

Imperial Rock & Roll Band/Danville, Virginia

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Brief Description
 The Imperial Rock "N" Roll Combo was formed from the remnant of "Mickey" and the Tech Raiders. In late 1962 the rigors of engineering and electronics tech school forced the Tech Raiders, a four piece top forty band, to fold. Without missing a beat, former Raider member's Mickey Brafford and Billy Gwaltney hired Johnny Johnson to be the new band's drummer. Johnny quickly proved to be a great addition. We had known Johnny as a "fill in" drummer often playing with the Raiders, but we had no idea the high school student was such a shrewd businessman. Immediately Johnny went to work as band manager/drummer building business contacts with The Jokers Three, Hit Attractions, Inc. and many others. From the very beginning the band collectively decided to remain true to the music, and leave egos at home. In the early 60's a genre known to us as The Greensboro Sound began to emerge. Now, we know that sound as Shag Music, or cool laid back Beach Rhythm & Blues. Sadly the Imperials Combo has no known recordings that survived. We were recorded on tape at many live concerts, but never tried vinyl recording. Our favorite songs were Stubborn Kind of Fellow, and Bla

Year Established	1962-1967			
Favorite Venues	18-30 Club in Danville, SAE fraternity in Charlottesville			
Music Genre/Recordings	R&B: no recordings			
Performer	Now Resides	Instrument	Years In The Band	Notes
Brafford, Mickey	Goode, VA.	Bass/Lead Guitar	1962-1966	Had a dream to start a band
Gwaltney, Billy	Waverly, VA.	Lead Sax/Vocals	1962-1966	Excellent Sax Player and vocalist
Johnson, Johnny	Roanoke, VA	Drummer/Manager	1962-1966	Mover & Shaker -
Towler, Johnny		Lead Guitar/Arranger	1962-1967	Best Guitar player in the biz
Thomason, Brian	Danville, VA	Bass Player	1962-1963	Had Job Conflicts
Cannon, Von	Danville, VA,	Vocalist	1962-1967	Ladies Loved Him
Johnson, Joe	Deceased	Soul Singer	1963-1966	Great Soul Man
Farmer, Danny	Hurt, VA,	Rhythm Guitar	1962-1967	Jazz Man
Parker, Barry	Danville, VA	Keyboards,	1962-1967	GREAT Keyboard Man
Farr, Marvin	N.O. LA.,	Sax & Vocals	1963-1967	Great Harmony
Parrish, George	Deceased,	Trumpet & Vocals	1964-1966,	Famous "Crazy" George. - Great
Thomas, Sammy	Danville, VA,	Drums	1964-1967	Fantastic Talent !