

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER NEWSLETTER #7



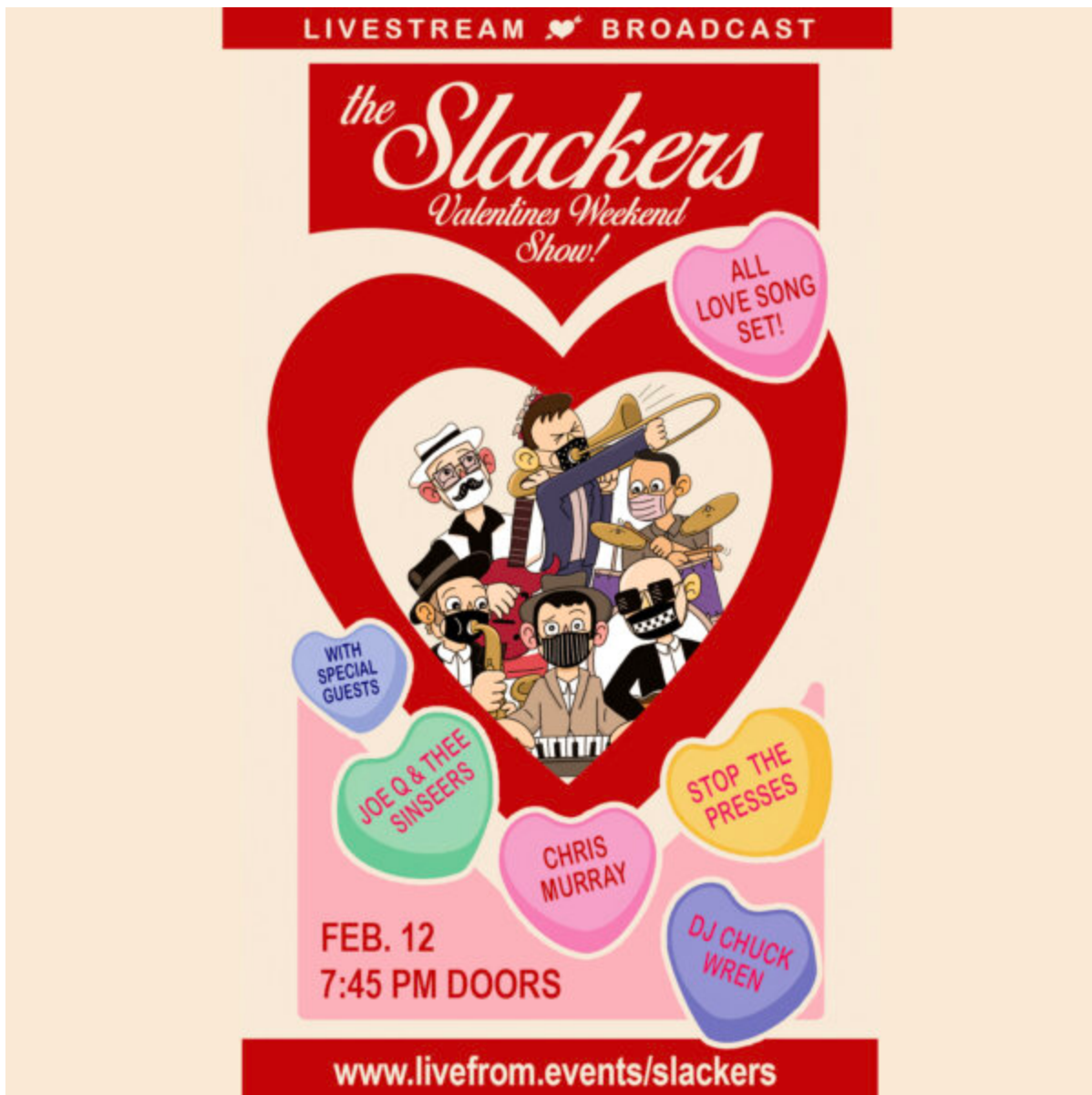
Yes, its hard to believe but the Slackers band has been around for 30 years. The dream that began in basement rehearsal spaces on the lower east side continues to play and endure in these trying times.

Its cold outside and covid is still wreaking havoc. Clubs are still shuttered.

But we are doing what we can. We have our first concert of 2021, a valentine's livestream. We have new releases on the horizon. Maybe even a new album for the fall? Its important to have some hope in the midst of all this. If the outside world wont give it to us, we will make our own.

