

The Fools

The Fools are a Massachusetts rock band best known for the party atmosphere of their live performances and tongue-in-cheek original songs, covers and parodies.

History

Hailing from Ipswich, Massachusetts, the band was previously named "The Rhythm A's", where future Nervous Eaters' Steve Cataldo, Robb Skeen, and Jeff Wilkinson were joined by singer Mike Girard and guitarist Rich Bartlett. By 1975, Girard and Bartlett teamed up with Stacey Pedrick (guitar), Doug Forman (bass), and Chris Pedrick (drums), becoming The Fools.

In 1979, the band released "Psycho Chicken", a parody of The Talking Heads' "Psycho Killer", and it was an immediate hit on Boston radio stations. The group followed it up with "It's a Night for Beautiful Girls," which peaked at #67 on the Billboard charts. EMI signed the band and sent them on a U.S. tour with The Knack.¹ Shortly after, they recorded their debut album, *Sold Out*.

In 1981, the band released their second album *Heavy Mental*, which featured a cover of Roy Orbison's "Running Scared" that reached #50 on the Billboard Hot 100. That year, The Fools were the opening band for Van Halen on their *Fair Warning* tour.

After being dropped by EMI, Chris Pedrick departed and was replaced by drummer Leo Black. Shortly after, Forman decided to leave, his void filled by bassist Joe Holaday.

In 1985, The Fools released *World Dance Party* independently.¹ Four of the album's songs - "World Dance Party", "Life Sucks...Then You Die", "She Makes Me Feel Big", and a remake of Manfred Mann's "Doo Wah Diddy" - received considerable radio airplay throughout New England and the video for "Doo Wah Diddy" was shown extensively on MTV.

In 2003, after seven years of part-time duty, the band returned to a full schedule. Bassist Lou Spagnola had replaced Joe Holaday, who by then was working with the Beatles tribute band Beatlejuice. Holaday does however continue make occasional appearances with the band.

In 2010, Mike Girard released the book "Psycho Chicken & Other Foolish Tales", which outlined the sometimes hilarious history of the band. The band continues to tour today.

In February of 2012, Lou Spagnola left the band, and was replaced by Bassist Eric Adamson.