

Sonya Jason's "Passion"

A fiery concert-oriented group performing a program of original funk tunes, sultry ballads and Latin-influenced numbers. Melodically driven and harmonically complex, Sonya Jason's original music holds enough turns and surprises to keep things interesting without losing its accessibility. Her sizzling and sensuous sax-work is bolstered by a talented band that heats up the stage with emotional intensity and amazing musicianship. An exciting and inspiring show!

www.SonyaJason.com



"This female sax player is all guts and no gimmick. She plays it like she means it."

-- Santa Barbara International Jazz Festival

"This is music for moderns who want more than emotional shallowness and ego-driven musicianship. Sonya Jason is the real thing."

-- Los Angeles Times



SONYA JASON

Yamaha Artist, saxophonist Sonya Jason, is best known for her all original Warner Music Discovery release, "Tigress." Her accessible, passionate style of contemporary jazz has made a huge splash on radio stations worldwide and garnered rave reviews from the media. More than two dozen music recordings have featured her saxophone work, including three releases as solo artist. A *summa cum laude* graduate of the distinguished Berklee College of Music in Boston, Sonya has led her own bands in thousands of live performances worldwide. She has appeared at more than 50 music festivals including the Golden Jubilee International Jazz Festival in Bangkok where she played for the King of Thailand.



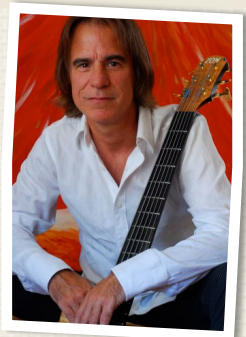
PETER FUJII

Guitarist Peter Fujii is truly a good example of America's melting pot. He was born in Detroit and grew up in Berkeley where the Bay Area's rich cultural diversity took effect. "I hope that the listener will feel all the different influences and appreciate them." Peter has been blessed to have made music with Pharaoh Sanders, Ester Phillips, Hank Crawford, Babatunde Olatunji, Chris Issac, Ronnie Law, James Levi, Rusty Allen, Giovani Hildalgo, and played on recordings produced by Quincy Jones, Bernard Edwards, and Thomas Dolby, just to name a few. He has released his own recordings, "Victims of the Groove," and the most recent, "Dontya Wantya."



DESZON CLAIBORNE

A native of the Bay Area, drummer Deszon Claiborne began his musical career at the age of ten. Virtually self taught in the beginning, Deszon went on to study intensively with world renowned drummers such as Ralph Humphrey, James Levi, Richard Peterson, Billy Cobham and Keneth Nash. These experiences provided him with a strong foundation in jazz, funk, rock, R&B, and world music. Deszon has had the pleasure to perform or record with Dr. Lonnie Smith, Boz Scaggs, Peter Apfelbaum, Charles Brown, Joe Locke, Les McCann, Robin Ford, Angela Bofill, Omar Sosa, Giovanni Hildalgo, Ernie Watts, and Donald Harrison.



DEWAYNE PATE

Bassist Dewayne Pate was born in Richmond CA, in the cradle of East Bay Funk. In 1980, Dewayne moved to Los Angeles where he attended the Musicians Institute and studied with bass virtuoso Jeff Berlin. Since returning to the Bay Area, Dewayne has displayed his wide dynamic range and versatility by working with artists such as Huey Lewis and the News, Pete Escovedo, Ray Obiedo, Charlie Musselwhite, Henry Butler, Long John Baldry, Chris Cain, Johnny Hiland, and most recently, a 2-year stint with "guitar god" Robben Ford. Dewayne released the highly acclaimed instructional video entitled "The Art Of Tapping" by Video Progressions in 1992, and recently released his first solo CD, "Melting Pot."



ALLEN LEONG

Keyboardist Allen Leong was born in Glendora CA and raised in Honolulu. He attended the University of Hawaii and played in many jazz and pop contexts, sometimes with visiting luminaries like Bobby Hutcherson, Ernie Watts, Ronnie Cuber and Jon Faddis when he was lucky, and sometimes with local legends like Don Ho and Brother Noland when he was pragmatic. In 1994, he decided he had had enough of sunny, predictable weather and moved to the Bay Area, where he's had the opportunity to play in many R&B bands and wear more sweaters. His musical tastes are varied, but he tries to play as many jazz gigs as his income allows and unsuspecting audiences will tolerate.