

THE GRAYHAWK BAND

The Grayhawk Band is a New Orleans-based combo with a musical style that represents a uniquely diverse blend of influences – blues, funk, folk, and rock, intertwined with tribal rhythms and themes. With their Native American roots planted firmly in the diverse musical landscape of New Orleans, the band creates a distinctive sound all their own. And if you listen closely, you will hear the influences of various musical icons ranging from James Brown to the Rolling Stones. It's an earthy, upbeat sound that appeals to a wide range of audiences.

Since the mid '90's, the Grayhawk Band has performed at many of Louisiana's great cultural events such as the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, French Quarter Fest, International Fest, Bayou Boogaloo, NCORE, and the Moundville Native American Festival. The band recorded their first full length album of original music, "Worth The Wait", in 2011. In 2012 they began doing an annual benefit concert raising funds for selected non-profit organizations featuring a variety of guest musicians including Dr. John. They are also on the roster of bands performing at schools across Louisiana for the Young Audiences Arts in Education program. Currently the band is performing regularly in New Orleans and across the Southeastern U.S. while developing new original material for their next two full length albums.

At the core of the band, on lead vocals and drums, is **Grayhawk Perkins**. A New Orleans-born Native American (Choctaw and Houma Indian), Perkins is a well known cultural figure in Louisiana who has been described as a 21st century renaissance man. He performs often as a solo artist at both Jazz Fest and the Voodoo Experience Music Festival and has been involved in the Louisiana music industry for decades. In addition to performing music on stage since childhood, he is also an educator, historian, and 'tribal storyteller', recognized as an expert on Native American and American Colonial history. He has been a guest speaker at forums across the country including the Smithsonian Institution. In the film industry, he has worked both as an actor and historical consultant to numerous films shot in the Southern United States. He was honored by St. Tammany Parish as Cultural Artist of the Year for 2010 in the field of music. Recently, he collaborated with French band Mezcal Jazz Unit on "13 Moons", the first album to combine Native American lyrics with modern progressive jazz music. Chicago-born bassist, **Peter Paul Jones**, is a formally trained musician who has studied and performed many styles of music ranging from American R&B and gospel to West African and the Mikado. New Orleanians, **Mark St. James** (guitar), **Chris Alford** (guitar), and **David Polk** (saxophone and keyboard) are veterans of the city's rock and jazz scene. During live shows, the band is often joined on stage by various guest musicians.

Behind their songs and heartfelt live performances lie the experience and enthusiasm of lifelong New Orleans musicians who are excited to be doing what they love. Together, the music they make is an irresistible, funky, multicultural brew.

www.thegrayhawkband.com