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"A Fresh Wind Blows At Monterey"

MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL
A TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY "HAMMOND" SMITH
INAUGURATION OF "DIZZY'S DEN"

Good Company: Dan Papaila joins two departed jazz masters,
Eddie Harris and Johnny "Hammond" Smith for a moment of festival magic.

"In 38 years at Monterey I've seldom experienced the excitement that the spontaneous organ jam session created in 'Dizzy's Den' on Friday"

-- Phil Elwood - San Francisco Chronicle

"A Salute to Johnny 'Hammond' Smith took on a life of it's own and passed into festival folklore as one of those all time - ya hadda been there - great moments in jazz."

--Robert Tate

"Hundreds stood at the doors of 'Dizzy's Den' on Friday and as the festival ended it's three day, five concert, four stage run, everyone still spoke of the dazzling display."

-- Mae Tate - L.A. Jazz Scene

Long a presence on the California scene, Dan Papaila moved to Los Angeles in the mid 70's, later worked in Sacramento, and since 1984 has been living in San Diego. Along the way he has impressed audiences with his improvisational ease and facility. Dan's early memories include watching his uncle perform as a guitarist with a country and western group at the Grand Ole Opry in Wheeling, West Virginia. Born in New Kensington, PA on July 9, 1950, Dan moved to Omaha in 1959 with his mother and sister. At age 16 he was given \$60 by his mother to acquire a guitar from a local pawn shop. Within two years he was working in local pop groups.

It was around 1970 that Dan familiarized himself with the work of Wes Montgomery, Grant Green, Kenny Burrell and George Benson. He also became close friends with another guitarist from Omaha, Billy Rogers; they studied and practiced together for several years before Rogers' untimely death in 1987.

His Los Angeles years found Dan working the lounge circuit with various trios. "Nearly all the clubs on the South side of Wilshire Boulevard had Hammond B-3 organs," he recalls. "I played lots of R&B with Billy Larkin, Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson and Big Joe Turner." In 1976 Dan began what would become a definitive association: he started working with the organist Johnny (Hammond) Smith.

During the four years with Smith, Dan graduated from Glendale College. He then traveled to Las Vegas in 1981 and played the Nevada circuit for a couple of years. Then it was back to the blues, co-leading an R&B fusion group with keyboardist Roger Smith in Sacramento before the move to San Diego. Since then he has enjoyed success locally and on the jazz festival circuit.

--Leonard Feather

San Diego Union Tribune: George Varga / Fill in the Blank

Dan Papaila may be one of San Diego's leading jazz guitarists, but his blues and R&B credits are impressive in their own right. Big Joe Turner, Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, Big Mama Thornton, Percy Mayfield and Johnny "Hammond" Smith are among the blues and R&B greats Dan has worked with. During his tenure with Hammond organ dynamo Smith, he toured extensively through the south on the Chitlin' circuit. An in-demand guitar teacher (Anna Troy, 18 yr old guitar wiz Alex Ciavarelli, & Slightly Stoopid's Kyle McDonald are among his students), Papaila has also worked with such jazz luminaries as Herbie Hancock, Eddie Harris, Jimmy Smith, Blue Mitchell and Hank Crawford, as well as collaborating with Sheila E. & Randy Crawford.