Mike Dalton Band is one of the more familiar names on the New Jersey music scene. With a schedule that includes up to 200 shows a year, the group has built up a strong following on the club circuit, and has now crossed over into the original scene with a new CD, called *Glider*.

"I'm lucky to have this cover scene to perform in while I work behind the scenes trying to write and record music for the big scene," relates Mike, the band namesake and vocalist, who also contributes piano and harmonica. Joining him in the group are Eddie Carson on guitar and vocals, Jimmy Druiett on drums and vocals, and Nick Massaro on bass and vocals. Nick was previously in the popular area bands Brian Kirk & The Jirks and Blasted.

Though he's had a number of musicians through

the years, Mike is especially happy with the current lineup. "Much like any musical project, over the years I met many musicians, some of which just inspired me enough to want to work with them," he explains. "Lucky for me, they were into it. Looking for a guitar player, I grabbed Eddie in or around 1993, although I think I wanted him in the band for at least five years previous to this. We went through a few members, then found a drummer in Jimmy Druiett in 1995. My drummer at that time had to leave, and the next day, my friend Little Jimmy Druiett called and said that his band was breaking up and he was looking for a gig. Bingo. A couple of bass players later, we acquired Nick in 2004. He was a last minute audition and we just knew he was the one."

Over the years the group has performed at just about every club on the Jersey scene, as well as a

number in New York City. They've graced the stages of Jenkinson's and Martell's Tiki Bar in Pt. Pleasant, Bar Anticipation in Belmar, the Tradewinds in Sea Bright, the Chatterbox and The Surf Club in Seaside Heights, The Stone Pony and Fastlane in Asbury Park, Leggett's and the Osprey in Manasquan, Joe Pop's in Long Beach Island, Tide's Café and the Public House in Neptune, Olson's and the Barre Chord in Toms River, the Birch Hill in Old Bridge, Texas Arizona and the Whiskey Bar in Hoboken, The Bitter End, CBGB's, and Kenny's Castaways in Manhattan, Rutgers and Monmouth Universities, and even the Continental Airlines Arena, PNC Bank Arts Center, and Yankee Stadium!

Mike doesn't label what the band does, pointing out that there's a wide variety to what they do. "Always a hard question, as we like to play and write so many different genres of music," he explains. "All the while, we're discovering different styles as we go along. Lately, for me, it's Ray Charles." Mike's other influences include The Beatles, Stevie Wonder, The Wallflowers, Toad The Wet Sprocket, Del Amitri, and Gavin DeGraw. "I could go on forever," he adds.

"Ed leans toward The Band, Lyle Lovett, and Jackson Browne to name a few. Jimmy likes a lot of harder stuff, including Metallica and Pearl Jam. Nick, being very eclectic, favors newer stuff like Green Day, Gavin DeGraw, and Blink 182, but is also driven by The Beatles, Sinatra, etc."

A few of the songs on the new CD have gotten an especially great response. "The Story Of My Life" has been embraced by so many people it's actually staggering," relates Mike. "Stairs Of Love," recently placed on Q104.3 FM-Out of the Box, is another favorite. 'For Life' is very popular as well, having been used as the wedding song for two

weddings thus far. What a compliment...I love it!"

As far as the future, Mike has several goals in mind. "Small picture is to keep writing and recording and enjoying it," he says. "We're promoting this CD in hopes of sliding into the big picture. That could include a publishing deal or an artist deal, whichever comes first. We're signing with Media 51 Management and we have great faith in them."

For further information about the new release, and gig info, check out the website at www.mikedalton.com. You can contact Mike at Mike-at wheezer4@aol.com

The Mike Dalton Band are opening for Brett Michaels of Poison on July 17, at The Headliner in Neptune, NJ.

