

MAMBO SONS **PRESS KIT**

Mambo Sons is an original blues based rock and roll trio, consisting of guitarist Tom Guerra, singer Scott Lawson and drummer Joe Lemieux. The group has performed extensively throughout the northern United States and UK, and over the past 5 years, have released 3 cds of original music to critical acclaim. What follows is a collection of highlights of live and studio accomplishments.

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For downloadable photos see www.MamboSons.com

- New cd "Racket of Three" (released 2006) is the group's best selling and most critically acclaimed album to date. The cd is on the indie label Omnicide / Guitar 9 Records, and reviews can be found on the website.
- The band has recently performed live on WOR's syndicated "The Joey Reynolds Show" to a listening audience of an estimated 2 million. Reynolds called the group "America's last great rock and roll band."
- Mambo Sons second cd (2003) "Play Some Rock & Roll!" was named as a "Top Indie Release" by NYRock magazine.
- "Play Some Rock & Roll" was released on The Orchard Records, December 2002. The 11 song cd has so far been critically acclaimed by many in the rock world (see attached).



- Guitarist Tom Guerra, also a writer for Vintage Guitar magazine, recently signed endorsement deals with DST Engineering Custom Amplifiers and Brian Moore Custom Guitars, both top of the line manufacturers of musical instruments.
- In September 2001, Mambo Sons played at The Big E in West Springfield, MA, prior to The Black Crowes.
- Website www.mambosons.com has recently passed the 25,000 user session mark.
- Self titled debut cd "Mambo Sons" with Rick Derringer was released in 2000. The disc sold out its initial pressing and is being distributed internationally on The Orchard label (www.theorchard.com). "Mambo Sons" also includes former Bob Dylan bassist Kenny Aaronson, John Entwistle keyboardist Alan St. Jon, and former Van Morrison sax player Collin Tilton. The cd was critically acclaimed and samples and reviews are available on the website.
- Several songs off the cd are receiving regular airplay on radio stations in Japan, Denmark, Sweden and the former Soviet Union.
- Over the years, Mambo Sons members have played with Steppenwolf, members of Bob Dylan, Muddy Waters and The Allman Bros. Bands, Max Weinberg, Mick Jones, David Lindley, Dave Mason, and James Cotton.

What the critics are saying about MAMBO SONS' "Play Some Rock & Roll!" cd...

"I really enjoyed it. The songwriting, singing, and production are all great and the guitar sounds and parts are particularly strong and well-crafted. I guess you can tell I don't belong to the Blues Police -- I enjoy any kind of music that's done well. I was knocked out by the subtle placement of the guitar effects across the soundstage rather than right with the source guitar -- making a bigger sound plus ear candy. Very cool, both in the all-over impact and the details." - Muddy Waters' longtime guitarist and solo artist [STEADY ROLLIN' BOB MARGOLIN](#)

"In a digital world of hyper tones of every kind, "Play Some Rock & Roll!" is refreshing... As a guitarist, I am biased towards cool vintage guitar tones and found myself wanting to grab my guitar and play some Keith Richard licks as I listen to the CD. Thanks Mambo Sons!" - Aerosmith guitarist [JIMMY CRESPO](#)

"Rarely is a disc, so centered on a diverse melting pot of influences, successful in delivering the goods with a tight production and a fistful of memorable songs." Vancouver's ["THE CUTTING EDGE" MAGAZINE](#)

"I love this one as much as the last. One of the nice things about this disc is the guitar sounds – clean with just a slight edge, very little in the effects department, and it's nice to hear the simplicity and how it just cuts right through... One of the best indie releases of the year" - ["NY ROCK MAGAZINE"](#)

"This CD, as was the case in the band's previous self-titled release, is of top quality from start to finish." - Nashville's ["BLUESROCKER MAGAZINE"](#)

"If it's some timeless, lively rock you seek, your search can end with Mambo Sons." - California's ["ROUGH EDGE MAGAZINE"](#)

