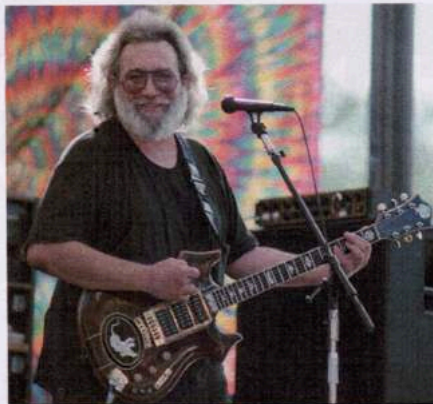


JUNE 2019

ENTERTAINMENT



## THE JERRY GARCIA BAND DELIVER THE GOODS

THE GRATEFUL DEAD SINGER/GUITARIST'S  
SIDE ACT SHINES IN A NEW RELEASE.

IN 1987, LEGENDARY do-gooder, clown and stoner Wavy Gravy asked another legend, Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia, if he'd perform to benefit Wavy's Hog Farm family at the scenic Eel River in Northern California. The Jerry Garcia Band performed that year, as well as in 1989 and '91, and this new box set presents six solid discs of those electric sets.

The JGB gave their front man wiggle room from the Dead's repertoire to perform a combination of originals ("Deal," "Run for the Roses") and an eclectic batch of covers by others that Jerry dug singing and playing. His choices of the latter let

fans peek at Jerry's record collection—compositions by Dylan, Robbie Robertson, Peter Tosh, Jimmy Cliff, Van Morrison, Smokey Robinson, Chuck Berry and others.



**Jerry Garcia  
Band**  
*Electric on the Eel*  
(Round Records)

Sprinkled amid the rock, reggae and soul were titles from the Great American Songbook like "Lazy Bones" and "That Lucky Old Sun," standards that remind one that Garcia's

father had been a jazz bandleader.

Garcia had a singular singing voice like Dylan's: an acquired taste, but for countless devotees an instrument of unfettered passion and sensitive phrasing. By '87, he'd lost some vocal range and control, but compensated with bottomless emotion. His guitar playing, however, had continued to evolve and he remains in the pantheon of rock string slingers. Every note Jerry played had a liquidity and personality that wraps the listener with warmth when dexterously strewn together. And the band—including keyboardist Melvin Seals—perfectly supports him throughout this top-shelf collection that comes with a self-explanatory bonus disc called *Acoustic on the Eel* when purchased through indie record shops or [jerrygarcia.com](http://jerrygarcia.com).

COM. Michael Simmons