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Subject: Down at the vid store  
Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 10 Jan 2005 06:58:27 GMT  
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I don't watch MTV anymore but I did see a music video which was picked up by the local video store. It was a version of "In The Mood" by The Brian Setzer Orchestra. I stopped in my tracks to watch the thing with my neck bent out of shape to look at the store monitors. BSO is prob'ly my favorite band of all time next to Ted Heath in the Golden Age period. (British readers will understand this reference-- maybe.) The video reminded me of an old tv show called The Lively Set which featured acts of the early 60's in the same sort of Southern California hot cars and fast women-- or fast women and hot cars video as was put together for BSO. The Lively Set was MTV before it's day: Oscar Petersen playing at a tiki bar in Hawaii, Mel Torme doing Don't Get Around Much Anymore from behind bars-- I wonder of the kinescopes of that are around anyplace? I've seen BSO live and it is a great show. And a greatest of speaks to play some big band music fronted by a lead guitarist. This is the unique thing that Setzer did. All the cds have that big power sound and the originals like "Switchblade 327" and "Rumble In Brighton" are every bit as good as the standards the band plays. Currently Setzer has returned to a smaller format and doing pretty much a retro rock thing in the "Drive Like Lightning, Crash Like Thunder" vein. But the big band, the classic hot rods and the jitterbug gave a hint of what the retro swing fad could have been. For the rest of the time, there's Low Rider magazine at the supermarket.

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Subject: Re: Down at the vid store  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 10 Jan 2005 12:08:13 GMT  
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Oh, now that's cool. I hadn't heard of it before, so I'll have to check it out. You're talking about Glenn Miller's "In the Mood," right? Setzer does some really cool retro sounds, and I'll bet he does a great job with that song.

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Subject: Re: Down at the vid store-- Gettin' In The Mood  
Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 10 Jan 2005 20:48:54 GMT  
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Yes Wayne, the title they actually use for this is called "Gettin In The Mood" it includes a 'rap' verse done by one of the band members and is an extended track. I have a problem myself with these pushing 40 and older folk trying to feign youth but I excuse it in Setzer's case because the band cooks so hard. Can't say the same about some piece of dreck I saw with David Bowie and Mick Jagger. I saw the two of them in some video clip (once again at the store) and I told the clerk on the way out it made me want to puke. The young clerk said, after looking around not to be overheard, "Me too." BSO does a number of covers including the old Ernie Ford favorite "This Old

House" and the first cd released had some Al Jolson on it. But the originals and production by Phil Ramone are all first rate. Not long ago, I also got a chance to see LaVay Smith and the Red Hot Skillet Lickers live at a local performance theatre (The Meyer which I've mentioned here before.) It's too bad that the revival of this music only has a niche audience. While I was out on the net looking for video clips, I saw a piece on Setzer interviewed in which he says what he does with the band is a Kustom Lifestyle like the hot rods used in his videos: combining a stock form with a new and revved up presentation. I was glad I saw that because I wondered how the unique combination of lead guitar and singer fronting a big band could be expressed. Apparently the original concept came about as a happenstance and then Phil Ramone wrote and arranged the Guitar Slinger album. I go into all this detail because the big sound of the music holds up over time. Some (or most of) the swing bands of the post-Gap ad retro fad have faded from view. Some have gone into film scores like The Bill Elliot Swing Orchestra. Others play clubs like Lavay Smith. But here's the knockout: The Kit McClure Band is an all-girl ensemble that plays the songbook of the mixed race all girl band of the forties called The International Sweethearts of Rhythm. This was the only female band that toured with the USO during World War II. There was a commemorative for the Sweethearts on the NPR program Riverwalk Jazz. Kit McClure and Red Hot Records is here: <http://www.redhotrecords.com/>  
more about BSO

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Subject: Re: Down at the vid store-- Gettin' In The Mood  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 11 Jan 2005 11:59:49 GMT  
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I think Setzer is really innovative. I don't listen to everything he does, but his sound intrigues and impresses me. It's kind of like the way I feel about Danny Elfman. I don't buy every soundtrack he does, but I am impressed with every soundtrack he does. Thanks for the Brian Setzer link!  
Other Setzer mentions

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