

# the **DIPLOMATS** of **SOLID** **SOUND**

NATE BASINGER--Hammond organ • DUSTIN CONNER--bass  
DOUG ROBERSON--guitar • JIM VINER--drums

## “LET’S COOL ONE”

Simmered low’n’slow in the bubbling soul sauce of Booker T & The MG’s, The Meters, James Brown and the B-3-driven, backyard barbecue jams of Jimmy Smith, Lou Donaldson, Jimmy McGriff, Lonnie Smith and Jack McDuff, THE DIPLOMATS OF SOLID SOUND have followed up their acclaimed 2001 full-length debut (*instrumental action soul*) with a dozen more hip-shakers on their brand-new biscuit for Estrus Records, *LET’S COOL ONE*.

Nate “Count” Basinger’s high-octane B-3 whirls front-and-center as Doug Roberson’s guitar shifts from classic comps culled from rhythm kings like Steve Cropper, Grant Green and Curtis Mayfield to an array of stinging lead interjections assembled over years on the rock’n’soul trail. Tub-thumper Jimmy Viner rides herd over the whole shebang, and Dustin Conner’s fluid bass lines combine with Basinger’s left-hand on the Hammond to give the Solid Sound a sinfully chubby bottom.

Recorded primarily at Iowa City’s Minstrel Studio in September of ’02 and January of ’03, *LET’S COOL ONE* was engineered and co-produced (with the band) by noted taste-maker John Svec. Nate’s brother David Basinger contributes a honkin’ baritone sax to the disc’s sizzling opener, “Cuber Bake.” The final three tracks (“Escape From Shantytown,” “Clyde The Glide” and “The Plush Club”) were cut at The Shanty in April ’03 with Viner taking a production turn while tenor saxophonist Will Kalkoff adds some extra bite to the stew. And that’s Justin Feinstein sittin’ in on the congas.

Formed in 1999 as a side project of Iowa City-based ’60s garage retro-fitters The Bent Scepters, THE DIPLOMATS roared into the fast lane with the addition of the B-3 stylings of Basinger.

The ace keyboardist’s extensive experience in various jazz and roots-rock combos greatly expanded the quartet’s range of motion, and THE DIPLOMATS set about stuffing a seemingly bottomless kit bag of dancefloor monsters that straddle the boogaloo magic of their time-honored influences with the sounds of such contemporary fellow-travelers as Sugarman 3, The Nick Rossi Set and the James Taylor Quartet.

In between albums, THE DIPLOMATS OF SOLID SOUND cranked out a pair of prized 7” EP’s in 2002 (*PORK CHOP* on Estrus, and *ALLIGATOR BOOGALOO* on Butterfly Records in Spain).

Along the way, the band has shared the stage with such luminaries as The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Southern Culture On The Skids, Grant Green Jr., Robert Walter’s 20th Congress, Alex Chilton, Dick Dale, Jonathan Richman, The Delta 72, The Sadies, Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys and Blue Note organ legend Reuben Wilson.

Smokier than a Tiki torch, shinier than the chrome on a rib-joint’s Formica tables, tangier than Hecky Powell’s secret sauce and funkier than a two-dollar hooker’s come-hither, the loose-limbed gentlemen D/B/A THE DIPLOMATS OF SOLID SOUND have assembled a greazy, to-the-bone groove machine that’s stronger than new rope.

And when they say, “*LET’S COOL ONE*,” that sucka’s gonna be CHILLED...

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