
THE HAPPY PALS NEW ORLEANS PARTY ORCHESTRA

www.HappyPals.ca



The Happy Pals New Orleans Party Orchestra is a seven-piece jazz band based in Toronto Canada, playing authentic old-time New Orleans party music. They've been featured every Saturday at Toronto's legendary Grossman's Tavern for over thirty years, and have attracted literally generations of fans.

The Happy Pals play swinging, rocking tunes you can dance, sing or just hang out to – pop standards, blues, hymns, marches, Dixieland, calypso, Rock'n'Roll, you name it! Tunes by Kid Thomas, King Oliver, Fats Domino, George Lewis, Johnny Cash, Glenn Miller, Hank Williams, Frank Sinatra, Bob Dylan and more!

Listen to sound samples of the Happy Pals at www.HappyPals.ca.

It's live stomping jazz music for all occasions, and it's Big Fun. Don't miss it.

Here's what critics around the world are saying:

"New Orleans jazz is alive and well and has taken root in, of all places, Toronto, Canada... Bourbon Street beckons for this kind of sound."

-All About Jazz, USA

"Their infectious brand of New Orleans-style jazz was great entertainment and had the audience roaring for more. They didn't let them leave without an encore."

-Just Jazz Magazine, England

"This is raw, unadulterated, exciting New Orleans jazz."

-The Jazz Gazette, Belgium

"They're the real thing and the music is fabulous... Great stuff - and superb for dancing of course."

-Just Jazz Magazine, England



THE HAPPY PALS NEW ORLEANS PARTY ORCHESTRA



The Happy Pals at Davos Sounds Good, Switzerland, 2009



The Happy Pals and a fan at Rapperswil, Switzerland, 2010

The Happy Pals recording with Dr. Michael White, 2009

The Happy Pals and dancers, Grossman's Tavern



THE HAPPY PALS NEW ORLEANS PARTY ORCHESTRA

THE MUSICIANS

Patrick Tevlin – Leader, Trumpet, Vocal



Patrick Tevlin has been a band leader in Toronto since 1976. On his first trip to New Orleans two years later Tevlin saw, heard and met trumpet master Kid Thomas Valentine, and he has never looked back. He built a style based on Kid Thomas along with other great New Orleans trumpeters including Dede Pierce and Louis Armstrong.

In 1983 Tevlin switched to tenor sax and clarinet, and joined mentor Kid Bastien's *Happy Pals*, where he played for twenty years and recorded five albums. His sax is rooted in New Orleans jazz as well as the early R&B style of stars like Fats Domino and Ray Charles. His clarinet is influenced by New Orleanians like George Lewis and Johnny Dodds.

When Kid Bastien died suddenly in 2003, Tevlin switched back to trumpet and took over leadership of the *Happy Pals*. Four new *Happy Pals* CDs have been issued since, and another is in the works. Tevlin switched careers from science (He holds a Ph.D. in physics.) to full-time music in 2005. In addition to the *Happy Pals* he regularly performs and records with several groups based in Toronto and has toured Europe solo as a featured guest.

Toby Hughes – Alto Sax, Vocal



Toby Hughes grew up with New Orleans music and was taught by Bastien / Ken Colyer clarinetist Bruce Bakewell. He first heard the *Happy Pals* at Grossman's as a child. Toby joined the *Happy Pals* in 2003, replacing Patrick Tevlin who moved over to trumpet.

Toby's sax is influenced by Louis Jordan, King Curtis and Jamaican ska master Tommy McCook.

Toby plays in a variety of jazz bands around Toronto, including the *Magnolia Brass Band* where he handles the tenor saxophone. As well, Toby leads Toronto's ska dance band *Frankie Foo and the Yoyo Smugglers*.

Lindsay "Kid" Kotowich – Trombone, Vocal



Kid Kotowich started out on trumpet and guitar in high school, playing everything from classic soul and rhythm & blues to "glam" rock. After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005 she became very interested in the music and culture of the Crescent City, and participated in several fundraisers for New Orleans' musicians. She and a group of fellow students worked with Patrick Tevlin to put together the *Lil' Blue Devils New Orleans Jazz Band*, all of whose members were in their teens.

Lindsay soon developed an interest in New Orleans style trombone, particularly Jim Robinson and Kid Ory, and joined the *Happy Pals* on trombone early in 2009. She has performed in festivals in Canada, the US and Europe, and is featured on the *Happy Pals*' latest CDs. She also leads the trombone section of Toronto's *Magnolia Brass Band*.