"The melodic sense is very strong in all of the songs and I find the CD to be an incredibly pleasant surprise. The musicianship is flawless and they play exactly what is needed for each song in the right places. Highly recommended for all rockers out there who likes upbeat classic rock with a huge melodic sense." - Sweden's ["NORTHERN LIGHT" MAGAZINE"](#)



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Pattaya Mail

Established in 1993 Pattaya's First English Language Newspaper



Mott's CD review: Mambo Sons - Racket of Three

Mott the Dog

5 Stars *****

Happy New Year everybody. There have been many new albums released in 2005, amongst them some excellent albums by major artists including The Rolling Stones, Bon Jovi, Bruce Springsteen, Coldplay, etc. But for pure rock 'n' roll Mott the Dog's **Album of the Year** still has to go to Mambo Sons and their terrific album Racket Of Three.

Under the banner of 'Mambo Sons' Tom Guerra and Scott Lawson have issued three fabulous CDs. Firstly, there was the self titled debut 'Mambo Sons' (1999), a good rock 'n' roll album laying down the gauntlet of proper music, none of those tape loops for these boys. By the time of the second album 'Play Some Rock & Roll' the boys

had really hit their stride, and for their pains 'Play Some Rock & Roll' was voted best independent release of the year by the prestigious NY Rock Magazine. (I can tell you without a doubt it will definitely be Mott the Dog's album of the year this year.)

Now in 2005 we are given 'Racket of Three' which sees the boys now all out at a full speed musical gallop. This album simply wipes the floor with any of its contemporaries over the last few years.

Since the last album, the line up of 'Mambo Sons' has changed a little. Mike Hayden has slipped off the drum stool to make way for the very impressive Joe (The Cat) Lemieux, whilst with the departure of Jeff Keithline on bass, Scott Lawson has simply strapped on the bass himself and taken over the four string, allowing the Mambo's a very timeless sound, giving you the impression that Scott may have admired the odd bass line from Ronnie Lane of the 'Faces' or Andy Fraser of 'Free'. Which now gives you 'The Racket Of Three'.

As soon as opening song 'Play Some Rock & Roll (She's Comin' Over)' starts up with some bristling guitar riffs from Tom Guerra, your attention is grabbed, your foot starts to tap, and most embarrassingly of all you start to try and sing-a-long to the words on the first time you hear it. By the time Scott Lawson sings at exactly one minute forty eight seconds into the first song, "Yeah; And I just gotta say WAAAAAAHHH" before Tom Guerra comes in with the first of his guitar solo's that will peel the wallpaper from your room, you just know that you are listening to something very special.

This is not music for little boys and girls, this is the stuff of men and their ladies; here is music that Keith Richards and Johnny Depp would put on if they were having a party.

After the opening blast of 'Play Some Rock & Roll (She's Comin' Over)' you get 'Valentine' which starts off with a little acoustic guitar introduction, but don't be fooled by this and the title - the band soon swaggers into the chorus. There are no thoughts of taking their audience to school from the Mambo's, they just sing songs from their big old Connecticut hearts. There is nothing wrong with knowing what a song is about by just looking at the title, that's allowed these boys to let the music do the talking for them. Each song on the album has it's own identity, some with a lighter feel, some as heavy as an anvil, the one thing they have in common is that the Mambo groove flows through it's veins.

'Mr Rebound' is quite delightful, whilst 'Sidewinder Walk' is a great song in itself which has a false ending which then allows the guitars to really kick up their heels. 'You Broke My Mind' shows off that oft forgotten musical skill of smashing bottles, and includes the immortal line "Now I've got whisky breathe, but you've got half a mind."

You could put this CD on from start to finish at any party, and the only thing you would have to do at the end is push play again. It's that good.

