

Indecision can be a good thing when planning party

By **DAVID A. MAURER**
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Many people familiar with the music of the band Indecision won't be indecisive when it comes to how they're going to spend New Year's Eve 2003.

The band will be rocking it up at Starr Hill in what has all the makings of a classic show. The group stopped full-time touring back in 1993, so this standing show will enable fans to catch one of its rare local performances.

"We've had some really good nights at Starr Hill," said David Ibbeken, who plays guitar and does vocals for the group. "One thing I really like about the place is that the P.A. system and mikes are just fantastic.

"We've done a fair number of New Year's Eve bashes over the years. There's something a little special about them."

Since its inception in 1984, Indecision has mixed original tunes with cover songs. The songs it has covered aren't always tunes from the main streets of rock 'n' roll.

"I think our originals have a pretty unique flavor to them, and some of our covers are a bit off the wall," said Ibbeken, who works as a lawyer during daylight hours. "For example, we have a handful of tunes by Bonzo Dog Band.

"This is kind of a strange band to cover, but our drummer [Craig Dougald] was into them. I used to tell people who hadn't heard us before that if they need a category to slide our music into, on occasions it sounds like a mix between



Indecision is ready to ring in 2004 at Starr Hill Music Hall. Ticket price includes champagne.

the Allman Brothers Band and Little Feat with maybe a touch of Steely Dan."

Helping Ibbeken and Dougald create the sound are Doug Wanamaker on keyboards, Aaron Evans on guitar, Chris White on guitar and Shawn McCrystal on bass guitar.

During its heyday in the late 1980s and early '90s Indecision was sharing the stage with groups like Phish, Dave Matthews Band, Blues Traveler, Neville Brothers and Widespread Panic.

The band also spent time in the recording studio, ultimately releas-

ing three recordings. The first effort, "Indecision," was released in 1986. It was followed in '91 with "Ponder Yonder" and in '93 with "Reservoir."

As popular as Indecision was, the people who could have helped the band reach the big time found it problematic that its music wasn't easy to pigeonhole. Eventually the band members decided to stop playing full time.

"I think it was the right decision at the time," Ibbeken said. "Some people tell us we may have pulled the plug too early.

"But the typical response we

were getting from record people was that they really liked our music, but they didn't know what they could do with it.

"It seemed like they didn't have a nice little category they could put it into and market it with proven techniques.

"It was a bit frustrating at that point to see our contemporaries going up to the next level, and we were faced with the same tour we had just finished. So rather than allow the relationships of the people in the band to become so stressed that we would end up not being friends, we ended it."

details

New Year's Eve Party with Indecision

9 p.m. Wednesday
Starr Hill Music Hall
\$30
www.starrhill.com
www.indecision.com
977-0017

The band took some time off and then in the mid-1990s started playing about four gigs a year. A few years later they bumped that up to six a year, and this past year the group has done about one performance a month.

One of the band's biggest gigs occurred this past summer, when they performed at the Bonnaroo Music Festival in Manchester, Tenn. But most of the time they don't travel much farther than Atlanta.

"Everybody has day jobs now, so doing a gig a month is about as much as we can do," Ibbeken said. "We really appreciate all the support people have given us over the years, and we have no intentions of stopping any time soon."

Tickets for the New Year's Eve Party at Starr Hill are \$30. The price includes champagne toast and party favors.

Tickets are available at Plan 9 Records, Spencer's 206, Starr Hill and at www.starrhill.com, and www.indecision.com and by calling (800) 594-TIXX.

Doors open at 9 p.m. and the music starts at 10 p.m.

For information, call 977-0017.