Roberta Tevlin – Piano, Vocal



“Sweet” Roberta Tevlin had a background in classical piano when she heard recordings of the great New Orleans trombonist Jim Robinson in 1977. She was inspired to take up trombone immediately. She joined the *Magnolia Brass Band* in 1980, then the *Happy Pals* in 1983.

In recent years Roberta has switched her focus back to piano, playing a rhythm style based on New Orleans powerhouses like Billie Pierce and Sister Annie Pavageau.

Roberta’s vocal style has been compared to Billie Pierce and the legendary Sweet Emma Barrett, who Roberta met on her first trip to New Orleans in 1979.

Alex Ralph – Banjo



Originally from Oregon, Alex Ralph grew up playing guitar. With the band *Foxfire* he has recorded three CDs of all-original music in styles ranging from country to reggae to club dance music.

Alex began filling in on tenor banjo with the *Happy Pals* in 2004, and has developed a driving four-beat reminiscent of Lawrence Marrero. He has toured Europe with the *Happy Pals* annually since 2007, performed in New Orleans, and recorded on the *Happy Pals* most recent three CDs.

Tyler Thomson – String Bass, Vocal



Bassist Tyler Thomson attended Rosedale Heights School for the Arts in Toronto, where he indulged a life-long passion for music. He focussed on alto saxophone there, but also played piano, guitar and of course string bass. He was one of the founders of the *Lil’ Blue Devils New Orleans Jazz Band*, with a group of dedicated fellow students.

Tyler has been playing with *The Happy Pals* since 2007, and has performed in New Orleans’ *French Quarter Festival* and in Europe. His powerful bass is influenced by the New Orleans slap style and by early rockabilly.

Chuck Clarke – Drums, Vocal



Drummer Chuck Clarke started out playing classical music on French horn. He took up drums in high school, where he played with various jazz and rock bands, eventually coming under the influence of New Orleans greats like Alec Bigard, Cié Frazier and Sammy Penn. He has developed into one of the finest traditional stylists around.

Chuck has provided the light but driving beat of the *Happy Pals* since 1982, and anchors Toronto’s *Magnolia Brass Band* on bass drum.

As well, Chuck plays a fine New Orleans style trumpet, reminiscent of Kid Howard.

THE HAPPY PALS NEW ORLEANS PARTY ORCHESTRA

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Happy Pals have been playing New Orleans dancehall jazz in Toronto for over three decades. The band was founded by legendary trumpeter Cliff “Kid” Bastien in the 1970s.

Bastien was a Cockney who discovered the music of New Orleans as a teenager in the 1950s. He soon emigrated to Canada and began spending more and more time in New Orleans learning from the masters. Bastien is now widely considered to have been the foremost disciple of New Orleans trumpet great “Kid Thomas” Valentine, who he first saw playing a neighbourhood dance at the Westwego Louisiana firehall.

Bastien began his long residency at Grossman’s Tavern in Toronto sometime between 1968 and 1971, depending on who you ask. After a brief hiatus, the band was renamed *The Happy Pals* in the late 1970s. Drummer Chuck Clarke joined in 1982, followed by Patrick Tevlin on tenor saxophone and Roberta Tevlin on trombone in 1983.

One Saturday in February 2003, Bastien didn’t show up for a gig. Some of the musicians went to search him out while the rest of the band started up. Word soon came back: Cliff “Kid” Bastien had died. The band was playing the traditional New Orleans hymn “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” when the phone rang. Musicians flew in from the United States and Europe for Bastien’s funeral, which was conducted with the New Orleans style *Magnolia Brass Band*. The wake took over the whole weekend at Grossman’s Tavern. The Annual *Kid Bastien Forever New Orleans Jazz Festival* is held every February to raise the roof and remember the Kid.

After Bastien’s passing, tenor sax player Patrick Tevlin switched back his first instrument, trumpet, to take on the leadership of *The Happy Pals*. Alto saxophonist Toby Hughes took over the reed chair. *The Happy Pals’* New Orleans flavour is undiminished, since Tevlin is also a long-time disciple of Kid Thomas Valentine. *The Happy Pals* are featured each year at New Orleans’ French Quarter Festival. *The Happy Pals* have recently released four new CDs, *New Orleans Party Orchestra* (2005), *The Happy Pals with Brian Carrick* (2007), *Moonlight Bay* (with Dr. Michael White, 2009) and *Lost Tracks* (2009), which have garnered widespread acclaim.

