

Dan Hicks & THE HOT LICKS

Biography 2011

Beginning as a drummer in the seminal 60's San Francisco rock band The Charlatans, and continuing with his unique and legendary Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, Dan Hicks is widely acknowledged as one of the defining figures in American roots music. Having earned a reputation as a true original with his signature eclecticism and humor, Hicks continues to carve his way through a number of genres from proto-psychedelia to western swing and jazz, from tin pan alley to country blues -- all the while cultivating his own unique sound.

The original Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks recorded five ground-breaking and Billboard-charting records for the Columbia, Blue Thumb and Warner Bros. labels. They toured worldwide, and Dan appeared on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine three times.

Throughout the 60s and 70s there was no one who sounded at all like Dan Hicks & the Hot Licks, and remarkably, nearly 40 years later, there still isn't. We now find ourselves again in an age of introspective sensitive singer-songwriters. Luckily for us, throughout the past decade and amidst the new wave of freak folk that prides itself on its eclecticism, Dan has re-assembled the Hot Licks. Getting back into the swing of regularly recording and touring, he has proven once again that the king of hipster-chic will always be Dan Hicks.

This newest incarnation of Dan Hicks & the Hot Licks released the wildly successful *Beatin' the Heat* in 2000, featuring collaborations with Bette Midler, Elvis Costello, Tom Waits, Rickie Lee Jones and Brian Setzer. USA Today called it "one of the blessings of the new millennium." That release was followed by the live CD *Alive & Lickin'* in 2001.

Late 2003 saw the DVD/CD release of *Dan Hicks and The Hot Licks - Featuring An All Star Cast of Friends*, a spectacular concert and video project that reunited Hicks with virtually every musician he has ever played and recorded with. Both Mojo and Downbeat magazines rated it "Four Stars...one of the best CDs of 2004."

2005 brought the next studio release *Selected Shorts*, featuring special guests Willie Nelson, Jimmy Buffett, Gibby Haynes, Jim Keltner and Van Dyke Parks. It was widely touted as the band's best CD to date. As The New Yorker magazine remarked, "As great as his early masterpiece *Where's the Money?*...truly superb."

Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks tenth studio CD in 2009, *Tangled Tales*, was produced by Grammy-winner Chris Goldsmith (Blind Boys of Alabama). The widely acclaimed release on Surfdog Records features all new Dan Hicks original songs and special guests David Grisman, Roy Rogers, and Charlie Musselwhite, among others. To quote Daily Variety, "Dan Hicks is at the top of his game...unlike many pop artists today, a new studio album from Dan Hicks is like a new painting from Picasso."

The very first and long-awaited Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks Christmas album was released in October 2010 – *Crazy For Christmas*, also produced by Chris Goldsmith, was lauded by NPR's Fresh Air, the NY and LA Times, and The Washington Post. Called one of the Best of 2010 by the Village Voice, *Crazy For Christmas* also landed on Billboard's Heatseekers Chart.

Perhaps the Minneapolis Star Tribune sums it all up... "Dan Hicks is the eternal hipster, purveyor of the drollest and most swingin' tunes the rock generation ever enjoyed."

Show us the way, Dan.

The Dan Hicks Discography includes *Original Recordings* (with His Hot Licks) (1969), *Where's The Money?* (with His Hot Licks) (1971), *Striking It Rich* (with His Hot Licks) (1972), *Last Train to Hicksville* (with His Hot Licks) (1973), *It Happened One Bite* (1978), *Shootin' Straight* (with the Acoustic Warriors) (1994), *Beatin' the Heat* (with the Hot Licks) (2000), *Alive & Lickin'* (live album with the Hot Licks) (2001), *Dan Hicks and The Hot Licks: Featuring an All-Star Cast of Friends* (live CD + DVD) (2003), *Selected Shorts* (with the Hot Licks) (2004), *Tangled Tales* (with the Hot Licks) (2009), and now *Crazy For Christmas* (with the Hot Licks) (2010)

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