

On September 22, 1971, Music Icons and Grammy Award Winners

THE BEACH BOYS

performed in this very building, the Baypoint Inn & Conference Center, in the ballroom of what was once The Ramada Inn. The show was sponsored by Roger Williams University.

The concert featured the band's founding members Carl Wilson, Dennis Wilson, Mike Love, Al Jardine, and long-time member Bruce Johnston, along with their backing musicians Daryl Dragon, Ed Carter, Mike Kowalski, Bobby Torres, and their new five-piece horn section.

The performance that night was a very significant historic event in the band's career. The concert was the first-ever appearance of new members Ricky Fataar and Billy Hinsche to the band, essentially changing The Beach Boys' live and recording act's line-up into a multi-racial and multi-cultural group.

This shifted the band into an important creative period, which included the recording of the classic albums 'Carl and the Passions - So Tough' and 'Holland,' of which shortly thereafter Rolling Stone magazine would name them 'Band of the Year.' Blondie Chaplin would arrive five months later to complete the picture and to solidify the band's new direction.

In the words of revered rock journalist Paul Williams, 'This was The Beach Boys' most interesting, creative, and adventurous era, the years when the band had the freedom and impulse to be something greater.'

The Beach Boys are indeed 'America's Band,' and on that night here in Portsmouth, RI in 1971, they truly earned that honor by turning the group into a unit of true diversity, embracing and echoing America's mantle as a 'melting pot,' and turning the heads of music fans and the rock press all over the world.

The historic concert that took place here on September 22, 1971 was a truly amazing moment in Rhode Island Musical History, especially since it happened in the 'Birthplace of American Democracy.' Roger Williams would be proud!

Mike Love : 'Not only were they good musicians (Ricky, Billy and Blondie), but their presence was itself a statement. They integrated The Beach Boys, bringing us greater diversity in race and sound.'

Carl Wilson : 'This will add more personality and more emotions to our music. They all compose and they'll all be allowed to express themselves within the group.'

Dennis Wilson : 'I don't remember ever having this much fun listening to the band. It's like having stereo sound added to your color TV.'

Commemoration Chairs:

Al Gomes
Connie Watrous
Tony Montefusco