In this issue, we talk about our upcoming Valentine's weekend livestream broadcast, our 30th anniversary as a band, Slackers 30th anniversary merch, and our slow climb back towards getting the band back towards doing live shows.

SLACKERS VALENTINES' LIVESTREAM!



The Slackers bring you love!

The Slackers start 2021 with a Valentine's weekend livestream concert! The Slackers will be doing a lovecentric set featuring songs centered around love, loss, woe, and joy.

Like our other livestreams it will be available for rebroadcast VOD for 48 hours afterwards. That means you can watch it when you want all weekend long. You can watch it all the way through Sunday evening.

We will be supported in doing this by some of our friends. We got Chris Murray performing with Glen Pine out on the west coast.

Joe Q and The Sinseers will be performing a set of oldies from Los Angeles. Stop The Presses will be joining us from Brooklyn, NY. And DJ Chuck Wren will be MCing and Djaying from Chicago!

Go to www.livefrom.events/slackers to get your tickets. Let us be your Valentines date.

Thanks to everyone who has supported all our previous livestreams last year. It really has made a difference for the band and has been a way we have managed to keep the lights on in 2020.



From Ara Babajian:



A message from Baba, a couple weeks back....

The bookstore I go to sits behind a jail and a lumberyard in Morristown, NJ. It has two parking spaces, one of which always seems to be available for me. The store is run by an eccentric old couple in their eighties. However, they are not actually a couple, just a man and a woman who have run a business together for thousands of years. I go there once a month and spend about a hundred dollars. Today I bought signed first editions by JG Ballard and Paul Auster, another copy of *Libra* by Don DeLillo and a book on The Rolling Stones called *Dance With The Devil*. There's something about the debauched, evil Stones circa 1969 that is really explaining society to me right now. Perhaps it was no mistake that Donald Trump's inauguration walk up music was "Heart of Stone" by Jagger/Richards. What will Joe Biden's walk up music be? I'm hoping for "Lovecats" by The Cure, but that's probably not gonna happen..

SLACKERS 30th ANNIVERSARY!