As well as holding down the bass playing responsibilities, Scott Lawson gives a vocal tour de force throughout the entire collection, showing off a wide range of throats, mostly very buoyant, with a nuance of audacity, getting down and dirty with the guitar work of his partner on 'Been Out Of Touch', but often as well very tongue in cheek. Then this is a rock 'n' roll album, and it is supposed to be fun.

Joe ("The Cat") Lemieux was an excellent choice of drummer: he is very unselfish, leaving each song with plenty of space, playing in the same way as Charlie Watts does for the Rolling Stones. Tom Guerra is one of America's most respected guitarists, but for 'Racket of Three' he really pulls out all of the stops, playing like an axe hero when required, although by no means dominating any song, adding some great slide guitar to 'Be On Time'. But his greatest asset to the Mambo's is his ability to switch styles to suit each individual song. Of course his whistle playing on 'Rummy Hop' should not be overlooked.

Mambo Sons are definitely a guitar orientated rock 'n' roll band, but when they do call for a little tinkling of the ivories, only the best will do, and a special bow should be taken by Andre Balazs whose barrel house piano on 'Play Some Rock & Roll (She's Comin' Over)' is nothing short of superb, whilst elsewhere Matt Zeiner does an excellent job fitting in beautifully with the Mambo's.

It is impossible to listen to The Mambo Sons without a great big cheese eating grin spreading across your face, which is what rock 'n' roll is supposed to be all about. They maybe a racket of three, but a very fine racket it is to.

This is all about rockin' guitar, bass, drums, throat, and songs; who can possibly want more than that? For more information on the wonderful Mambo's please look up their website at www.mambosons.com. This is music to enjoy.

The thing I don't understand is - why is their second album called 'Play Some Rock & Roll' but this record has a song on it with that same title? Odd really...

Musicians

Tom Guerra: Guitars, Vocals, Bottle Smashing, Whistles, and when he was very quiet some keyboards

Scott Lawson: Bass and Lead Throat

Joe ("The Cat") Lemieux: Drums and Shaking Things

Matt Zeiner: Keyboards including Piano, and Goff Professional Hammond B-3

Andre Balazs: Piano on "Play Some Rock & Roll"

Songs

Play Some Rock & Roll (She's Comin' Over)

Valentine

Man Of Steel

Brandy On The Shelf

Be On Time

Sidewinder Walk

You Broke My Mind

Delta Slide

Mr. Rebound

Rummy Hop

Been out of Touch

Safe With Me

To contact Mott the Dog email: review@mott-the-dog.com

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Mambo Sons

Racket of Three

(Omnicide/Guitar Nine)

It's hard to keep a straight face while using the word "soulful" to describe White People music. The Mambo Sons are soulful because they're so basic: they're a guitar-drums-bass rock trio that just stomp straight through some sweet-ass songs. If the internet posts from slack-jawed Black-Eyed Sally's fans are true, these guys rip it up live. *Racket of Three* gets an additional soul injection from guest organ player Matt Zeiner. (Zeiner must be restless; he also appears on André Balazs' Bipolar Jukebox disc and plays with the Zigs and Batts Orchestra.) Between the snappy tempos and the melodies that couldn't give a shit whether or not radio likes them, this disc is closer to the rebel 'tude of early rock than anything that passes for punk these days.

more stories by Dan Barry



Mambo Sons, Racket of Three, Omnicide Records – Bob Cianci, Modern Drummer

The Mambo Sons play straight ahead rock n' roll music; drums, bass and guitar with vocals, and no smoke & mirrors, no studio tricks, no computers, no Pro Tools, and a definite lack of pretentious nonsense. Guitarist Tom Guerra supplies edgy but ever-tasteful rhythm and lead work. Drummer Joe "The Cat" Lemieux and bassist Scott Lawson are a solid rhythm section and provide a supple foundation on every tune. Lawson takes the lead vocals all around and does an admirable job. The music contains a rootsy blues element, but is solidly grounded in 60's and 70's classic rock. One will hear melodic traces of The Beatles, Stones, James Gang, ZZ Top and even a dash of Duane Eddy twang. Standout tracks include "Delta Slide," "Mr. Rebound," "Play Some Rock n' Roll (She's Comin' Over)," and the red hot Texas boogie, "Been Out Of Touch." There's hope for rock 'n' roll as long as bands like The Mambo Sons are out there doin' it. Order your copy at www.MamboSons.com.



