

## **Bob Sakoi and Friends**

*Bob Sakoi and Friends* is an acoustic musical combo that plays joyful, happy jazz music.

This quartet comprises trumpet, trombone, banjo/guitar, and acoustic bass. Collectively, its members have more than a combined 200 years bringing the bouncy, happy music of New Orleans, the swing era, as well as the "Great American Songbook". It's hard not to tap your feet and smile when you hear these pros play.

Bob Sakoi (trumpet):

Bob started his musical career playing in the Dixieland band at the Great America theme park, and later worked his way through college playing Latin music in clubs and on the radio.

In 1977 he moved to Las Vegas and performed with headliners including Tony Bennett and Sammy Davis Jr. After an 18-year retirement, Bob became involved in the Northern California traditional jazz scene working with many local groups as well as chairing the STJS Education Committee and coaching a youth band.

Bob's Central California bona fides include stints with The Catsnjammers, Cell Block 7, Creole Jazz Kings, Elite Jazz Band, Fulton Street Jazz Band, Jass City Jazz Band, JB3, and Saint Gabriel's Celestial Jazz Band. During the past couple decades he has toured corners of the planet from Mazatlán to Moscow, playing in venues ranging from Cathouses to Cruise Ships.

Bob Williams (trombone):

Veteran trombonist Bob Williams is a highly sought-after musician. Born in Modesto and a 30-year resident of Sacramento, Bob's jazz and classical training have made him skilled in several genres, but his greatest love is traditional jazz.

Bob was a co-founder and co-leader of the popular Wooden Nickel Jass Band from 1992 - 2002. Over the years, he's played with The Catsnjammers, Stan Mark's River City Stomperz, Sister Swing, The Fulton Street Jazz Band, and Simon Stribling's New Orleans Ale Stars, among others. Due to his knowledge of the jazz repertoire, authentic "tailgate" style, and affected humility, Bob is a popular sub for bands good and bad, far and wide.

Besides freelancing, he plays regularly with Cell Block 7 and the Devil Mountain Jazz Band.

Bob has also played with the award-winning Sacramento-based Steely Dan tribute band Steelin' Dan for the last 15 years.

For 13 years, he has directed The New Traditionalists, a traditional jazz band comprising high school musicians and supported by the Sacramento Jazz Education Foundation.

Bill Dendle (guitar/banjo):

Bill Dendle began playing banjo in 1963, and by 1967 was appearing at Mickie Finn's in San Diego as leader of the South Market Street Jazz Band, which also appeared at Disneyland and on USO tours. In 1968, Bill took over the job of lead banjoist at Capone's Warehouse in Monterey, where he appeared off and on for the next nine years.

1977 found Bill as an entertainment consultant, banjoist, trombonist, band leader and entertainer at Florida's Disneyworld, where he opened the Empress Lilly Showboat. Bugs and humidity sent Bill back to San Diego in late 1977 to revive the South Market Street Jazz Band, which became a popular fixture at Dixieland Jazz Festivals throughout the United States.

From 1982 on, Bill appeared as one-half of the duo called Goodtime Banjos at banjo concerts, jazz festivals, conventions, and private parties until 1995. Bill is the long-time director of the Teagarden Jazz Camp. He has performed with Bob Haggart, Bob Crosby, Johnny Varro, Dick Cary, Abe Most, Nick Fatool, Bob Draga and others, and is highly regarded as a banjoist, trombonist and very funny master of ceremonies. He retired from a position as Vice-Principal at Lindbergh Educational Center in Manteca, California.

Shelley Denny (bass):

Shelley Denny is a freelance musician and teacher whose experience ranges from ballet to big bands, from musical theatre to modern jazz. His varied career includes national tours with Stan Kenton, Les and Larry Elgart, and Petula Clark, plus concerts with such names as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Henry Mancini, Nancy Wilson, and The Supremes. He has enjoyed playing over seventy Broadway shows with Sacramento's Music Circus. He is currently performing, writing, and teaching from his home in Sacramento.