

## 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, California Music Awards, AT&T San Jose Jazz Festival, Portland Waterfront Blues Festival, Monterey Bay Blues Festival, command performance for President Bill Clinton.** The Caravan has opened for and performed with **Bobby Rush, Betty Wright, Etta James, Gladys Knight, The O'Jays, Robert Cray, Al Green, Bonnie Raitt, The Whispers, BB King, Latimore, Buddy Guy, Booker T and the MG's, Willie Nelson, and Chaka Khan** just to name a few. The Caravan of Allstars were the first artists to perform and raise funds in **Thailand** for the tsunami survivors. The **Caravan** has released two CDs on 50/50 Records. The band consists of **Ronnie Stewart**, lead guitar; **Robert "Hollywood" Jenkins**, rhythm guitar; **Dalhart Johnson**, bass guitar; **Johnny Ramos**, keyboards; **David "Stix" Boyette** and **Danielle Wamsley** on drums; **Carl Green, Phillip Reynolds**, and **James Nelson**, the "Sweet Meat Horn Section". Featured vocalists include **Wylie Trass, Terrible Tom Bowden, Willie G, Tommy Nunnely** and **Karl Bracy.**

### FEATURED VOCALISTS

At the age of 14, **Wylie Trass** started singing doo 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 Morisette, 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.

"**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 has 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, 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**.

**Tommy Nunnelly** started his singing career in the clubs on Black Diamond Street in Pittsburg, California. Black Diamond Street's entertainment district was equal to Oakland's 7th Street's entertainment district. Tommy has opened for Lowell Folsom, The Whispers, Bobby Blue Bland and a host of other great blues legends. He sang with Rosie Gaines whose claim to fame came from performing with Prince. He was the lead singer with Pacific Brass & Electric, a successful 1970s R&B band. His recording debut came while performing with Hot Ice. Rage Records Label, a subsidiary of Columbia Records, recorded the album where he sang most of the songs. In 1976 he recorded with Total Eclipse on Shelter Records. Shelter Records artists also include Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, Leon Russell, The Gap Band and Joe Cocker. Tommy went on to do other studio work and is currently singing with the Caravan of Allstars.

**Willie G** is from Hallsville, Texas and has been on the music scene for over 40 years. When in the U.S. Air Force he helped put together a group that was called The Capitols who made one of the most popular dance songs of R&B ever. *Cool Jerk* is still being played on the air. Willie G is known for his stage show, his dancing and bringing the audience to their feet dancing to his show. He also possesses a great mid-range baritone voice that is made for the blues. His show is a don't miss!

**Karl Bracy** has been singing for forty years and is most proud of the time he performed with Otis Williams and Melvin Franklin of the Temptations in 1990. During that time he toured with them in Reno, Vegas, and Japan. Karl has performed at numerous festivals and fairs around the state and also shared the stage with Chaka Kahn. He is one of the most dynamic vocalists in recent years and possesses the ability to sing any style of blues, R&B, or love ballads with ease. There is nothing he can't do on the mike. If you love high energy and dancing to music then don't miss Mr. Karl Bracy. His talent was noticed by the West Coast Blues Society and he was voted the R&B Vocalist of the Year by the West Coast Blues Hall & Fame & Awards Show in 2012. Karl has spent a lot of time in the studio, recording over 10 CD's. Karl was born and raised in Vallejo, California; a blues town that has produced some of the most outstanding blues, R&B and soul bands over the years. Karl is carrying on Vallejo's musical tradition of Sly & the Family Stone, ConFunkShun, and E-40 just to name a few. This will be his first appearance at the Hayward Russell City Blues Festival.