



Ask 20 people how to define the music of New Orleans and you'll get 30 answers. It could be jazz, funk, soul, Creole, Cajun, or gospel, Caribbean, African, Zydeco, rock or the chants and stirring rhythms of Mardi Gras Indians.

New Orleans native, and Oakland's own "Queen of New Orleans Music", MICHELLE JACQUES along some "very special friends" take all of these influences and a few more, and stir it into this stewpot of musical gumbo that is sweet, spicy, aromatic and definitely intoxicating.

CHELLE! and Friends is made up of some of the most distinguished and accomplished musicians in the San Francisco Bay Area. CHELLE! And Friends perform music that is vibrant and alive with the driving voices of artistic director and founder, Oakland's "Queen of New Orleans Music" MICHELLE JACQUES, RHONDA CRANE, JAY LAMONT and BRYAN DYER, DONNA VISCUSO and ERIC SWINDERMAN on guitar, KEVIN SCOTT on bass and MICHAELLE GOERLITZ on drums.



WHO DAT?



MICHELLE "CHELLE" JACQUES FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Vocals/Percussion

Michelle Jacques is the Artistic Director/founder of the CHELLE! and Friends and JUKE JOINT Acappella Ensemble. Michelle is a member of the Governor's Board of The Recording Academy, San Francisco chapter. Michelle performs educational programs for the San Francisco Symphony's Adventures in Music, artist-in-residence at Jose Ortega Elementary School and LEAP...Imagination in Learning, interactive arts education programs/workshops at Stern Grove, the Bay Area Discovery Museum, children's monthly summer concerts for Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco, conducts for the Oakland Youth Chorus, and lecturer at University of San Francisco on music standards in education K through 8th grade for teachers. Michelle also teaches at Cazadero Performing Arts Family Camp.

Michelle is also a founding member of the Street Sounds a cappella quintet. Michelle has toured throughout the United States and Europe performing with and alongside many well known artists including: Manhattan Transfer, Wynton Marsalis, Linda Hopkins, Ladysmith Black Mambaza, Pete Seger, Al Greene, and The Persuasions. Michelle also performed in Geneva, Switzerland, for the United Nations World Conference of Human Rights, the Montreux Jazz Festival, The Gurten Music Festival, and The Berne Jazz Festival.

Michelle's credits include: recipient of the City Of Oakland, Individual Artist grant for 2008, winner of the 1992 Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards (CARA) for "Best Folk/Progressive Song", "Home Africa, studio recordings with the renown Grammy Award winning producer Greg Landau for Pamela Rodriguez, Susana Baca, Kepa Junkera, and soundtrack for the Sundance Film Festival Official Selection, 2010 movie "La Mission" with Benjamin Bratt, vocalist with Greg Landau's La Mission Band.



RHONDA HUDSON CRANE

Vocals/Percussion

Rhonda Crane's vocal talents developed in the Baptist church. She began serving as a church pianist at the historic Third Baptist Church in San Francisco, and has continued playing in various venues throughout her career; including work as choral director and the Minister of Music of Greater True Light Baptist Church in Modesto, California for over 7 years, where she produced annual concerts. She has worked with numerous gospel artists throughout her 25-year association with the Edwin and Walter Hawkins Music & Arts National Conference, and is currently the Director of the Children's Ministry for this organization and the Love Center Church. She is also a member of the Hawkins' Community In Praise Choir who traveled to Japan as special guests in Music and Arts, Japan 2008. Rhonda began touring with a cappella group Street Sounds in 1991. She has shared the stage with artists such as Robert Cray, Joan Armatrading, Zap Mama, Chick Corea, Al Green, Holly Near, Manhattan Transfer, Ladysmith Black Mambaza, Wynton Marsalis and many others in such places as Korea, Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria, and Belgium. In addition to her performing, Rhonda does studio work, runs workshops, and teaches piano and voice to school children in the San Francisco, Belmont, Oakland Unified School Districts, and Gospel music to adults in the Marin Adult & Community Education program. She can be found on the teaching rosters of Leap, Imagination in Learning, San Francisco Arts Education and Oakland Youth Chorus



BRYAN S. DYER

Vocals/Trumpet

Bryan S. Dyer is a multi-talented musician who not only sings but plays and teaches several instruments including bass guitar, percussion and piano; writes and arranges music, conducts choirs and groups, and works in television, radio and film. A veteran of some of the Bay Area's top vocal groups including Street Sounds, SoVoSo, Slammin All Body Band, Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir and CHELLE! and Friends, He also performs with Zadell, Rankin Scroo and Ginger, and R&B group, D.A.P. His musical experiences have him taken around the globe including several trips throughout Europe, Japan, South Korea, Brazil and Jamaica. Bryan's talents have landed him alongside such artist as Al Green, Bobby McFerrin, Michael McDonald of the Doobie Brothers, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, the soundtrack for the movie "La Mission" with Benjamin Bratt, and Huey Lewis and The News to name a few.