THE CUTTING EDGE MAGAZINE, VANCOUVER - NOV 2005

MAMBO SONS

Racket Of Three

Independent

Racket of Three is the third recording for **Mambo Sons** since their inception in 1999. As the title suggests, they are big fans of Humble Pie, T-Rex and The Small Faces. A lighthearted trio, they employ Tom Guerra on guitar/vocals, Scott Lawson on bass/lead vocals and Joe Lemieux on drums. Their disc starts out sounding a bit like Jet (who in turn sound like The Kinks) with a great '60s garage riff in "Play Some Rock & Roll." Adding a slice of barroom-boogie piano punches up the slick pop tune and accompanies a signature Guerra solo. Genuine and flirty, the 12 songs here attach themselves closely to catchy hooks and tasty melodies.

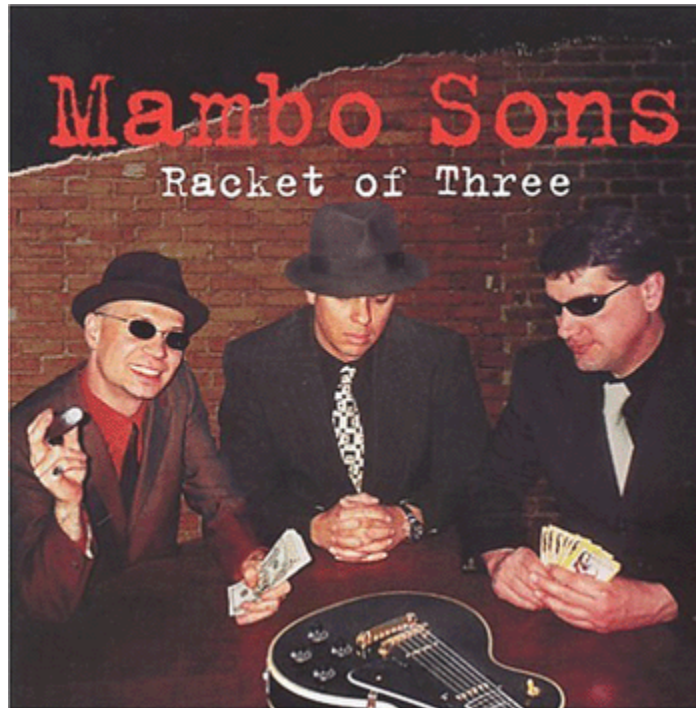
An honest production showcases a band in fine form. From the sweetness of acoustic numbers "Safe With Me" and "Valentine" to the CSN-like texture of "Brandy On The Shelf" and Beatle-esque "You Broke My Mind," we hear technically proficient musicians with a wide range of influences. Most of the record sticks with a '60-70's era SoCal sound mixing country roots and rock senilities. "Man Of Steel" and the bluesy "Delta Slide" are prime examples of their using slide guitar, lap steel and Hammond B-3 to full effect.

Most thrilling is when the Mambos turn it up a notch kicking out the speakers with electric swagger. "Been Out Of Touch" runs a great beat and "Sidewinder Walk" hits the nail on the head with a strutting bass-line, an infectious chorus and a ripping guitar lead. "Mr. Rebound" does justice with a souped-up reggae beat Jimmy Buffet would be proud of. In the end, **Racket Of Three** feels like an undiscovered classic in the basement bin of your local record store. Dust it off and give it a whirl.

