

= The Revival =

The Revival is the second studio album by American R & B group Tony ! Toni ! Toné ! , released on May 8 , 1990 , by Wing Records . It is the follow @-@ up to their modestly successful debut album Who ? (1988) . The album was produced and arranged primarily by Tony ! Toni ! Toné ! , with additional production by Foster & McElroy , who previously produced Who ? . The group recorded The Revival at several studios in California and used a Synclavier music workstation .

A new jack swing album , The Revival features R & B music that draws on funk and older soul influences . Its songs incorporate eccentric sounds and stylistic elements from jazz and hip hop , including improvisational sounds , conversational vocals , and digital samples . The group 's lyrics exhibit contemporary hip hop attitudes and traditional soul themes , with songs about unruly women , low @-@ key ballads , and more danceable tracks .

The Revival was well received by contemporary critics , who wrote favorably of the group 's songwriting and appropriation of older sounds with contemporary R & B. It charted for 64 weeks and peaked at number 34 on the Billboard Top Pop Albums . The album was promoted with four singles , including the top 40 @-@ hit " It Never Rains (In Southern California) " and the gold @-@ certified " Feels Good " . The Revival was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America and , according to Nielsen SoundScan , had sold two million copies by 1992 .

= = Background = =

The Revival is the follow @-@ up to Tony ! Toni ! Toné ! ' s 1988 debut album Who ? , which was a modest success for the group and acquainted them with production and songwriting team Foster & McElroy . Originally friends from Oakland , the group moved to Sacramento after finishing Who ? with Foster & McElroy and began to record The Revival .

Recording sessions for the album took place at several studios in California ? The Plant in San Francisco , Eve @-@ Jims Studio and Westlake Recording Studios in Los Angeles , Can @-@ Am Studio in Tarzana , Live Oak Studio in Berkeley , and J @-@ Jam Studio in Oakland . Tony ! Toni ! Toné ! primarily produced and arranged The Revival , with additional production by Foster & McElroy . The group also worked with engineers Toby Wright and Gerry Brown , musician Keith Crouch , and singer Vanessa Williams , who sang on the song " Oakland Stroke " . They recorded the album by using a Synclavier music workstation .

= = Music and lyrics = =

A new jack swing record , The Revival features R & B music with elements from hip hop , funk , jazz , and pop styles . Musically and lyrically , it fuses older soul influences and contemporary hip hop attitudes , along with the latter genre 's use of samples and digital rhythm tracks . Funk songs such as " The Blues " , " Oakland Stroke " , " Let 's Have a Good Time " , and " Feels Good " incorporate digital production technology . Janine McAdams of Spin finds most of the songs to be " embellished with an allusion , an imitation or an out @-@ and @-@ out sample " , and writes that the group draws on " various musical influences ? Parliament , Duke Ellington , Pointer Sisters , James Brown , among others . " " Let 's Have a Good Time " samples the Pointer Sisters ' 1973 song " Yes We Can Can " , and " Oakland Stroke " , a paean to the group 's hometown , has " Jungle Boogie " -like horn riffs . The " sardonic " song veers stylistically from hip hop to swing , incorporating a 1940s jazz break .

According to McAdams , Tony ! Toni ! Toné ! ' s songwriting on The Revival eschewed " social commentary or political posturing " in favor of " the preservation of R & B 's signature , the perpetuation of the soul tradition , and ? on the lighter side ? the glorification of barbeque , the boogaloo and the booty on a Saturday night . " Described by the group as " Baptist shout music that makes you wanna dance " , " Feels Good " incorporates a popular sample from James Brown 's 1970 song " Funky Drummer " and gospel musical themes . " Don 't Talk About Me " is a warning to a mouthy woman , while " The Blues " features the narrator 's spiteful complaints about an

ungrateful girlfriend . The latter song features aggressive bass , a funky break , doo @-@ wop verses , a blues riff that the group 's guitarist D 'wayne Wiggins learned from his father , and ideas from pianist Vince Guaraldi 's music for Peanuts television specials .