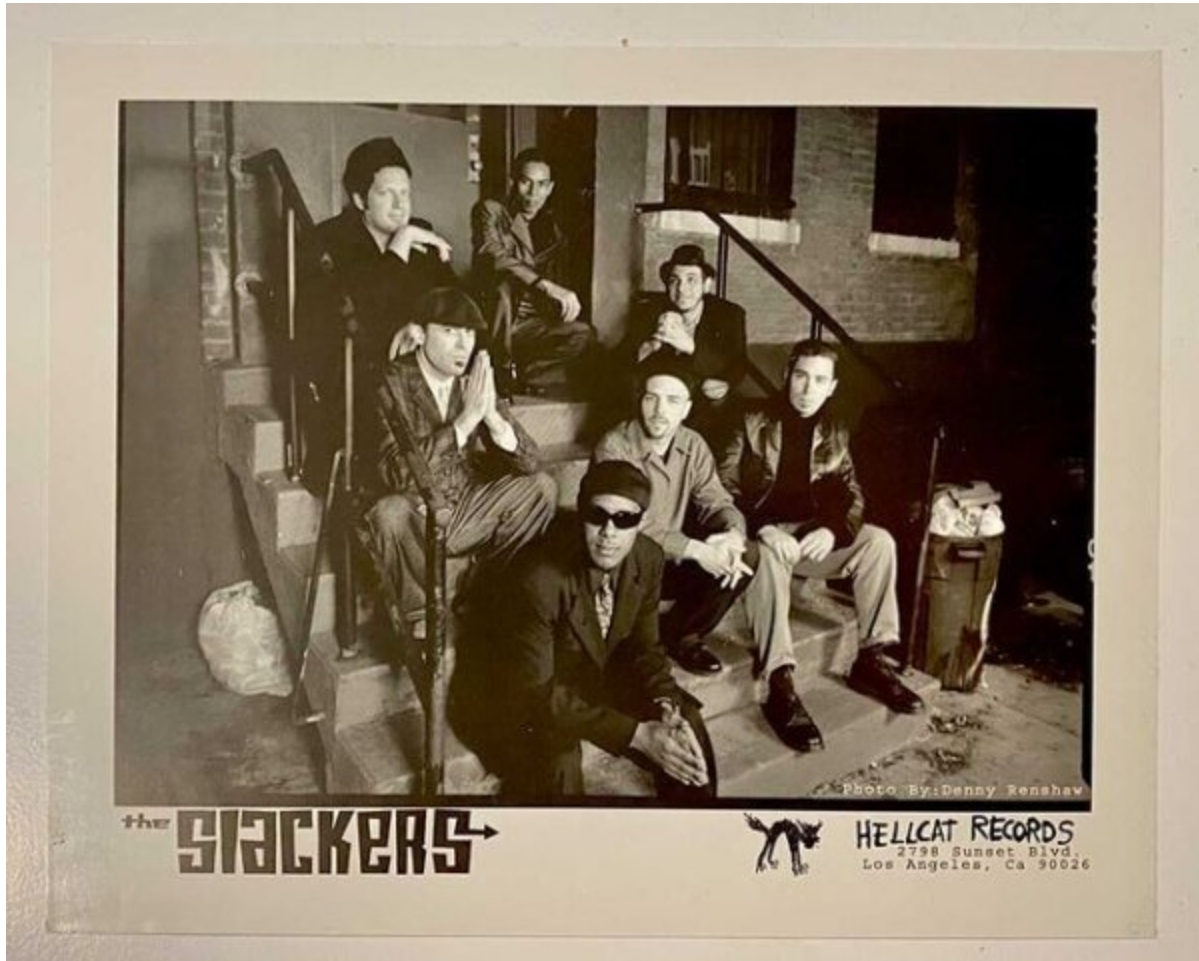
the SLACKERS →

30th ANNIVERSARY
1991-2021

Yeah its hard to believe its been so long. The Slackers wasn't something we intended to last this long. It started with "hey, Ive got a gig" and in some ways that still is what governs us. We are always focused on what the next gig is.

We are really thankful that we have been able to be part of a group that has endured.

This picture is from 20 years ago now. We were on the steps next to Jammyland records which used to be on E 3rd street. For several years, we practiced in the basement next door.



Its from the Wasted Days era. Vic is holding his hands together, praying that this is gonna be the album that makes the band. Well, it got us further along the road.

The Slackers are a funny band. We have never had a 'hit.' At the peak of Third Wave Ska in the mid-90s we were just getting our tour legs going and were just playing small clubs.

Wasted Days came out 4 years after ska had been declared 'dead.' Its a mix of old Jamaican Ska, rocksteady, reggae, dub, jump blues, old RnB, garage rock, some country flourishes, a few nods to psychedelia, and some classic rocking out.

We have been more successful in times when Ska bands weren't supposed to be successful. Slowly building what we do through the 2000s.

I think part of this is that we try to do 2 things. That's it, two things.

We try to write good songs. Songs that will stand up in whatever genre they are played in. The style its presented in isn't as important as that the song is good. We want to make music that lasts. We want you to be singing along with a chorus or whistling a horn line today and 10 years from now

The 2nd is we try to play good shows. Part of this is that we have put the time into our craft. We love and listen to and have played along with the old music of our idols. So when its

time to play, we have the chops to back it up. The other part is we want to join with the audience. Its not just about us. Without the audience. Without the participation, there isn't a show.

When things work out its magic.

Thank you for giving us this magic for the last 30 years. We got 30th anniversary merch and starting in May we will start releasing more new original music. We have been busy recording during this pandemic, so we are getting close to have enough material to make an album.

There is more to be announced.



Slackers Merch;

Tshirts:

FRONT



BACK



FRONT



BACK





The Slackers are releasing our first batch of 30th anniversary merch.

These are variations of two classic merch designs from the 1990s.

A classic slackers hoodie with the cityscape back.

....And a tshirt that uses the 1991 Chris Jordan design from the Slackers first demo cassettes. All available in many sizes from our official ebay store.