Website: [Mambo Sons](http://www.MamboSons.com)

'Racket of Three' by Mambo Sons (October 27, 2005)

Mambo Sons, the name of which is derived from the T-Rex song 'Mambo Sun', are an energetic and lighthearted rock and roll threesome. The band is Scott Lawson on bass and lead vocals, Tom Guerra on guitar and vocals, and Joe Lemieux on drums. They've gone through minor personnel changes since the beginning, yet the two core members, Tom and Scott, have been polishing their brand of garage rock and roll for over two decades.



Racket Of Three is their third CD release, following *Mambo Sons* in 1999 and *Play Some Rock & Roll* in 2002. I find all of them quite interesting, mainly because each possesses a persona of its own. Music has a tendency to evoke past influences, and the songs of the Mambo Sons are heavily inspired; however, they appear to have eliminated their Stones connection in the latest release, one noticeable character carried over from the first CD to the second. These types of songs are fine, as Tom Guerra's chunky rhythms are a lot like Keith's, yet he appears to have settled into a sound and style all his own here. Maybe the CDs predominantly acoustic trait is responsible for that. Tom's an extremely versatile and tuneful guitar player, a fine acoustic player as well. Though the music within is fairly rocked up, and the lead guitar has great electric tone, the CD does rely heavily on acoustic guitar.

On the deep end, Scott Lawson's bass playing is melodic and full. His vocal ability is somewhat sluggish and careless, yet always tuneful and pleasingly listenable, an effectiveness that's associated with only the finest rock singers. Think John Lennon and you'll get my gist. Both longtime players appear to compliment each other perfectly, as the music comes together in a tight and fine-tuned mesh of melody. After performing a cameo role on the first CD, Joe 'The Cat', Lemieux returned to the drum stool in the new one. Joe is well known throughout the northeast US for his rock-solid, versatile playing. To top it off nicely, Matt Zeiner of the Dickey Betts Band filled in on piano and Hammond B-3 on a few of the flavorful cuts.

Racket Of Three wastes no time launching into a rocking start, the intro song being the title of their second CD, 'Play Some Rock & Roll'. This soulful number has some scorching lead guitar on it. 'Valentine' is a resourceful soft rocker. In my opinion, this would be an excellent choice for a radio play single. Tom's descending chordal arrangement, done on acoustic, is incredibly creative. Acoustic resonance persists in the next tune, 'Man Of Steel', as well. While Tom plays a satisfying Latin-esque solo midway through 'Brandy On The Shelf', Scott's bass playing is phenomenal on this one. 'Be On Time' is flowing with guitar textures, especially the descending lead run, which was put through a Vibratone. A crunchy rock rhythm begins 'Sindwinder Walk'. This is a driving, rocked-up number, emphasizing Tom's diversity on the instrument. 'You Broke My Mind' is an interesting ditty, suggestive of early Beatles (Lennon), more acoustic brilliance as well.

The lead solo, reminiscent of Harrison's Gretsch supplemented with a surf element, is actually a Gibson ES300 through a '66 Vibrolux. A real nice touch. 'Delta Slide' is a bluesy melody, in which Tom plays slide on the dobro. 'Rummy Hop' is a party song, done in a live setting. The album's closer, 'Safe With Me', was written years ago. It's a pleasant song about reminiscing over old vinyl records.

All of the songs on the CD have catchy and likable melodies; there really isn't a bad one in the lot. Supposedly, they had twenty songs ready to choose from, but chose the twelve that fit the CD best. I think 'Racket Of Three' is outstanding party rock. It's a CD that would easily put a smile on anyone's face, regardless of musical taste. I wouldn't settle just for this one, though, as the other two releases are worth owning as well.

Tom Guerra plays Fender Telecasters and Stratocasters, a 1956 Les Paul TV Special, a 1959 LP Reissue, a 1963 Gibson ES300 with a factory Bigsby, a 1963 Gibson ES330, a 1930s Dobro 90, a 1954 Les Paul Custom, a Brian Moore guitar, and Gibson J45 and J200 acoustics. Amps: a 50-watt small-box Marshall, a 22 watt DST-Engineering UV6, a Fender Vibratone, a Blockhead 18 First Born, a Fender '66 Vibrolux Reverb, and more.



