



THE NIGHTHAWKS

Tryin' To Get To You

new release on

EllerSoul
RECORDS®

The transition from the last version of the Nighthawks to the current line up went smoothly over the summer of 2018, as Paul Bell and Johnny Castle chose to stay off the road but stay active locally. As often as possible **Dan Hovey** and Paul Bell played together that summer. Dan had always been the guest guitarist

for the traditional pre-Thanksgiving event in Kensington, Maryland and had subbed for Paul several times. By the Fall, Dan was holding down the core of the tunes and Paul was free to add the spice. As Johnny brought his focus to his own band, the Thrillbillys, **Paul Pisciotta** took over holding down the big bottom. Paul P was no stranger to the band, having just missed joining in 1974 after auditioning the same day as Jan Zukowski. Mark remembered listening to him in the early '60s when Paul was playing with Robert Gordon in the Confidentials. He and **Mark Stutso**, now with a decade under his belt, quickly became a rock solid and swinging rhythm section virtually overnight. Both his own vocal harmony and Dan's relaxed yet powerful baritone has taken the three and four part harmony to new heights.

Mark Stutso and Dan Hovey both are actively writing and their skills are apparent in the originals included on this set. **Mark Wenner**, the last of the original band from 1972, has continued to evolve his vocals and dynamic harp work and always comes up with interesting and obscure classic material.

New Years Eve, 2021 into 2022 will mark the **50th anniversary** for this band as it has remained true to its initial mission of recreating Rock and Roll from the ever exciting roots of American Music.

The set fires off with "*Come Love*," an upbeat Jimmy Reed number featuring Mark and Mark vocal duet. Dan Hovey follows up with a swinging take on T-Bone Walker's "*Your Wig Is Gone*." Mark Stutso follows with James Brown's "*Tell Me What I Did Wrong*," also recorded by the band on the 1990 release **Trouble** that featured Danny Morris on lead vocal. Also culled from that album and redone is the title song, "*Tryin' To Get To You*," Mark Wenner's take on Elvis Presley's take on the gospel group, the Eagles' tune.

Dan Hovey offers the next tune, a shape changing and jazzy ditty called "*Baby It's Time*," followed by the funky "*I Hate a Nickel*" from the Norm Nardini/Mark Stutso team from Mark's Pittsburgh days. Then Hovey gets lowdown with Hank Ballard's "*Rain Down Tears*" followed by another Nardini/Stutso piece called "*Somethin' Cookin'*." Mark Wenner takes a stab at the Manhattan's "*Searchin' For My Baby*" that Mark remembers from his educational days and nights attending at the Howard Theater in D.C. in the early '60s. Dan Hovey rips up "*Don't Worry Baby*" from one of the band's favorite contemporaries, Los Lobos. Then the crew is back to the swinging feel for the obscure "*Luscious*" from Rockabilly Roy Hall. From the kings of the Carolina Beach Music scene, Chairmen of the Board, comes the heavy blues riff of the same name, "*Chairman of the Board*" from Mark Stutso. Showcasing the band's acoustic side to finish off is a Dan Hovey original, "*The Cheap Stuff*." In typical Nighthawks fashion the list is all over the map, yet the style and sound is unmistakably **The Nighthawks**.