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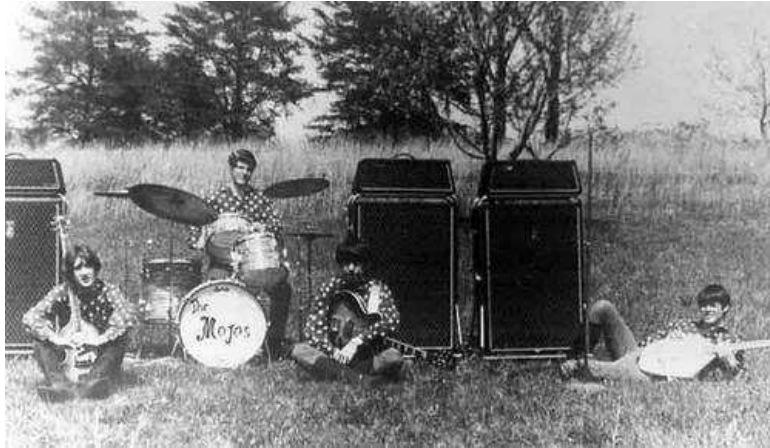


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Popular '60s Charleston music group The Mojos in their heyday — (from left) Paul Selan, Charles "Pedro" Jarrett, Rob Harris and Joe Clatworthy.



Gazette photo by Bill Lynch
(From left) Selan, Jarrett, Clatworthy and Harris.

CONCERT: The Mojos reunite for FestivALL

by **Bill Lynch**
for the Gazette

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A little more weathered and worn, "The Original Mojos" return to Charleston for FestivALL. Back in the '60s, the band was a local rock powerhouse and a genuine sensation.

Band members say they're glad to be back together, if only for a little while. "The Original Mojos" perform at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 20 as part of a special preview for FestivALL.

The Mojos began in 1965, shortly after the first wave of the British Invasion.

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**HOW WILL
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GET RATED?**

The graphic consists of a dark grey rectangular box with the text "HOW WILL YOUR SONG GET RATED?" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

At 17, Pedro Jarrett heard The Beatles and was in awe. "Man, that's the ticket," he remembered saying. He wanted to start a rock band.

Jarrett knew Joe Clatworthy, a singer and guitarist from school in St. Albans. Paul Selan and Rob Harris from Charleston heard what they were doing and sought them out.

"We showed up in his back yard," Harris said. "Went right to his garage."

The four teens hit it off and immediately started practicing together. Jarrett played drums. Harris at 15 was lead guitar. Seventeen-year-old Clatworthy took the front, provided vocals, played guitar and keyboard, and 15-year-old Selan played bass. Selan's father managed the band. They adopted a Mod band style, which included coordinated onstage fashion and haircuts.

"We knew an English guy who had a line of fancy Mod clothes," Selan said. "A lot of polka dot shirts, I think."

The band played out at local clubs, at places called The Goldfinger and Thunderball and at the North Charleston Rec Center. They played northward and into Ohio.

Much of their success, they said, was because of Jay Jarrell, "the Daddi-o of the radi-o," a disc jockey on AM radio station WKAZ who supported rock music. The music in Charleston of the time was largely Motown-style R&B and soul. The Mojos played rock.

At the height of their popularity, the original Mojos competed against other local bands at the Civic Center in an epic "Battle of the Bands." The prize was the chance to go to Huntington to appear on a television program. They won.

"Fifteen years old and I got to be on TV," Clatworthy said. "It was a big deal for all of us when we won that thing."

And then it was over. The band broke up. It was 1967.

"Well, that's what bands do," Harris said. "They break up."

And they drift.

"Rob and I kept in touch," Jarrett said. "Mostly, we'd talk every couple of months."

"Joe and I get together every 40 years," Harris quipped. "Just like clockwork."

They went on with their lives. Jarrett went to Woodstock. He laughs and says there are pictures of him in a sheepskin vest somewhere. He got a doctorate and teaches sociology at Ohio University. Harris continued to play out for a couple of years, but now works with computers at Highlights Magazine. Selan became a management consultant and spends as much time in Cancun as possible. Clatworthy became a painter in St. Albans, says he's writing a book and occasionally sings karaoke at the El Dorado.

This is where they've been. They married, settled down or moved away.

Michael Lipton has been working on developing a special exhibit for The West Virginia Music Hall of Fame called "Music of the Kanawha Valley: '60s and '70s." Among other things, Lipton was and is still gathering old recordings of music made

in West Virginia.

"The mid-'60s were an incredibly fertile time for music here," Lipton said. "With a lot of great talent. We're still looking for old recordings from that era that we can transfer to digital and include them in the exhibit."

Jack Griffith was a boy when the original Mojos were on fire. He was a huge fan, who sneaked into their shows, collected their 45s and listened to their music over and over.

"They were my Beatles," he said.

Griffith went on to have a music career of his own, played nationally with The Novo Combo, then later settled back into Charleston. When The West Virginia Music Hall of Fame decided to open nominations for induction into the hall, Griffith was a member of the committee. With the exhibit, it seemed like a good time to bring the band back together for a show or two.

"It's really kind of an honor that Jack thought of us," Clatworthy said.

"Well, luckily we all still play," Harris joked.

To contact staff writer Bill Lynch, use e-mail or call 348-5195.

If you go

FestivALL Preview and West Virginia Day Event on Wednesday: Music by Buckstone (6 p.m.), Comparsa (6:45 p.m.), Quiet (7:30 p.m.) and The Mojos (8:15 p.m.) on the Clay Center lawn. Gazz-sponsored "A City Becomes a Work of Art" panel discussion from 9 to 10:30 p.m. at Blues BBQ with music by the Ryan Kennedy Quartet. Both events are free, but the discussion requires a ticket. Call 348-3017 or e-mail douglas@cnpapers.com.