Scott Lawson plays a Danelectro Longhorn Bass through a Hartke 4x10 Transporter when playing live. For the CD, in the band's website, he states: "I simply plugged the Danelectro into a SansAmp direct box, handed the line out to Tom, and played non-stop through all of the songs."

Joe Lemieux plays Gretsch maple drums.

THE CUTTING EDGE MAGAZINE, VANCOUVER - APRIL 2003

MAMBO SONS

"Play Some Rock & Roll!"

Casa Del Soul Productions



Led by Vintage Guitar Magazine contributor and axe-wielding extraordinaire Tom Guerra, Mambo Sons collide as the perfect combination of high-octane rhythm and blues with a dedicated respect for Rock's brazen legends. Generating a Stones meets T. Rex meets Jackson Browne vibe the Sons kick open the door on traditional open-chord riffing and passionate song writing. The foursome; Tom Guerra (guitars & vocals), Scott Lawson (lead vocals), Mike Hayden (drums & vocals) and Jeff Keithline (bass & vocals) not only create an uncanny homage to Sixties and Seventies rock they do so with authenticity using vintage Strats, Teles and the like driven through a beefy stack of Marshals. Strap on "I Get Around Too Much", "79" and "Everything Was Mine" for a teasing guitar punch at teeth-grinding garage rock then spin it around and land on "Rockaway" and listen to Guerra's solo tribute to blues-rock legend, Paul Kossoff. There are other teasers as well – the Warren Haynes slide in "Blame It All On You" echoes good 'ol Southern Rock via Allman Brothers "Seven Turns" era. The gruff "You Come On Back" takes a shot at psychedelic late-'60s with crisp T. Rex in the chorus "You can bang my gong." A laid-back Thin Lizzy creeps into the duel-guitar of "Strawberry Hill" and even a subtle AC/DC-like riff slips into "Little Live Thing." Rarely is a disc, so centered on a diverse melting pot of influences, successful in delivering the goods with a tight production and a fistful of memorable songs. For a sophomore outing, this is a fine testament to Guerra and his merry band of players.

Website: www.mambosons.com

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Mambo Sons, Play Some Rock & Roll (© 2002 Casa Del Sol Productions)

You know, I reviewed these guys over a year ago, and I just reread that review, and it could easily apply to this disc. Straight-ahead rock in the Ian Hunter, early Rod Stewart vein, melodic rock with a slight Brit tinge to it. And I love this one as much as the last. One of the nice things about this disc is the guitar sounds – clean with just a slight edge, very little in the effects department, and it's nice to hear the simplicity and how it just cuts right through. "Our Time Is Getting Closer" has a Byrds feel to it, helped along by a twelve-string electric, but for the most part it's rock and roll. All the guys are accomplished musicians, and everything here is done right. Some of the numbers have an updated blues feel to them, kind of like the Black Crowes. Again, it's all good, and I love hearing these guys. **One of the top indie releases of the year.** Enough said. www.mambosons.com

Mambo Sons, Play Some Rock & Roll, The Orchard, 2002, USA

Mambo Sons consists of Tom Guerra (guitars & vocals), Scott Lawson (lead vocals), Mike Hayden (drums & vocals) and Jeff Keithline (bass & vocals). The dial is set on a classic type of rock music, with hints of influences from bands/artists like the Rolling Stones, and Tom Petty. With that comes a very down to earth rocking sound with guitars, bass and drums with loads of rock 'n roll licks from the Chuck Berry school rocked up the way Keith Richards has done all these years. As a whole I would say their sound has something of a 60s pop vibe to it combined with a classic 70s rock vibe in the arrangements with a little of Americana sprinkled on top of it.