DONNA VISCUSO

Woodwinds/Harmonica

Donna Viscuso is an experienced performer, composer and teacher, having worked in numerous schools, educational programs and grant-sponsored touring ensembles. Donna has performed, recorded and toured with many groups, including The Snake Trio, Jackeline Rago and The Venezuelan Music Project, Altazor, Wild Mango, the KTO project, Chelle and Friends, Brazilian singer Adriana Moreno and Chilean singer/songwriter Lichi Fuentes. She studied music at Laney College and San Francisco State University, and has experience playing flute, saxophone, harmonica and percussion.

Donna has traveled to Venezuela to further her musical studies. While there, she performed and recorded with several renowned musicians, including percussionist Alexander Livinalli and members of the Fundacion Bigott (Venezuela's Folkloric Institute). In addition she has recorded with Venezuelan musicians, Aquiles Baez, Gonzalo Grau, Marco Granados, and Leo Blanco. She also performs regularly with the Adventures in Music Program, sponsored by the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, performing in elementary schools throughout the S.F. school district, as well as with the World Music Ensemble, W.O.W. (Women of the World) which performs for children of all ages in libraries and schools throughout California.

A talented composer, Donna has written music for several award-winning documentaries. Her compositions can also be heard on the popular Living Books collection of Educational CD-Roms, including the ABC Book, Green Eggs and Ham, by Dr. Seuss, Harry and the Haunted House and Arthur's Reading Race.



ERIC SWINDERMAN

Guitar

San Francisco Examiner music critic, Phil Elwood, describes Eric Swinderman as "a marvelous guitar player-unassuming, imaginative. He projects a clear, strong line." Eric's ability to pull together groups and lead them into highly successful stints allows him to provide ensemble as well as individual talent. His bands have enjoyed extensive engagements at Ivey's Solomon Grundy's, and Pasand's in San Francisco, California. In addition to critical acclaim for his solo work, Eric is also in demand as a sideman for Bay Area celebrity singers since 1980... In New York, Washington, D.C., Ceasar's Palace in Las Vegas, The Vineyards in Napa Valley and to clubs throughout Northern California. He has taught guitar workshops at the Jazz Camp and several college campuses.



KEVIN SCOTT

Bass

Kevin J Scott is a bassist/songwriter in the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area. He plays 4, 5 & 6 string basses--fretted & fretless; and also plays upright bass. Kevin played bass for former Tower of Power singer Lenny Williams for over 22 years. He also plays for Beebe Memorial Cathedral CME church in Oakland, CA for about 8 years, R&B Hip Hop group Fiveten featuring Jammin' Jay Lamont, Project4band, Kymberly Jackson, Destiny Christian Fellowship in Fremont, CA and basically whomever he can get a gig with.

Kevin also had the pleasure of playing for groups and artists including the Delfonics, the Temprees, Snoop Dogg, Ali Woodson and others. He also had the pleasure of being on the same bill with acts like the Dramatics, the Whispers, Cameo, Stephanie Mills, the Tony Rich Project, George Benson, Aretha Franklin, Ray Goodman & Brown, the Manhattans, Boney James, Con Funk Shun, Al Green, Lakeside, Rick James, Bobby Womack, Howard Hewett, Glenn Jones, The Time, Rose Royce, MC Lyte, Teddy Pendergrass, Heatwave, Kelly Price, Frankie Beverly and Maze as well as many more. Kevin has recorded on a number of projects over the years for Lenny Williams, Dru Down, Sylvester Burks, Fiveten, Don Turney and other fine recording artist and musicians. Kevin also had a solo CD out in 1998 called "Play That Bass Kev" and he's currently working on a CD called "Let Go" due out in late 2015. Kevin learned the electric bass at Bob's guitar studio in San Leandro, CA and studied double bass under double bassist Rob Fisher in Berkeley, CA. Kevin also studied jazz improv at the college of Alameda under Bill Bell in Alameda, CA. Kevin also was the Bassist for the award winning choir Castlemont Castleers in the early 80's and the Castlemont jazz band under the direction of Phil Reeder and Gregory Cole.



MICHAELLE GOERLITZ
Drums/Percussion

Michaelle Goerlitz has been playing drums and percussion since she was eight years old. After attending college in the Midwest, she moved to San Francisco in 1980 to continue her studies, which have led to exploration of Brazilian, Afro Cuban, Venezuelan, and Middle Eastern rhythms (plus American idioms jazz, R & B & funk). She was a founding member of two renowned & long-term projects, the Blazing Redheads and Wild Mango. Both groups blended many different styles which showcased Michaelle's versatile percussive skills. Among the list of people Michaelle has played with: VNote Ensemble, Venezuelan Music Project, 'Chelle & Friends, Wayne Wallace, Mark Levine, Tom McDermott, The Brazilian Jazz Project, Ojala, rhiannon, Yair Dalal, Naser Musa, Barbara Higbie, Jami Sieber, Tuck & Patti and Samba Rio. In 2007 she was named a "rising star" in Downbeat Magazine.



QUOTES

"Whether headlining the 'Queens of New Orleans' Music Festival, or leading a children's Mardi Gras parade, CHELLE! & Friends' blend of music delights audiences of all ages."

