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THE DAY THE MUSIC CHANGED

August 1, 1981. That was the day that MTV was born. The first music video to be broadcast on MTV was the prophetic song "Video Killed the Radio Star" by the Buggles. Thus began the downward spiral of the music we knew and loved (I'm showing my age). The criteria for what makes a song a hit changed from the American Bandstand mantra, "It's got a good beat, and a catchy melody." to "That video has some really cool effects!" Music wasn't about the music anymore. To add to the quandary, are the drum machines, samplers, sequencers, and other number crunching devices, supposedly generating the music that used to be entrusted to real musicians.

REALITY ROCK

There is still hope for those of us addicted to "REAL" music. Believe it or not, there are a handful of bands dedicated to playing what I like to call "Reality Rock". You won't find any computers here - these guys actually sing and play their own instruments. Real guitars, real horns, real drums, and real Hammond organs. Such sweet imperfection!

Foremost among the "Reality" bands is the California based Papa Doo Run Run. "Papa", as their fans call them, is definitely from the "old" school (pardon the pun). They've been performing continuously since the late 60s! Yes, I said SIXTIES - playing the music they love, pre-MTV tunes with "a good beat and catchy melody", what has now become known as Classic Rock, but their real forte' is the band's award winning re-creation of the hits of the Beach Boys.

"We started doing our "Beach Party" act in the early 70's when we realized that those were the songs that put smiles on everyone's faces, and packed the dance floor. It's happy music and doesn't require a video to conjure up an image or get your imagination cooking." explained Don Zirilli, Papa's fearless leader, and keyboardist for the past 37 years.

The fact is, that the members of Papa Doo Run Run sound SO good doing those classic BBs' harmonies that over the years they have been recruited to fill positions in the Beach Boys band, and their various spin-off projects, on stage as well as in the studio. In addition to working with the BB's, Papa was responsible for reuniting surf legends Jan & Dean in the mid 70's and spent 5 years touring with the duo. During that time they also had roles in, and recorded the sound track album for the CBS-TV movie "Deadman's Curve", recounting J & D's life story.

As if all that wasn't enough, Papa Doo Run Run was Disneyland's "Celebrity House Band" for 15 years (1975-90), they've earned 2 Gold Records, have been nominated for a Grammy, and currently have 5 CD's out. Their 1975 hit single "Be True To Your School", (RCA), a remake of the BBs' 1964 recording, has become a standard among cheer leading squads throughout the United States.



Today, Papa is still going strong, with a calendar full of gigs, performing all over the world at private corporate events, public concerts, and occasional club date. They are working on album number 6, and in their spare time (what!) they do "Beach Boys sounding" radio and TV jingles. These guys put the "real" in reality!

Papa Doo Run Run - giving MTV a dose of REALITY (ROCK). Catch up with Papa on their web site: www.papadoo.com. - Dale Harrison, staff writer.