The CD kicks off with a typical Keith Richards type of riff on "I Get Around Too Much". The lyrics sets the tone right away with its "good fun" kinda lyrics. An excellent rocker. "Blame It All On You Come On Back" continues in the same direction with some excellent slide guitar thrown in to carry a melody line throughout. The footstompers out there should beware as you might prepare for an aching foot already, only two tracks into the CD. "Strawberry Hill" sounds like a tip of the hat to Phil Lynott and Thin Lizzy, with its dual harmony guitar lines and also a vocal melody in the verses that is right up Lynott's alley. It's not a hard rocker, rather something in the line of Lizzy's "Southbound" twisted around in a little more Americana type of sound. Another favorite is "'79" that sounds like a cross between T.Rex and the Stones, i.e. rock with a great pop vibe.

The melodic sense is very strong in all of the songs and I find the CD to be an incredibly pleasant surprise. The musicianship is flawless and they play exactly what is needed for each song in the right places. With the back to basics approach in the arrangements the CD comes through with a timeless feel. Highly recommended for all rockers out there who likes upbeat classic rock with a huge melodic sense.

Tracks:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. I Get Around Too Much | 6. Little Live Thing |
| 2. Blame It All On | 7. Our Time Is Getting Closer |
| 3. You Come On Back | 8. Rockaway |
| 4. Strawberry Hill | 9. '79 |
| 5. River Is Wide | 10. What You Got |
| | 11. Everything Was Mine |

<mailto:radrocker39@hotmail.com> LH, January 2003

Band web site: www.mambosons.com

Label web site: www.theorchard.com

Get the CD here: www.amazon.com

Original Rock & Roll from Connecticut's Best

by Paul Tatro

Younger generations of music fans have spent the last decade steadily moving away from what has become known as "classic rock." Glastonbury resident Tom Guerra and his band Mambo Sons remain stalwart.

You won't find any rap, Cuban dance music or synthesizers on their sophomore record *Play Some Rock & Roll*, a work produced by Guerra in his South Glastonbury studio. Instead, there are nearly a dozen original straightforward rock jams having nothing at all to do with the popular Latin dance in the group's name. The group takes its name, says Guerra, from an old T-Rex record that features a song entitled *Mambo Son*.

According to Guerra, his love of music began early. His parents, recalls Guerra, used to play the Beatles constantly, which inspired him to pick up the guitar at the age of 14. Guerra still cites Paul McCartney and John Lennon as two of his major influences as a songwriter, along with, of course, Bob Dylan. As a guitarist, Guerra says he is influenced by a roster of Rolling Stones (Keith Richards, Brian Johnson, Mick Taylor and Ronnie Wood) along with 70s blues rocker Rory Gallagher and one-time David Bowie backer Mick Ronson.

Band members Mike Hayden, Scott Lawson and Jeff Keithline have interesting résumés. Keithline, the group's 49-year old bassist, was born in Glastonbury and lived here until he was 20. Now a business owner in Rhode Island, Keithline worked with RCA recording artists Silverado during the late 70's.

Originally from Manchester, Hayden, the drummer, worked with Keithline as a member of Silverado as well. A full-time musician and teacher, Hayden, 50, has had considerable exposure in the rock world, having toured with Steppenwolf, Canned Heat, The Platters, Richie Havens and Don McLean among many others.

Lead vocalist on the record, Lawson has performed with artists such as Border Patrol, David Lindley (Jackson Browne backer) and Mick Jones (of Foreigner, not the Clash). Living in Northampton, MA, Lawson is the front man for his own band called Zip Cody.

Guerra himself says he has been playing what he describes as blues, roots rock n' roll and R&B guitar for over 25 years. He has been featured in *Guitar Player* magazine and writes for *Vintage Guitar* magazine. He has also played with Muddy Waters bassist Charles Calmese, Jaimee

from the Allman Brothers and Max Weinberg and opened for Def Leppard.