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/353377271748>

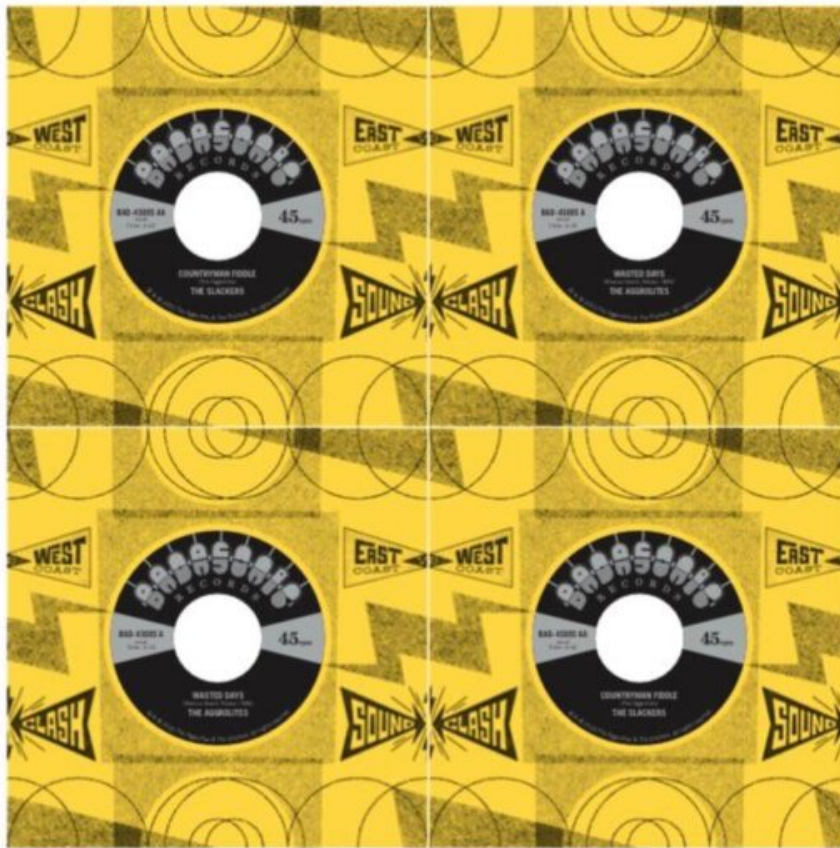
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<https://www.ebay.com/str/theslackersofficial>

www.theslackers.com/merch

Vinyl:



The first release of 2021 is one that we teased at the end of last year. The split 45 with the Aggrolites on Badasonic records! We are playing one of their tunes and they are playing one of ours. We are playing 'Countryman Fiddle' and they are 'Wasted Days.'



We have been friends and comrades with the Aggrolites for many years now. We have played gigs together and even done collaborations where different band members played together in different combinations.

But...this is both bands playing full versions of each others songs!

The first pressing of the vinyl was quickly sold out. A large shipment of them has been sent from Europe to America and is apparently inching its ways over here. Once we get those in our possession and send out all the preorders we should be able to distribute the physical copies in the states.

Check out Slackers vinyl here

[Vinyl Records, CDs, and More from theslackersofficial For Sale at Discogs Marketplace](#)

We currently have in stock

The Slackers - Blue

The Slackers - Nobodys Listening/Sleep Outside

The Slackers - Babaroots

The Slackers - Live at Ernestos

The Slackers / Soulcrap Split 45 - Come Back Baby





Bandcamp:

We Just put up 2 new releases on bandcamp.

One album, Rarities Vol.6, is from a series of sessions we had in Berlin at Harz Krafthof studios with Jochen Stroeh. Most of these sessions became the Rocksteady Swindle and Radio albums. These are some parts that did not.

The other album, Live at the Alte Malzerei was recorded at a sweaty little club in Regensburg, Bavaria. It was the last show of our 2009 European tour. One of those nights where we played and played, ended up being close to a 2 hour set.

Check them out at

<https://theslackers.bandcamp.com/music>

A bright spot in this pandemic, has been our Bandcamp. It has grown from a handful of offerings to some 26 titles with more to come.

Slackers Rarities Vol 5: Boss Medication

They are Losing (single)

Slackers, Live at Slacktoberfest

Blue (single)

Rarities Vol 4 Making of Peculiar

The Austin Radio Broadcast

Slackers NYC Boat Cruise Live

Vic and Dave Live in the Bronx Woods

Rarities Vol 3 2001-2003

Nobody Listening/Sleep Outside (single)

Slackers Quarrantunes

Rarities Vol 2 More Wasted Days

Sugar Shack Sessions

Rarities 1996 - 2000

Obscurities

Lost and Found

Wasted Days Double LP (download)