The album 's songs also feature offbeat sounds , improvisational elements , and conversational vocals derived from rap . The Revival begins with a directive from a grave voice : " Play this record as frequently as possible , Then , as it becomes easier for you , play the record once a day , or as needed . " The album also features dialogue between an old lady who asks the group whether it will be like their last album , on which she was also featured ; they respond to her question " No , ma 'am " . " All the Way " has a scrambling beat , whistle sounds , and the rhythmic call and response " What are we , what are we , what are we ? ... Just a bunch of brothers having a party " . The end of " Feels Good " features witty jazz keyboard playing behind a lively voice saying " it feels good ... in the hands , feet , bones , heart , and soul " . Ed Hogan of Allmusic writes that " the last part sounds like a Sunday morning testimonial . "

After the first five songs , The Revival features songs at a calmer tempo and more conventional style , with ballads that are more relaxed and low @-@ key . " It Never Rains (In Southern California) " was titled after an oft @-@ repeated phrase from one of Tony ! Toni ! Toné ! ' s attorneys , who used it in response to the group wearing heavy coats after returning from visits on the East Coast . Group drummer Timothy Christian played most of the song 's instruments , and bassist Raphael Wiggins wrote its lyrics about a man longing for a woman who was in southern California . The ballads are followed by " Those Were the Days " , which features jouncing banjo , trumpet , and wistful lyrics reminiscing about simpler times " when a dollar was worth a dollar , and you didn 't have to carry a gun when you left your house . "

= = Release and reception = =

Released on May 8 , 1990 , by Wing Records , The Revival charted for 64 weeks on the Billboard Top Pop Albums , peaking at number 34 on the chart . The album 's second single " Feels Good " was released on June 19 and certified gold on November 13 after it had shipped 500 @,@ 000 copies . The single topped the R & B chart for two weeks and reached number nine on the Billboard Hot 100 in the fall of 1990 , going on to sell over one million copies . In late 1990 , the album 's fourth single " It Never Rains (In Southern California) " became a number @-@ one R & B hit and also peaked at number 34 on the Hot 100 . On January 28 , 1991 , The Revival was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , for shipments of one million copies in the United States . By 1992 , it had sold two million copies , according to Nielsen SoundScan , which began tracking sales data in 1991 .

In a contemporary review for the Chicago Tribune , Greg Kot wrote that The Revival 's " lull " adult contemporary ballads were redeemed by songs with " Sly Stone , Ray Charles , doo @-@ wop and Motown influences ... Add a dash of loopy humor and you have a terrific ' 60s @-@ meets @-@ the- ' 90s recipe " . Greg Sadow from Entertainment Weekly commended the group for " building momentum by adding new elements as the songs proceed " and " setting the course for whatever future the [R & B] genre is likely to have " . Dennis Hunt of the Los Angeles Times said although their " offbeat R & B hybrids " are occasionally " too busy and intentionally oddball " , " the Tonys ' explorations ... are mostly successful " . Orlando Sentinel writer Parry Gettelman said the dance @-@ oriented tracks " have great grooves and a warmth , humor and vocal finesse sadly lacking in the Top 40 " . Janine McAdams from Spin said they " transformed the simplest ditties into jammin ' anthems that assault the ear and move the feet " while writing :

According to Yahoo ! Music 's Scott Wilson , The Revival was Tony ! Toni ! Toné ! ' s " breakthrough " because of how its series of hit singles and the group 's exceptional songwriting and production " assured them their place in the musical hierarchy " . AllMusic editor Alex Henderson said the group " managed to appeal to urban contemporary audiences while expressing a love of 1970s soul and funk " with artistic merit and distinction from the largely unambitious R & B records released in 1990 . In the opinion of Jason Heller from The A.V. Club , The Revival was the " masterpiece " of new jack swing , " an artistic triumph in a genre that generally coasted on

impeccable craft " . Sam Chennault from Rhapsody felt in spite of its new jack swing hit " Feels Good " , most of the album embraced " Bay Area funk and hinted at the subsequent innovations of key member Raphael Saadiq " . Robert Christgau was somewhat less enthusiastic and gave it a two @-@ star honorable mention , indicating a " likable effort consumers attuned to its overriding aesthetic or individual vision may well enjoy " . He singled out " Feels Good " and " Oakland Stroke " as highlights and quipped , " who says a love band can 't play funk music ? " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from Allmusic .

= = = Tony ! Toni ! Toné ! = = =

Timothy Christian Riley ? drums
D 'Wayne Wiggins ? guitar , vocals
Raphael Wiggins ? bass , vocals

= = = Additional personnel = = =

= = Charts = =

= = = Album = = =

= = = Singles = = =