Prior to the formation of the Mambo Sons, Guerra was also the chief songwriter and singer for the Delray's 1997 *Red White and Blues*, a fundraiser for Governor John Rowland that sold over 10,000 copies, an effort the musician says he is quite proud of.

Guerra says that he is fond of the local southern New England scene. "Our best show to date," says Guerra of his latest project, "was *First Night Hartford* last year. It was great playing our own music to several hundred people and getting the response we got."

Exposure, says Guerra, is the group's biggest challenge. While the group has many fans within the music industry, including Rick Deringer who contributed heavily to the group's first recording, and former Aerosmith guitarist Jimmy Crespo, it is often difficult to line up concerts.

"I would love to do a show at The Audubon Society," says Guerra of his South Glastonbury neighbors, "if they'll let us rock the house!"

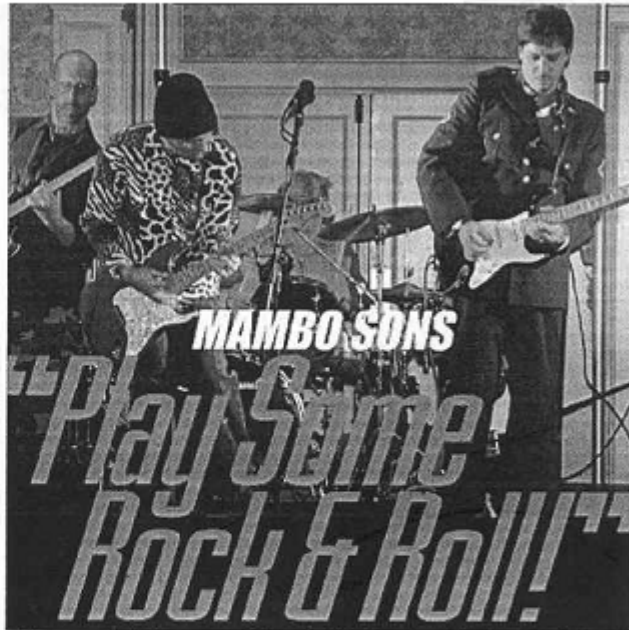
"Because we play original music, there is an absence of places to play, that has been a challenge," says Guerra. Instead, the band has relied on the Internet to connect with listeners from around the world.

"The Internet has been a great way to increase the reach of this band internationally. We are currently getting regular airplay in Japan, Denmark, Germany and Sweden," adds Guerra. Even the group's record label, *The Orchid*, is web-based.

When asked about the meaning of his music, Guerra explains, "the title - *Play Some Rock & Roll!* was a phrase we heard for years from drunken hecklers when we were regulars on the blues circuit, you know 'Play some Rock & Roll! Play Free Bird!' so in a way, this is dedicated to them. There is no political statement. We want people to realize is that there is still good guitar based Rock & Roll music being made, even though its no longer the darling of the music business."

"One thing I wanted to clarify, is that I define 'Rock & Roll' differently from 'Rock' music. Rock & Roll swings, it is fun and uplifting versus its darker, more mean-spirited cousin 'Rock'."

In that case, *Play Some Rock & Roll* is clearly a work of Rock & Roll. Most of the songs are



The cover of the latest record from the Mambo Sons, *Play Some Rock & Roll*. From the left are Jeff Keithline (a.k.a. Dirk Mambo), Scott Lawson (a.k.a. Scooter Mambo), drummer Mike Hayden (a.k.a. Mick Mambo) and frontman Tom Guerra (a.k.a. Tommy Mambo).

up-tempo with just enough seediness to make these veterans rebellious enough to retain credibility. If you are a fan of artists such as Mott the Hoople, early Eric Clapton and John Hiatt, chances are you will enjoy Mambo Sons.

Their new record, *Play Some Rock & Roll*,

will be available following their official record release party at Sully's Pub, 2071 Park St., Hartford scheduled for Friday, Jan. 10. For more information about the Mambo Sons, visit www.mambosons.com.