Boss Harmony Session

Live at the Flamingo Cantina

Better Late Than Never

Slackers Singles

The Radio

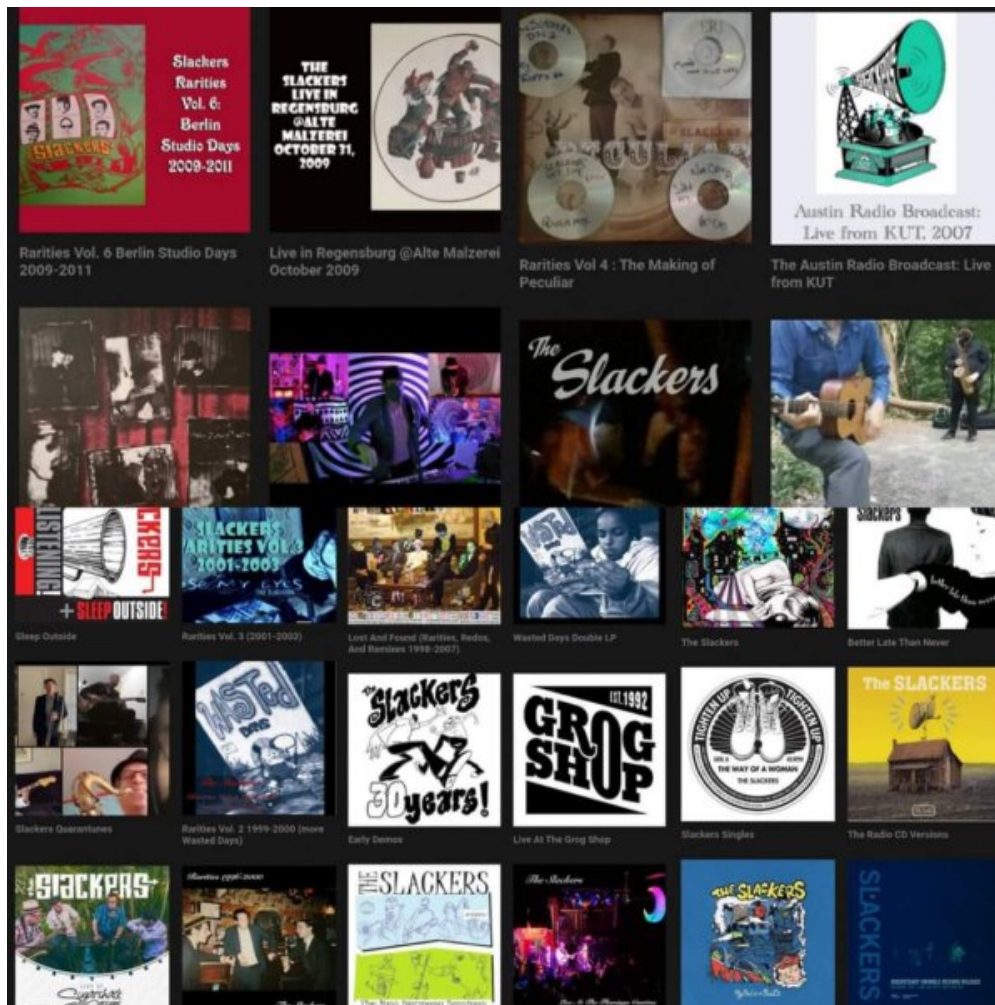
My Bed is a Boat

Live on the West Side

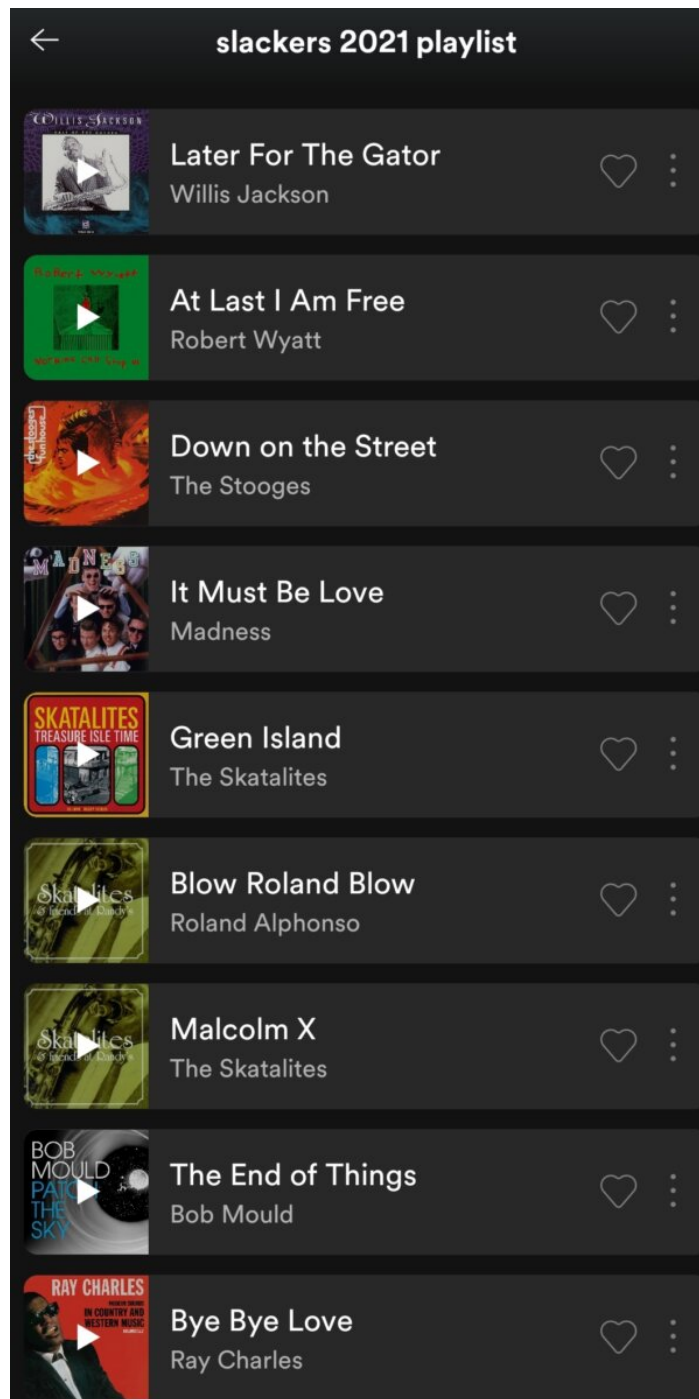
Slackfest 2009

Afternoon in Dub

Live at the Wetlands, 1993



SLACKERS 2021 PLAYLIST



We started doing this last year and just kept adding songs. Its a stream of consciousness kind of things. Songs we listen to. Slackers songs that come up in conversation. Some ska songs, some rock songs, some RnB, with contributions from all the band. And we will keep on adding and adding through the course the year.

We started a new one for 2021 here. Check it out

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/64bYDPUnFZ9sw5TRg8fH5B?si=cTP67a-8T_qnnsWOMJadJw&utm_source=copy-link

A NOTE FROM THE SLACKERS AGENT....MR JOHN PANTLE



As usual, our agent, John Pantle, has a few choice words and thoughts about 2021.

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What up everyone - hope that your January has not greeted you with the Covid fury and that you are staying safe. This disease is no joke. We're going to get through it, but make sure that you protect yourself and your loved ones. I'm sure we all know someone that has been affected - either with the actual disease or with the economic slowdown and the psychological impact that comes with this disease. Its been tough for everyone in Slackersland but I can tell you this - we pivot. We transform what we want to do. We make the best of situations, and we keep the ultimate experience - a safe, packed concert where like-minded individuals can appreciate the Slackers - in mind.

Which leads me to the private events. THANK YOU so many of you who have reached out to us about private events in 2021. It is an honor to know that so many of you really like this band and want to help create scenarios in which we can play for some of our friends. We have confirmed quite a few of these this year, and we are still going through many of these proposals. So, fingers crossed.

