

Hong Kong Portuguese Community Artefact Collection Campaign (April 2020)

The 1960s witnessed a wave of music bands in Hong Kong, influenced by the success and popularity of overseas groups like The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. A Portuguese band in Hong Kong, The Mystics, also had a place on this page. It was popular on the stage in the late 1960s.

A soul band formed in 1965, The Mystics consisted mainly of Portuguese members. The core members were singers Michael Remedios and Ricky Gosano, bass guitarist Vasco da Costa, guitarists Francis da Costa and Ricky Fung, keyboard player Clifford Yim, and drummer Tony Tavares.

Like many of the local bands in the 1960s, The Mystics developed in several directions. It made and performed its own songs, including "Send Her Back", the band's first single, released in 1967, which was composed by Tavares. The song won the band the "Best Overall Performance" award in The Diamond Award in 1967.

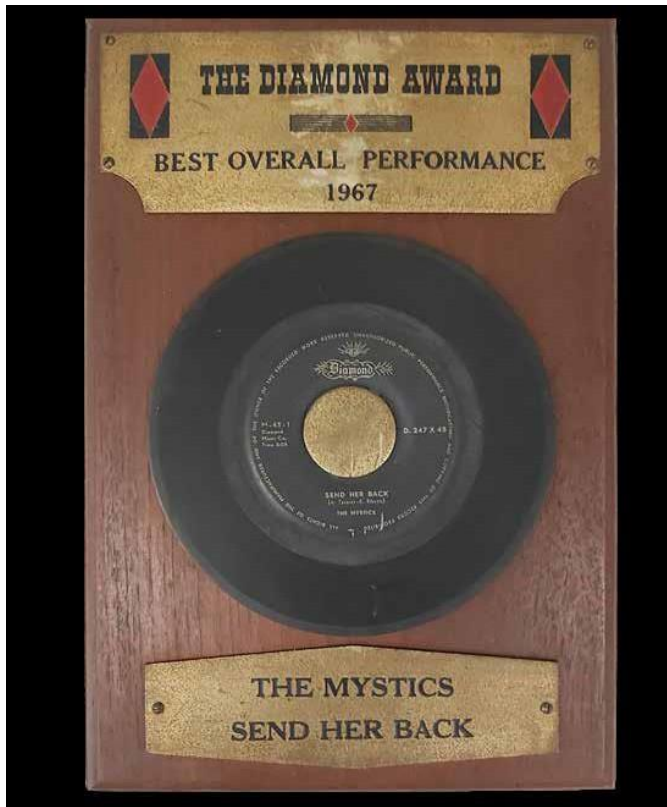
It also adapted and played songs of other singers and bands, a frequent practice during that period. Another of the band's hits, "Sweet Soul Music", was a signature adaptation from the music of U.S. soul singer Arthur Conley, with the addition of styles from other local bands, such as "Just a Little" of The Lotus (led by Cantonese pop singer Sam Hui), and "I Gotta Find Cupid", by the Zoundcrackers (led by Joe Junior). A creative blend of song arrangement made "Sweet Soul Music" a fan favourite.

The band also did live performances at clubs and hotels, like the Bayside night club in Tsim Sha Tsui in the afternoon tea dance sessions between 1967 and 1969, and as the house band of Scene, the discotheque in The Peninsula hotel between 1969 and 1970.

The Mystics were popular throughout the late 1960s. In the Battle of Sounds talent competition in 1968, it placed third behind Teddy Robin & the Playboys, who placed second, and Danny Diaz and the Checkmates, who won first place. Although the band broke up in 1971, its legacy remained.



The bass used by The Mystics member Vasco da Costa, the younger of the da Costa brothers



The Mystics won "Best Overall Performance" in The Diamond Award in 1967.



Released in 1967, "Send Her Back" is the single that made The Mystics famous.



The Mystics performing at the Pop Musical Show.