

# PRESS RELEASE – Rod Piazza and The Mighty Flyers

For Immediate Release

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Tone Cool Recording Artist, Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers < [www.tonecool.com/](http://www.tonecool.com/)> perform at Yesteryears Dinner Club 235 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Pomona, CA. (the downtown arts colony – [www.2ndstreetlive.com](http://www.2ndstreetlive.com) - Visit the website for directions, photos, contact info, maps, schedules and more press releases) Friday 4/27/01. Showtime is 7 Pm with Bobby Bluehouse and Howlin' Blues opening. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Call 909 629 5264 info and order line, Club line 5164 and Red Entertainment 909 629 4349. Tickets also available at Tickmaster Online at [www.tickmaster.com](http://www.tickmaster.com) or call L.A. 213 480 3232, Orange County 714 740 2000 – Credit Cards Accepted.

A legendary harmonica player and bluesman, Rod Piazza has been a powerful force in the blues since forming his first band in the 1960's. After forming the Mighty Flyers in the 1970's and touring constantly in the 80's and 90's, they have earned a reputation as one of the hardest working bands who consistently push the boundaries of the blues while still staying vital and true to the spirit and soul of the music. Their ability to keep the blues vibrant, fresh and alive has led to countless accolades and awards as they continue to lead the blues in new musical directions and into the 21st Century.

Rod Piazza began his musical career in Los Angeles in 1965, when he formed the Dirty Blues Band at the age of 18. They released their first record in 1967, which was quickly followed up by a second album in 1968 on ABC/Bluesway Records. Rod then joined his long-time mentor, George "Harmonica" Smith, Muddy Waters' former harmonica player, to form the double harmonica outfit Bacon Fat. It was through George that Rod learned the power of a dynamic stage performance and developed his prodigious harmonica talents. Bacon Fat released two albums and toured the country backing up and recording with such blues legends as Big Mama Thornton, T-Bone Walker and Big Joe Turner. During this time, a brief illness forced Rod to turn down the coveted harmonica chair in the Muddy Waters Band.



Rod met Honey in 1973 and after an off and on musical relationship, they began to perform regularly together in 1976 as the Rod Piazza Blues Band and the Chicago Flying Saucer Band, before forming The Mighty Flyers with long-time bassist, Bill Stuve. They toured around California and recorded independently released records but it wasn't until the early 1990's that the band truly took off. Rod and Honey were married in 1989 and they began their non-stop touring. They released two studio records, "Blues in the Dark" in 1991 and "Alphabet Blues" in 1992, before recording their NAIRD (National Association of Independent Record Distributors) Award Winning Album of the Year "Live at BB King's" in 1993. After 5 long years, the Mighty Flyers released their highly anticipated new studio album, *Tough and Tender*, their first Tone-Cool CD in 1997. Hailed by fans and critics alike, the Mighty Flyers were rewarded with an incredible 6 nominations at the 1998 WC Handy Awards - the blues' equivalent of the Grammys.

The Mighty Flyers feature the elite of the blues world, each a star in his or her own right. Honey Piazza on piano showcases her prodigious talents on "First Love," and her duet performances with drummer Steve Mugalian in concert consistently bring down the house. Long time bassist Bill Stuve has released 2 solo records on his own and his popping bass lines hold the Flyers sound together. Guitarist Rick "L.A. Holmes" Holmstrom, whose own solo cd, *Lookout!* in 1996, established him as a modern day master in the mold of T-Bone Walker and Pee Wee Crayton, lights up the rocking instrumental "Spit Shine." Bringing them all together is bandleader Rod Piazza who's unparalleled harmonica playing is shown on "Strat-O-Spheric."



Rod is leading the Mighty Flyers into the 21st Century. Not content to live on his reputation or rehash old standards, Rod continues to push the music and his playing in new directions. The music is fresh, innovative and moving, all stamped with the Mighty Flyers dynamic musicianship and Rod's soulful vocals and distinctive and electrifying harmonica playing. This album is contemporary blues at its best. Blues for the new millenium. Blues for the here and now.

For more information: [www.tonecool.com/](http://www.tonecool.com/)