One of Bastien’s missions in life was to help young musicians get a start playing New Orleans jazz. That tradition has only grown: *The Happy Pals* trombonist, bassist and banjoist are in their early twenties, as is the band’s touring drummer – all of them playing solidly in the New Orleans style. As Tevlin puts it, “if young people are a part of live music, then live music has a future.”

After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in August 2005, *The Happy Pals* organized or participated in five separate fundraisers, which brought in over \$33,000 for New Orleans Musicians.

Toronto’s *Happy Pals* have toured Europe annually since 2007, and been featured at Switzerland’s *JazzAscona*, and *Davos Sounds Good* jazz festivals, and Italy’s *SwingInPic*. *The Happy Pals* 2010 European tour is in the planning stages now, and will include *Blues’n’Jazz Rapperswil-Jona*, *New Orleans Meets Zofingen*, and *JazzAscona*.

THE HAPPY PALS NEW ORLEANS PARTY ORCHESTRA

DISCOGRAPHY

Listen to sound samples of the Happy Pals CDs at www.HappyPals.ca .

The Happy Pals Lost Tracks New Orleans North CD-011, 2009.

Patrick Tevlin tpt; Dr. Michael White clt; Toby Hughes as; Kid Kotowich, Roberta Tevlin tbn; Roberta Tevlin, Roberta Hunt pno; Rainer Hunck, Alex Ralph, Ted Jensen bj; Tyler Thomson, Philip J. Carney sbs; Chuck Clarke d.

Cradle Song; Motor Car Horn; Trouble In Mind; King Of The Road; Big Lunch Blues; Kid Bastien, Kid Thomas and Moonlight Bay.

The Happy Pals with Dr. Michael White Moonlight Bay New Orleans North CD-010, 2009.

Patrick Tevlin tpt; Dr. Michael White clt; Toby Hughes as; Kid Kotowich tbn; Roberta Tevlin pno; Rainer Hunck, Alex Ralph, Ted Jensen bj; Tyler Thomson sbs; Chuck Clarke d.

Je Vous Aime; Everybody Loves Saturday Night; I'll Never Smile Again; Big Chief Battleaxe; Riverside Blues; Dinah; Moonlight Bay; Royal Telephone; Last Train To San Fernando; Make Me A Pallet On Your Floor; You Tell Me Your Dreams; Maori Farewell Song; China Boy; My Happiness.

The Happy Pals with Brian Carrick Kid Bastien Forever Kick-Ass New Orleans Jazz Party 2007

New Orleans North CD-007, 2007.

Patrick Tevlin tpt; Brian Carrick clt, ts; Toby Hughes as; Roberta Tevlin tbn; Roberta Hunt pno; Rainer Hunck, Alex Ralph bj; Philip J. Carney sbs; Chuck Clarke d.

My Blue Heaven; When You and I Were Young, Maggie; Love in Bloom; Bugle Boy March; Bright Star; Undecided; Mobile Stomp; Over the Waves; How About You?; High Society.

The Happy Pals New Orleans Party Orchestra New Orleans North CD-006, 2005.

Patrick Tevlin tpt; Toby Hughes as; Roberta Tevlin tbn; Roberta Hunt pno; Rainer Hunck bj; Philip J. Carney sbs; Chuck Clarke d.

Algiers Strut; Mama's Gone Goodbye; Don't Think Twice, It's Alright; I Come To The Garden Alone; Folsom Prison Blues; Short Dress Gal; Lovely Way To Spend An Evening; Climax Rag; Love Songs Of The Nile; Maryland My Maryland.

Kid Bastien's Happy Pals Live at Grossman's Sunny South Records, 1993.

Kid Bastien tpt; Patrick Tevlin ts; Roberta Tevlin tbn; Roberta Hunt pno; Len Samuels bj; Jimmy Jones sbs; Chuck Clarke d.

Jamabalaya; Sing On; Sammy's Blues; Kat's Got Kittens; In The Upper Garden; Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone; Sail Along Silvery Moon; C'est Magnifique; Blue & Broken Hearted; Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez!

