

# Making It Big in Music: It's Duck Soup

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Duck Soup was the main course at the Main Point the other night.

A very nice party, too.

A real family affair. Small children were bopping around having the time of their lives. Older folks stood and chatted or took advantage of the few chairs available in the Main Point's basement, traditional location for parties at the Bryn Mawr folk club. Somewhere in between was a delegation from the New York and Philadelphia pop music communities.

There were spicy meatballs, cheeses and other things to eat. And there was punch to drink. All quite proper and nice — although there were those who said the punch packed enough wallop to deck a very mean mule.

But it was the Duck Soup that ultimately stole the show. That's what the people came for.

Duck Soup, you see, is the name of a Philadelphia rock group. The latest in a long line of local bands to take a shot at the big time, which is what the Main Point party and show were all about.

The group has a contract with Perception Records, and the company is about to release its first Duck Soup single, "Big Shoes," backed with "Lucky." A Duck Soup album



Philadelphia's Duck Soup

is expected to follow in the near future.

So, hey, let's hear it for Duck Soup — which includes James Pabarue on lead vocals; Jimmy Hayne, guitar and vocals; Bill Hayward, bass and vocals; Bill Koepnick, drums and vocals, and Richard Grossman, keyboards and vocals.

Once again, a Philadelphia band will try to make the world forget about San Francisco, Los Angeles and Liverpool. And so parents and kids and pals showed up at the party to wish them well.

Grossman, a 1959 Temple graduate, writes most of Duck Soup's material and serves as the group leader. Grossman's roots are in jazz. He began working in local jazz combos as far back as his freshman days at Central High School.

He became deeply involved in the "free-form" approach to jazz, but the emergence of the Beatles in the early '60s changed Grossman's thinking and he began paying attention to rock.

Grossman drifted from one thing to another, played in a neighborhood pick-up band that specialized in college gigs and bars and finally found himself writing lyrics to the music he had been putting together for years.

The new music he was writing prompted Grossman to start thinking seriously about putting together a different kind of rock band, and so he recruited the personnel now included in Duck Soup.

The name of the band?

Well, that was inspired by the old Marx Brothers movie. And if the connection

doesn't click with you, it should be noted that Duck Soup has committed itself to serving up a portion of humor with its rock 'n' roll.

What other group would proudly bill itself as "The Only Band that Wasn't at Woodstock"?

And what other band would write a song titled "Goin' Back to Nashville (Cause I Ain't Ever Been There Before)"?

While that particular number is presented in the country-rock mold, it is not representative of Duck Soup's total point of view, which understandably features a considerable amount of jazz influence.

Making a solid judgment of the band under the Main Point Party circumstances was difficult. To be sure, the crowd reaction to Duck Soup's music was enthusiastic. But

then one can hardly call the crowd non-partisan.

Duck Soup is certainly at its best when the group is not taking itself too seriously. Serious, on the surface, at least.

This is a deceptively tight group. The musicians' manner — in front of a delegation of friends, at least — is loose, to put it mildly. They give the impression of being a gang of guys who were pulled in from the street to make some noise until the real band arrives.

But once Duck Soup gets down to the business of playing, the quality of musicianship is never in doubt.

What happens now, of course, is up to the people who buy records. And that group undoubtedly includes Duck Soup's friends and relatives, which isn't a bad start.