

sound check

Return of a country great

"Tanya Tucker," Tanya Tucker (MVDvisual, ★★★)

Tanya Tucker had her first country hit in 1972, at the age of 13. She became one of the few child stars to mature into adulthood without losing her audience, and has had a number of hits including "Delta Dawn," "What's Your Mama's Name" and "Would You Lay With Me (In a Field of Stone)."

The first two hits listed above, plus several more impassioned performances, are featured in this show, recorded at Florida's Church Street Station.

"The Original Soul Man," Sam Moore (MVDvisual, ★★★ ½)

Sam Moore was part of Stax Records' immortal duo, Sam & Dave, who recorded such hits as "Soul Man," "Hold On, I'm Coming" and "You Don't Know Like I Know."

With hits written by Isaac Hayes and David Porter, and playing by Booker T. & the MG's plus the Memphis Horns, Sam & Dave parlayed their call-and-response style into great success.

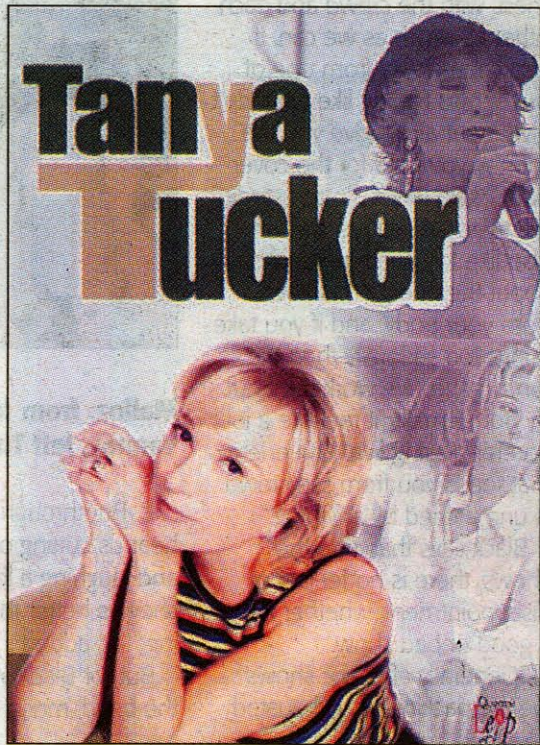
Sam Moore has continued as a successful live act, as the two sets on this 7/17 DVD show. The longer set, from Cannes, France, has an ace band which includes MG's bassist, Duck Dunn, or his

double. Sam Moore and guest vocalist Carla Thomas both contribute great singing to make "When Something is Wrong With My Baby" my favorite song on the list. "I Can't Stand Up," "I Thank You," and "You Don't Know Like I Know" are further highlights.

Oldies fans should grab this one (and the one above) locally or online at www.mvdvisual.com.

"The Independent (I.p.)," Five Times August (independently released, ★★★)

This aptly titled July 24 release is one of the best online sellers thus far. And now, the remixed, remastered edition is getting distribution through Wal-Mart stores nationwide. Nine of the album's songs have been featured on TV in such programs as CW's "One Tree Hill," MTV's "Laguna



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Beach" and Oxygen Channel's "Bad Girls Club."

These placements helped launch the CD (originally titled "Fry Street") to digital download sales of over 100,000.

Based in Dallas, FTA is another moniker for 23-year-old Brad Skitimas, who started creating his online rep in 2001 under the "band" name. He is an entirely independent artist, creating and designing his own merchandise, CD artwork and Web site while maintaining one of the most frequently visited Myspace profiles (www.myspace.com/fivetimesaugust).

There are some cool tunes here, with an easy swing reminiscent of the best of Hootie, Counting Crows, The Wallflowers and the Gin Blossoms. My current favorites are "Do It Again," "First Time for Everything" and "Luckiest of Suckers."



Hard Rock Live — We were treated to a grand show by Cheap Trick on 7/19, though there were sound problems that they blamed on a new monitor man. The venue was nice, though there was a tremendously long line to pick up will call tickets. Cheap Trick played several new tunes, some old ones and the familiar hits. A good time was had by all.