



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 former bandmates Steve Tycz (bass) and Brian Bruendl (drums) got together in 2001 and talked about what their ideal musical project might be like. The original concept of the Coalition was not to have a static lineup; that members, and more importantly musical ideas could flow through the group freely. After putting together an initial group of musicians, UGC recorded a demo, and played several dozen shows. The lineup was shuffled in 2004, and 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.

The current group includes the rhythm section of Tych and Bruendl, featuring Sean Berry on guitar and vocals, Troy Leisemann on saxophone, and Porsche Carmon on vocals and percussion. As before, each member brings diverse talents and influences to the Coalition. Some of those influences are easy to read by the diverse set of material UGC covers live, while others show up in more subtle ways through the original music UGC puts out. Those influences, combined with the creativity of the Coalition's members are distilled down into the new vision that is Upside Groove Coalition.

UGC's profile is once again on the rise, and the industry is showing signs of 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 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 Groove Coalition.

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