

INTRODUCING THE CARAVAN OF ALLSTARS

THE BAY AREA BLUES SOCIETY CARAVAN OF ALL STARS is a powerhouse revue put together to showcase some of the unsung heroes of West Coast Blues. The **Caravan** has a loyal following due to their high profile performances at **Bill Graham Presents New Orleans by the Bay**, special appearance at the **California Music Awards**, **AT&T San Jose Jazz Festival**, **Portland Waterfront Blues Festival**, five consecutive appearances at the **Monterey Bay Blues Festival**, **command performance for President Bill Clinton** and first fundraising performances in **Thailand** for tsunami survivors. The **Caravan** has just released their second CD on 50/50 Records entitled **The Music They Played on 7th Street**. The band consists of **Ronnie Stewart**, lead guitar; **Ron Joseph**, bass guitar; **Rich Forman and Rob Gordon**, keyboards; **Frank Lemon** on drums; **John Middleton**, **Carl Green** and **Sahar Miller**, the "Sweet Meat Horn Section". Listed below are featured performers for the Caravan.

★★★★WYLIE TRASS★★★★

At the age of 14, Wylie started singing do wop in Berkeley on street corners, recreation centers and singing gospel in church. In 1957 he sang with groups such as The Holidays, The Five Warriors, and a Gospel group called The Five Disciples who the group changed their name to "The Four Rivers" and started singing rock and roll. They recorded for Septor Records of New York City, recording their biggest song "I Confess". The group worked with various artists including The Olympics, Ike and Tina Turner, Jimmy McCracklin, Johnny Taylor, Johnny Morissette, The Sharelles, Gary U.S. Bond, Bobby Bland, Marvin Gaye, T Bone Walker, Lowell Folsom, ZZ Hill and local Bay area artists. Wylie has tour and/or appeared at different venues with such people as The Isley Brothers, Joe Simon, The Stylistics, The Five Star Steps, Gene Knight, Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes, Junior Walker, The Ohio Players, B.B. King, Billy Paul, The Detroit Emeralds, and Vernon Garrett to name a few. Wylie is one of the true R&B crooners and his vocals leave the audience spellbound.

★★★★TEDDY "BLUES MASTER" WATSON★★★★

Teddy's career spans over 50 years and represents the original West Coast Blues style. In 1955 Teddy began his career singing in the clubs of Oakland. The first club he performed in was Esther's Orbit room on 7th Street in West Oakland. From there he went to The Reno Club, The Time Out Club, and The Continental Club all in Oakland, Ca. Teddy opened shows on the road for great artists like B.B. King, Solomon Burke, Bobby Blue Bland and Irma Franklin. From this experience Teddy became and still is one of the most exciting performers to watch on stage. Teddy was awarded West Coast Blues Hall of Fame Blues Vocalist of the Year 2003 and was Inducted into the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame in 2007. In December 2004 Teddy performed at the **Blues and World Music Festival in Koh Samui, Thailand** where he was given the keys to the City. Teddy has been a member of the Caravan of Allstars for more than 20 years. This 70 year old performer ends his show to a standing ovation.

★★★★TERRIBLE TOM★★★★

"Terrible Tom" Bowden comes from a very popular musical family. Tom started his music career in Oakland, CA in 1948 at the Lincoln Theatre on 7th Street as a singer in a talent show. He performed **Mule Train** by Frankie Lane. By the early 50's, Tom was harmonizing with vocal groups singing doo wop. By the 60's he was singing in some of the top clubs in California. He broke in at the difficult North Beach music circuit with The Queen of Broadway, Carol Doda He also worked at Big Al's, and The Condor Club working with Mr. Swim, Bobby Freeman and Wally Cox. Tom soon moved to the Los Angeles music scene and was an instant hit. Tom was the first black to perform on La Cienega Blvd. at the Apartment Club with his band, LTD with Jeffrey Osborne on drums. The Whiskey A Go Go loved Otis Redding and after his death, asked Terrible Tom to perform. Tom is the only person alive who can sing like the late great Otis Redding. Tom has the energy, the look, the style and the soulful voice. Tom has shared the stage with Ray Charles, Count Bassie, the Four Tops, Etta James, Aretha Franklin, B.B. King, Bobby Blue Bland, Richard Pryor, Redd Fox, the Whispers, The

Temptations, Marvin Gaye, Wilson Pickett, Jackie Wilson and Sam & Dave. Terrible Tom sat in for Dave so it was Sam & Tom at the Sportsman Club where they sang **When Something Is Wrong With My Baby**. At one point Tom's back up band was a group of singers who became known as Bloodstone. Tom was Stevie Wonder's driver and body guard and worked with Shorty Long who made the hit **Function at the Junction**.

★★★★XYMPHONI★★★★

Xymphoni is just one of the great stories of blues music. She comes from Detroit, Michigan where you see a great singer on every street corner and in every night club. When you hail from Detroit, you have to sing all styles of gospel, blues, R&B, soul and, of course, Motown. Xymphoni can perform it all. One of her show stopping performances is **Fool in Love** by Ike and Tina Turner. She performs this 1950 classic just as good as the very young Tina Turner. Xymphoni is performing at all the top festivals in Northern California. She has been nominated for Best New Female R&B Vocalist and Best New Artist from the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame & Awards Show. Xymphoni is currently working on her CD to be released on 50/50 Records by the summer of 2007. Xymphoni has performed with King Floyd, Little Johnny Taylor, Joe Simon, Buddy Ace, Ernie Kadoe, Ernie Johnson, Bobby "Blue" Bland, and Clarence Carter to name a few. She is what fans come to see – great singing! Her performances bring fans to their feet. Xymphoni makes the audience feel part of the show. That is what this Xymphoni is all about.