



PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

Members of the Wicked Smart Horn Band step into the crowd during a performance at the Dutch Treat in October. For more info see [www.hornband.com](http://www.hornband.com).

# A Wicked Success

## 15 Years Later Wicked Smart Horn Band Still Blows Crowds Away

**BY PAUL HAYES**

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FRANCONIA - The Wicked Smart Horn Band started out as a side project.

Fifteen years later they are a North Country institution.

Since playing their first show at the Peabody Base Lodge at Cannon Mountain, the Wicked Smart Horn Band has opened for the Oak Ridge Boys, performed at gubernatorial inaugurations and recorded four albums.

Last year the band celebrated their 15th anniversary with a performance at the Dutch Treat in Franconia. It was a typical high energy show played before a packed house. The audience danced, swayed and sang along to a collection of rock and blues standards.

"Who would have thought 15 years later we'd be looking at each other doing this?" asked

saxophone player and original member Roy Brewster. "You never know what's going to happen in life."

Now its members are looking ahead to the future. With an infusion of new talent and a commitment to the band's proven formula of horns and harmonies, some say they could last another 15 years or longer.

### MAKING THE BAND

Before there was the Wicked Smart Horn Band, there was the Chicago Blues Club, a local blues band consisting of Joe Cimino (bass), Mike Reagan (guitar), Dan Kenney (drums), Doug Brosius (harmonica) and James "Slim" Spencer (keyboards).

Then in the mid 1990s the decision was made to add some horn players to the lineup.

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Members of the Wicked Smart Horn Band celebrate their 15th anniversary during a performance at the Dutch Treat in October.