

HipNosis Band - Full Bio

Be mesmerized by HipNosis. Fronted by a tight, powerful horn section and soaring, soulful vocals, HipNosis delivers a polished performance that ranges from funk, jazz and soul through blues and rock with a bit of gospel thrown in for good measure. Fall under their sway and experience HipNosis.

This collection of top-tier musicians, driven by an edgy rhythm section laying down irresistible grooves, offers distinct arrangements of songs that everyone knows, making them uniquely hypnotic.

Influenced by classic horn bands and the great artists of modern music, HipNosis purposefully highlights every player's talent, featuring soloists and special guests to keep the sound fresh and compelling.

The electrifying vibe of HipNosis, its incredible musicianship and the synchronicity of song choices keeps audiences connected throughout the performance.

As the vision of multi-instrumentalist Bob Hansen, HipNosis is the culmination of 45 years of music, realizing his dream of pulling together the best artists and using his artistic vision to guide and provide arrangements for the band. He's appeared in Late for Dinner, Aftershock, The Pickups and the Deb Smith Band on sax and backing vocals.

Deb Smith takes the lead on vocals, using the depth and range of her voice to deliver passion and raw emotion. When Deb sings a song, she owns it, communicating her joy in singing and love of music. Her decades of experience as a musician, vocalist and entertainer and evident, and her thriving career stretches through the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, winding through the Seattle area and dipping into the gambling centers of Nevada. Become swept up in her exuberance and authentic passion for storytelling. She has a voice like no other.

Singer and keyboardist Aaron Gayden brings the groove, playing not

only with HipNosis but his own, self-named every occasion band. This multi-instrumentalist has composed music for an amusement park, TV and film and worked with Grammy winning songwriter-producer Kuk Harrell (Beyonce, Usher, Mary J. Blige). Touring with Latin Music Hall of Fame artist, Juan Gabriel, Gayden has performed across the US and in Mexico, Japan and the Bahamas. A very diverse performer, Gayden is comfortable playing R&B, jazz and gospel, folk, country rock, dance and far beyond. His versatile voice may even be part of some of your favorite Roland Keyboard sounds.

Bill Vallaire brings the heat and fire on guitar and vocals as a 40-year veteran of San Francisco Bay area bands, including touring with blues singer Sista Monica and Blues at Eleven. Originally from Monterey, he studied under the late jazz composer-arranger Don Schamber and guitarist Craig Callas. Centered in Cameron Park, Vallaire has a recording studio at the ready, using his wealth of experience to produce danceable grooves and soulful sounds for upcoming artists in the Sacramento area.

Want to get funky? Call on bass player Peter Mancini, an eclectic musician and high school band director for Mesa Verde High School in Citrus Heights, who also plays in the Sac City Little Big

Band. Mancini got the music bug early, playing bass for a punk garage band in middle school, but it was meeting Jaco Pastorius when he was in high school that sealed his fate. Even though Mancini has a graduate degree in chemistry, he learned his true formula was funk. In addition to his share of gigging in the Sacramento area, he also inspires his students in jazz band, concert band, chorus and other ensembles. One thing you can be certain about Mancini, he's got the funk.

Saxophonist Gerald Jonutz has the finest pedigree a horn player in this state can carry. An original member of Cold Blood, with Tower of Power connections, Jonutz has toured with Lydia Pense and shared the stage with Elvin Bishop, Santana, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Blood, Sweat and Tears, the Who and the list goes on and on. When Jonutz hits

the stage, his horn play sets the tempo and his melodies energize the room with an excitement that makes you want to move and groove with the music.

You could say Paul Simmons does it all. Playing trumpet, flugelhorn and singing backup for Hipnosis, Simmons also writes some of the band's brass arrangements. Straddling genre -- from classical to jazz, rock, soul and funk -- and performing in a myriad of ensembles, Simmons is on just about every stage in the region. And California isn't his only venue, Simmons has played with bands in the Philadelphia area, Las Vegas and Manhattan, putting his master's degree in music to work. When Simmons isn't crafting tasty horn fills, or playing with a symphony, you might find him on the long-distance running path.

Dave Johnson keeps his trumpet and trombone in tune with some of the top bands in the Sacramento area, in addition to his gig teaching music for Woodland Joint Unified School District. A sought-after player, you can see Johnson with Au Brothers Aucesta, Mike Torres Band, Mick Martin Big Blues Band and Blind Lemon Peel. He's also played with some pretty famous horn sections including those for the Coasters, The Temptations, The Drifters, Heart, Frankie Avalon and Lydia Pense and Cold Blood. An in-demand session man, you can hear Johnson playing for the San Francisco Forty Niners professional football team, Blue Gaucho Project, Jessica Malone, Gordon Groft, Johnny Guitar Knox, Sister Swing, Creole Jazz Kings and the Wooden Nickel Jazz Band, to name a few.

Rob Ringger wields the sticks, keeping a propulsive beat on the drums that pulls dancers out of their seats. A multi-instrumentalist, recording engineer and music teacher, Ringger operates Ringgerstudios with his wife Brooke, a vocalist. A sly sense of humor keeps his five kids, and the HipNosis band, all in perspective.

Rounding out the band is vocalist Martin Beal. Martin has been performing and teaching voice for more than 40 years. A recording artist, he has released 3 albums and can be heard on iTunes, Spotify,

Amazon and Jazz stations worldwide.