Linda Lucero
Yerba Buena Gardens
Children's Festivals

"Chelle and Friends called out all the spirits last Saturday night. One member was so overcome, she bought 16 memberships for all her friends that night. Birdland has that effect sometimes on membirds. But 16 memberships???, That's off the Birdland radar. And another that night offered Birdland another baby grand piano. That's cray cray."

Michael Parayno, Birdland

Chelle & Friends provided a wonderful concert for the Menlo Park community. People of all ages – children and adults - thoroughly enjoy your amazing talent!

Katrina Whiteaker
Menlo Park Summer Concert Series

"Fantastic show! Love the Band!"

Karen Hester
Temescal Street Festival

"It was a really fun concert. Thanks for putting on such a professional quality show."

Mary D'Orazi
Jazz at the Chimes



QUOTES

"Just want to send you and your wonderful friends big appreciation for bringing the good songs and vibes to the people last Friday. I've seen you all a bunch over the years but think it was the first time for many in the audience and y'all had it lit! Thanks for celebrating with us!"

Preston Justice

Friday Nights @ OMCA

Oakland Museum Of California

"Terrific, the power of the vocals and the pulse of the rhythms dazzle audiences of any ages, nothing short of breathtaking!"

Pascal Bokar

Savanna Jazz



REPEA TOIRE

Do You Know What it Means
Pearly Gates
My darlin' New Orleans
Hey pocky Way
Choo, Choo, Cha-boogie
Carnival Ball
Sea Cruise
Baa Baa Bo Peep
New Suit
U can have my husband
Drop me off in New Orleans
Working in a coal mine
Tou le jour
Rip it up
Voodooville
See ya later
Firewater
My Toot Toot
I like it like that
Wang dang doodle
Saints
You'll lose a good thing
Wasted days
I like it like that
Dixieland parade
Sweetbread
Herc Jolly John
I'm walking
Meet de boys
I hope you're coming back to New Orleans
Party
Trouble of the world
At the foot of canal street
Mardi Gras Mambo
Lady Marmalade
Tell Mama
Don't ever let nobody drag your spirit down



WHERE YA BEEN?

CHELLE! and Friends at Savanna Jazz

Savanna Jazz Club, 1189 Laurel St., San Carlos, CA. 94040

Yerba Buena Gardens Children's Festival Presents CHELLE! and Friends

Yerba Buena Gardens, 760 Howard St, San Francisco, CA. 94103

CHELLE! and Friends at Savanna Jazz

Savanna Jazz Club, 1189 Laurel St., San Carlos, CA. 94040

Savanna Jazz Presents CHELLE! and Friends

Savanna Jazz Club, 1189 Laurel St., San Carlos, Ca. 94070

Friday Nights at OMCA Presents CHELLE! and Friends

Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, CA. 94607

Savanna Jazz Club Presents CHELLE! and Friends

Savanna Jazz Club, 1189 Laurel St., San Carlos, CA. 94040

Mardi Gras Celebration

Veteran's Memorial Building, 43490 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers , CA.

CHELLE! and Friends Mardi Gras

Armando's, 707 Marina Vista, Martinez

New Orleans Holiday Celebration

Red Poppy Art House

2698 Folsom Street, San Francisco

CHELLE! and Friends

Bissap Baobob

381 15th Street, Oakland



WHERE YA BEEN?

CHELLE! and Friends Kids Concert
Yerba Buena Gardens,
773 Mission Street, San Francisco

ANDRE THIERRY AND CHELLE! and Friends AT YERBA BUENA GARDENS
Yerba Buena Gardens, 773 Mission Street, San Francisco

Fi Yo on the Biyo Fat Tuesday Celebration with CHELLE! and Friends
Armando's
707 Marina Vista, Martinez

Mardi Gras/Valentines Day Party
Birdland Jazzista Social club, 4318 Martin Luther King Way, Oakland

KIDS STAGE with CHELLE! and Friends
Sigmund Stern Grove, 19th Ave. and Sloat Blvd., San Francisco

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival
Yerba Buena Gardens, 701 Mission Street, San Francisco

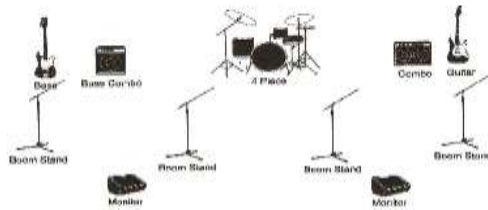
Stern Grove Kids Days
Sigmund Stern Grove, 19th Ave. and Sloat Blvd., San Francisco

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STAGE PLOT



TECH INFO

Reverb

Backline

5 Mic cables

5 Mic Stands (w/booms)

***CAF will provide our own microphones**

***2 vocals**

***one vocal and woodwind player**

***one vocal and trumpet player**

3 wedge monitors

2 three-way speakers

16oz bottle of water (room temperature)

Recording Concerts to be taped by the sound technician. (We will provide the USB Flash Drive)

LIGHTING: General washes

Warm colors (amber, red, pink, purple, fuchsia, aqua, magenta, white, blue etc.)

Moody pieces (reds, purples)