

The Spicy Pickles feat. Hannah Rodriguez

Program Option 3

Groove Through The Ages: The Music That Moves America

90 min, w/ intermission
(Swing/Jump Blues/Funk)

Program Overview

From the second lines of New Orleans to the rent parties of Harlem, from the jukebox jump blues of Louis Jordan to the modern soul of Sharon Jones and Amy Winehouse, groove has always been America's musical heartbeat.

In Harlem during the 1920s and 30s, rent parties were more than just entertainment — they were how people paid the bills, built community, and found joy in hard times. The music was the soundtrack of survival, social life, and celebration. That same spirit carried forward into the dance halls of the swing era, the jump blues of the 1940s, and later into funk and soul, where the groove only deepened.

In this program, The Spicy Pickles trace the story of **groove through the ages** — showing how jazz, swing, jump blues, funk, soul, and pop all share the same mission: to make people move. With fiery solos, witty vocals, honking saxophone features, and deep-pocket funk, *Groove Through the Ages* connects a century of American music into one joyful, danceable thread.

Program

First Half (~42 minutes | 9 tunes)

1. **Royal Garden Blues** – Traditional New Orleans jazz; the second-line groove that started it all.
2. **St. Louis Blues** (W.C. Handy) – The blues foundation that bridged into swing.
3. **Don't Be That Way** (Benny Goodman) – Carnegie Hall classic; swing enters the spotlight.
4. **When I Get Low I Get High** (Chick Webb/Ella Fitzgerald) – Witty, up-tempo vocal feature.
5. **They Raided the Joint** (Helen Humes) – Playful jump blues vocal.
6. **Topsy** – Horn-driven swing energy.
7. **Buck Jumpin'** (Fats Waller) – Guitar feature; early electric groove.
8. **Deacon's Hop** (Big Jay McNeely) – Saxophone honker; early R&B/jump blues power.
9. **Castle Rock** (Johnny Hodges & Al Sears) – Saxophone feature; groove-heavy closer that bridges swing into jump blues.

~15-minute Intermission

Second Half (~40–42 minutes | 8 tunes)

10. **Bloodhound** (Hot Lips Page) – Jump blues opener; gritty and raw.
11. **Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens** (Louis Jordan) – Humorous, crowd-pleasing vocal.
12. **Let the Good Times Roll** (Louis Jordan) – Quintessential R&B party anthem.

13. **Dickie's Dream** – Basie riff swing + solo features.
 14. **Pass The Peas** – Funk instrumental from the library of James Brown and the JB's
 15. **Obvious** (Original) - Original pop love tune by vocalist Hannah Rodriguez
 16. **100 Days, 100 Nights** (Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings) – Modern soul anthem, emotionally powerful vocal.
 17. **Valerie** (Amy Winehouse w/ The Dap-Kings) – Pop-soul hit, retro groove with modern edge.
 18. **Encore: Real Fine Daddy** – Female vocal feature; sassy, playful, high-energy closer.
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Historical Note

Groove has always been the thread connecting American music. Early New Orleans jazz (*Royal Garden Blues*) and blues (*St. Louis Blues*) put rhythm at the center of the story. The swing era made groove a national phenomenon with Goodman, Chick Webb, and Count Basie. By the 1940s, jump blues and R&B artists like Louis Jordan, Helen Humes, Johnny Hodges, and Big Jay McNeely filled jukeboxes with playful, danceable hits.

That same groove carried forward into funk and soul, with James Brown's JB's laying down iconic horn riffs and Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings reviving that energy for a new generation. Amy Winehouse's *Valerie*, powered by the Dap-Kings, proved that groove never goes out of style — it only evolves.

This program shows how, across decades, groove has been **the music that moves America**.