Now, on to what I do all day - book shows. We've had to move a lot of shows AGAIN (I know, this is a frustrating time period. That might not have been stated to you by me or others in the past year, but it's frustrating. Remarkable, and vibrant, and frustrating). And we're announcing a ton of shows on our live-stream broadcast. We got some north, we got some south, we got some east, we got some west. We're really excited as to what is coming down the pike, and we think you're going to like it.

So tune in, and once you see it, tell us where else we should hit to surround. We are slackers together. We move forward.

To book the Slackers: john@soundtalentgroup.com



2021 The Undiscovered Country

At this point, we still don't know exactly when we will be able to start touring and play club shows again but we are starting to get an idea. Its been a long road and maybe.....just maybe...we can see a little light at the end of the tunnel.

We started this pandemic with the idea that we will try to do performances. That the band needs to perform in order to keep going on. At the same time, the performances have to be safe for the band and safe for the fans.

That's why we have only done livestreams and socially distant small parties in the last year. Towards the end of 2021 this should change as more vaccine gets distributed.



We got a few private parties in the spring....thanks so much for that. If you want to book the slackers email

slackermusic1991@gmail.com

john@soundtalentgroup.com

and then....

into the dream world.....

Come check out our livestream on Feb 12 (through Feb14) and **we will be announcing some live shows!**

I can let slip that two things we have coming up are our Slackfests in Chicago and Austin.....

We send good thoughts to everyone!
Thank you for the love and support!

The Slackers

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