

11/22/2016 These Guys Live

[Michael Kontras, Mike Keller, Matt Venus, Mike Doctor]



**Pat McLoughlin:** You just heard another recording from our very entertaining and jovial group that's in the studio today, These Guys Live. A lot of fun and extraordinarily talented. Guys, I've got a question for you, going back to the second segment there, Michael (Kontras), You were talking about your youthful days of being on Dance Party, with the DuBonnetts. What I didn't know, but learned during the break, was that they were part of that Northland Battle of The Bands. For historical purposes, could you recreate a little of that story. You guys did pretty well.

**Michael Kontras:** Yeah, we came in second. It was in 1967 and WCOL 1230-AM was the sponsor of the battle.

**Pat McLoughlin:** And, everybody, you should know that this was a major, major event of the day.

**Michael Kontras:** Oh yeah, it was big time. It was Coronet Recording, or somebody like that, who recorded it. All they did was stick two live microphones out in front of the band and that's how they recorded it. There were no drum mics or individual amplifier mics or any of that kind of stuff. We almost came in first, by default. The group that came in first, the Four O'clock Balloon, who absolutely deserved to be first, almost got disqualified because one of the members, I believe the bass player, was actually a union member, a card-carrying union member.

**Pat McLoughlin:** And why was that important?

**Michael Kontras:** This was supposed to be amateur bands only. So if you were in the union you were considered a professional musician. But in the end they made the right choice and had them first.

**Pat McLoughlin:** The Four O'clock Balloon was a really solid band in those days. For you to run up number two is pretty darn impressive.

**Michael Kontras:** Yeah, it surprised us, to be honest with you.

**Pat McLoughlin:** I know. That's really a great story and a great testimony. I'm glad we got that on Local Lix.