Kid Bastien's Happy Pals The Canoe Club Sessions Volume One Sunny South Records Tapeworm # 3, 1989.

Kid Bastien tpt; Patrick Tevlin clt, tenor; Roberta Tevlin tbn; Charlie Trainor pno; Elizabeth Brown bj; Chuck Clarke d.

You Tell Me Your Dreams; Willie The Weeper; Roll Along Kentucky Moon; Algiers Strut; Ole Miss; Laughing Samba; Exactly Like You; When We Danced At The Mardi Gras; I Don't Want To Set The World On Fire; The Old Spinning Wheel In The Parlour; Lily Of The Valley.

Kid Bastien's Happy Pals With Norrie Cox Sunny South Records Tapeworm # 2, 1988.

Kid Bastien tpt; Norrie Cox clt; Patrick Tevlin ts; Roberta Tevlin tbn; Elizabeth Brown bj; Colin Bray sbs; Stephen Brown pno; Chuck Clarke d.

Sing On; S'il Vous Plait; Meet Me Tonight In Dreamland; Big Chief Battle Axe; April Showers; In The Shade Of The Old Apple Tree; Short Dress Gal; Silver Bells; New Iberia Blues; Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall.

Kid Bastien's Happy Pals Sunny South Records LP 104, 1984.

Kid Bastien tpt; Patrick Tevlin ts; Roberta Tevlin tbn; Stephen Brown pno; Jack King bj; Rainer Hunck sbs; Chuck Clarke d.

Clarinet Marmalade; The Curse Of An Aching Heart; Sheik Of Araby; Somebody Else Is Taking My Place; Caldonia; Lil' Liza Jane; Precious Lord, Take My Hand; Down On The Farm; Bogalousa Strut; Shake It And Break It; Home (When Shadows Fall).

THE HAPPY PALS NEW ORLEANS PARTY ORCHESTRA
WHAT IS NEW ORLEANS JAZZ, ANYWAY?

Here's what jazz historian Bill Russell had to say about it:

“At the dawn of [the last] century a new music was born in New Orleans. It was a ‘good time’ music, to make the people happy. Its appeal was so immediate that the music soon swept the whole country, then circled the globe. It was not so much a kind of music as a style of playing. Essentially it was simply a way of playing ‘melody with a beat.’ New Orleans musicians learned to work together to produce the loose relaxed beat which is so irresistible that one cannot help but dance, or at least sway and pat one’s foot to its swing. The easy going, almost hypnotic rhythm at times seems to run effortlessly by itself.

“In this style of music, where all the musicians strive to help each other rather than grab the spotlight, it is natural for improvised ensemble choruses to be a feature. Working together harmoniously can generate a feeling of power. The ensembles often build with cumulative effect and surging momentum to thrilling climaxes.

“New Orleans musicians seem by nature to be a friendly lot. It takes only a minute to get to know true New Orleans musicians. The friendly warmth and enthusiasm with which they work together is part of their life. Their audiences cannot help having a good time, because the band is having such a grand time.”¹

Jazz, as every amateur historian will tell you, went up the river from New Orleans to Chicago in the 1920s. But jazz never left New Orleans; the city’s rich musical tradition lived on in the dancehalls, the parties and the parades. New Orleans’ functional, neighbourhood music is what *The Happy Pals* play – tunes people want to hear, that they don’t have to sit up straight to listen to.

What makes it New Orleans style? The beat has to be infectious and danceable. There has to be a melody you can sing along to. It has to be functional music, for the people. It has to be a lot of fun and be beautiful at the same time.

Who are *The Happy Pals* big influences? Kid Thomas and his wonderful band with Emanuel Paul on saxophone and Sammy Penn on drums to start with. New Orleans musicians like clarinetist George Lewis, trumpeters Dede Pierce and Elmer Talbert, the magnificent trombonist Jim Robinson, drummers like Warren “Baby” Dodds and Cié Frazier to name a few.

New Orleans music doesn’t stop with jazz. *The Happy Pals* are just as likely to play a rock & roll tune by Fats Domino, a bit of Bob Dylan or Creedence, or a country song by anyone from Willie Nelson or Johnny Cash to Hank Williams or Jimmie Rodgers. In short, New Orleans music is about having a good time at a great party.

^{1 1} Bill Russell, *New Orleans Style*, Jazzology Press, New Orleans, 1994.