

**The New Hall Of Fame Class:**

The Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame, as it does every year, has inducted more music stars into its ranks, and, as usual, not everyone is happy. I really don't have an issue with any of the entrants this year – I have issues with those who have *not* been inducted. My list is almost the same, except that Alice Cooper was inducted last year, so while that was good news, his fellow travelers Kiss and The New York Dolls remain standing in the shadows. So too are The Marvelettes, The MC5, T. Rex, and Mott The Hoople. That's my wish list, but now let's look at who actually made the cut.

**Donovan:** I have golden memories of becoming a teenager in the mid-60s with 77 WABC-AM pumping out the hits on my transistor radio. There was the U.K. groups, the Motown sound, Bob Dylan, and Donovan, who was folk, rock, pop, and eclectic all at the same time. I think of him as a

pulling members of The Supremes look docile in comparison. Who shows up to accept the award and what actually happens on the stage will be the most anticipated event of the evening.

**Red Hot Chili Peppers:** Another major 90s attraction, the Chili Peppers have endured the decades despite the usual in-fighting, drama, death, and difficulties, not to mention periods of less-than-stellar record releases. They aren't exactly my personal cup of tea, as I never really "got" them, and they aren't really rock & roll to me – but there is no denying the large and loyal fan base they built and kept from their underground days to their Top 40 hit singles period, so I can't really say that they haven't earned their spot. At least Iggy & The Stooges got in before they did, thank goodness.

**The Beastie Boys:** This merger of rap and rock, at least in the early days, was great fun. Then they became all heavy and philosophical and lost a good chunk of their audience. I think they've wasted many years on nonsense, but that's their right as artists. The group has also been beset by illness and personal disputes, but then, that's life, isn't it? Their inclusion in the awards brings the ceremony up to date in many ways, clearing the way for the eventual coronation of Eminem (you know that's coming, right?), so congratulations to The Beastie Boys.

**Laura Nyro:** The late singer and pianist never had a hit single or mainstream fame like others on this list, but she was an esteemed, groundbreaking artist that influenced much of what happened in the 1970s during the whole singer/songwriter thing. She wrote amazing tunes for others, my favorite being "Stoned Soul Picnic" by The Fifth Dimension. Great stuff from a brilliant lady who didn't get center stage, although lots of her work did; the 1970s Supremes did a great job on "Time And Love," and Barbra Streisand had a major hit with "Stoney End," to mention two more.

In all, the Hall Of Fame didn't do too badly this year.



**Faces**

non-electric prototype for Marc Bolan and T.Rex. Whether it was pompous processional tunes such as "Atlantis" ("Hail, Atlantis," so very self important) or fun sing-a-longs including "Mellow Yellow" and "Sunshine Superman," this rocking folkie could do no wrong in my book. I'm glad he's made it into the Hall.

**Faces:** There were two versions of this band: The Small Faces ("Itchycoo Park") and next The Faces with Rod Stewart as their lead singer ("Stay With Me"). They are also from that mid-60s period that Donovan emerged from, although the Stewart lineup carried on into the 70s. The other well-known member of this band is Ron Wood, who later moved on to The Rolling Stones. There has been some bad blood between various band members, so eyes will be focused on who shows up and whether they will make nice and perform together as a band.

Who do they think they are, Guns N'Roses?

**Guns N'Roses:** That act that many folks claim is the last great rock & roll band before hip hop took over (and I agree), Guns N'Roses are in, although only Axl Rose, the fiery lead singer, is touring these days with the band name. The in-fighting with Rose, Slash, and the other members of GNR has been so severe through the decades that they actually make the hair



**Laura Nyro**

# Long Island Spotlight

## The In Crowd

*As Groovy As It Gets*



**Long Island's** The In Crowd is exactly what you think it might be, even from your first glance at the group: A band that pays reverence to the classic rock sounds of the 1960s and 1970s. An unabashed "retro rock show," the light-hearted group has been drawing raves from area club goers for everything from its spot-on renditions of classic rock era hits to beautiful lead singer Lisa Arce's colorful array of go-go boots.

Band members include Lisa Arce on lead and background vocals (she's known by some as one of the region's top fitness professionals as well); Bob Barca on rhythm guitar and keyboards, as well as lead and background vocals; Nelson Arce on bass guitar, as well as lead and background vocals; Todd Vandenburg on lead guitar; and Rusty Morris on drums.

The band is best known for its three sets of retro music featuring everything from The Beatles through Led Zeppelin. In actuality, the

band's set list is quite varied; instead of concentrating on, say, The Rolling Stones or Led Zep, as many such bands do, The In Crowd peppers its sets with selections by everyone from singers Nancy Sinatra, Patsy Cline, and Roy Orbison to the heavy hitters of the rock era such as Santana, Grand Funk Railroad, and Jimi Hendrix. It's one of the few acts around the region with the versatility to cover everyone from vocal stylists such as The Mamas & The Papas to the guitar-driven Doobie Brothers.

Even during these slower months for area clubs, The In Crowd's itinerary is packed, with the following locals shows on the schedule:

January 14 at Ziggy's Corner Pub in Massapequa; and January 21, January 28, February 11, February 25 at The Seabreeze Café in Babylon. For more information on this popular local rock band, log on to [theincrowdband.com](http://theincrowdband.com) for photos, a list of shows, music clips, news, and a "retro rock" section.



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