

## 20<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of a Music History Milestone:

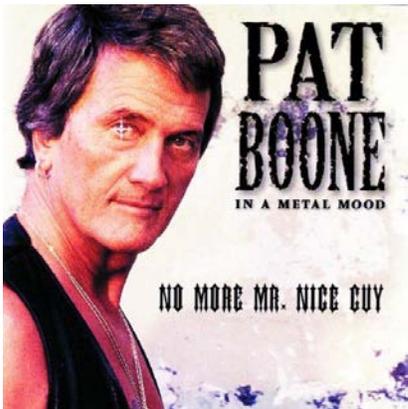
### “Pat Boone In A Metal Mood: No More Mr. Nice Guy”

Sheila E., Dweezil Zappa Among Guest Artists

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*It's Pat going from milk to metal, white bucks to black leather. It's Pat like you've never imagined him, in a metal mood.*

"I describe myself as the mid-wife at the birth of rock & roll," laughs Pat Boone, whose cleaned-up cover versions of early classics by Fats Domino and Little Richard helped Rock 'n Roll cross over to the pop charts during its riotous birth in the mid-Fifties.



"I was there helping in the delivery room."

Sixty years later, this Rock 'n Roll pioneer's history-making project is once again breaking new musical ground and raises a few eyebrows in the process.

This time Pat dipped into the hard rock/heavy metal songbook, and he's brought his distinctive style to headbangers by Judas Priest, AC/DC, Deep Purple, Van Halen and Ozzy Osbourne. It's Pat going from milk to metal, white

bucks to black leather. It's Pat like you've never imagined him, in a metal mood.

On *Pat Boone In A Metal Mood: No More Mr. Nice Guy*, the singer stretches out on hard rock classics by Alice Cooper, Led Zeppelin, Hendrix, Dio, Metallica and Guns N' Roses, performing them in a finger-snappingly cool big band style, backed by some of the best big band musicians and arrangers in the business.

The genesis for this genre-busting project came in the late Eighties when Boone and his pianist and conductor, Dave Siebels, started joking about doing some hard rock songs with a big band. Boone became serious about the project in the mid-Nineties and began to weed through the hard rock song canon, picking material that would fit his musical style, such as Alice Cooper's "No More Mr. Nice Guy," which almost seems tailor-made for Boone, and maybe even poking a little fun at his clean-cut image, while avoiding material that didn't suit his Christian beliefs (surprisingly, only one song, Van Halen's "Panama," needed a lyrical revision).

Batting around ideas and song titles, Boone and his producers, Michael Lloyd (responsible for over 100 gold and platinum records, including the *Dirty Dancing* soundtrack) and Jeffrey Weber (David Benoit, McCoy Tyner, Dianne Schurr with the Count Basie Orchestra) decided to enlist a different arranger for each song. The talented music men that



were assembled for the project include Tom Scott, who arranged the Deep Purple classic "Smoke On The Water"; Tommy Oliver, who handled Boone's sassy version of Judas Priest's "You've Got Another Thing Comin'"; Bill Meyers, who gives a strong salsa feel to "Panama"; Sammy Nestico, who wrote the arrangement for Led Zeppelin's "Stairway To Heaven"; and John Clayton, arranger of AC/DC's "It's A Long Way To The Top (If You Wanna Rock 'N Roll)."

"We knew before we ever got to the recording session that we were going to have tremendous music. We knew the songs were good and that we had great arrangements and great players," says Boone, who along with Lloyd and Weber, hand-picked a formidable troupe of backing musicians and guest artists, including Greg Bissonette (drums), Chuck Findley (trumpet), Pete Christlieb (woodwinds), Sheila E. and Lenny Castro (percussion), and hard rock veterans Ronnie James Dio, who sings on his own "Holy Diver," and Deep Purple guitarist Ritchie Blackmore, who solos on Boone's rendition of "Smoke On The Water ," which also features Dweezil Zappa playing a charred Hendrix guitar that his father gave him.

"The only real question mark was me. Could I carry my own weight? And I think I did. I think we're gonna surprise some folks."