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GIG OF THE WEEK

Those lamenting the passing of Morphine singer Mark Sandman this past weekend may find some solace in New York's **Bossa Nova Beatniks**, whose new album, *Danger Bongo Crossing*, has a smoky, gruff cool similar to the Morphine's. The album is dynamic blend of island sounds (from

Reggae to, yes, Bossa Nova) and singer Tom Gould's swaggering, rugged and poetic vocal ticks. Co-opening is Baltimore-based singer/songwriter Kyr Brewer, who is supporting his rooty new album, *Salvador Devil*, and whose voice you might recognize as he's the announcer on VH-1's successful *Before They Were Rock Stars* series.

With the Balance All Stars at Top Cat's on Saturday.

— M.B.