

UPSIDE **<Groove Coalition>**

With a repertoire that spans nearly every genre, from funk to jazz to Latin, hip-hop and soul, and a cover catalog including the Meters, Bill Withers, and the Stones, UGC is destined to tickle even the most skeptical listener.

-Graham Fons, Shepherd Express

While Upside Groove Coalition deviates from the traditional three-minute song in favor of more textured, layered, and complex arrangements, they wisely eschew the extended solo performance. This is not to suggest that the members are incapable of grabbing the spotlight, but Upside Groove Coalition focuses instead on their cohesiveness as a group.

-Thomas Durkin, Riverwest Currents

...samba and New Orleans-style blues are undeniable influences as well. This mega-mixture of genres, and interesting choices for cover songs, are what make UGC unique...

-Molly Snyder Edler, OnMilwaukee.com

Friends and (at the time) former bandmates Steve Tycz (bass) and Brian Bruendl (drums) got together in 2001 to talk about what their ideal musical project might be like. The original concept of the Coalition was that members, and musical ideas could flow through the group freely. After putting together an initial roster of musicians, UGC recorded a demo and played several dozen shows. The lineup was shuffled in 2004, and soon afterward the band recorded the LP Funky Estofado. After producing a video, touring, and some high profile shows- opening for acts like Ozomatli, Tito Jackson, and the Greyhounds- UGC shuffled the deck again in 2006 and hit the road.

The group now includes the original Steve and Brian rhythm section, featuring Sean Berry on guitar and vocals, Troy Leisemann on saxophone, and Porsche Carmon on vocals and percussion. Each member brings their diverse talent and influences to the Coalition. Some influences are easy to hear through the range of material UGC covers live, while others show up in more subtle ways through the original music UGC has put out. One fan described the UGC sound this way: "It's funky... It's as if Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder used to sit around listening to Led Zeppelin records all day".

UGC's profile is once again on the upside (ahem), and the fans are catching on. Veteran promoters and booking agents have been calling on the band to play festivals and venues not only in their hometown of Milwaukee, such as Summerfest, State Fair, and the Rave, but as far West as the Bite of Seattle, as the word about the Coalition continues to get out.

Get down with Upside.

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