

Café Musique

Swing, Gypsy, Tango, Waltzes & Folk

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Classical, swing, gypsy, folk and tango all find expression in the final take that defines the rich and exciting sound of Café Musique. By combining the beauty of the violin with the subtle expression of the accordion, Café Musique has harnessed the European gypsy sound as its own.

Café Musique hails from the Central Coast of California. The group is quite unlike any other band you might hear out on the music circuit. The group maintains that it has an identity crisis and it's easy to see why what with the mixture of musical backgrounds that each member brings to the fold. Add compelling vocals with two and three part harmonies along with timeless standards and new compositions and you start to have an idea what the band is all about.

The members of Café Musique are Brynn Albanese on violin and vocals, Piper Heisig on percussion and vocals, Duane English on accordion, Fred Murray on bass, and Craig Nuttycombe on guitar and vocals.



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Press Quotes /Testimonial

"The talent runs deep and the music plays hot, they had the staff of KPIG's live music show in the palm of their hands and the tips of their fingers. "

Sleepy John Sandidge
Host of KPIG's "Please Stand By"

"The debut album of Café Musique is wicked good! I seriously can't say enough good things about this album, which demonstrates a level of musicianship and an emotional impact rarely found. This is a must have recording for fans of Gypsy Folk!"

Glen Starkey,
Newtimes music critic
San Luis Obispo

"Café Musique delighted our audiences. This accomplished group of musicians create a convivial atmosphere with their excellent music and entertaining stage presence. "

Bobbi Todaro
Kuumbwa Jazz Center
Santa Cruz

Café Musique's recent performance in Cambria was a musical kaleidoscope. Near the end (violinist) Brynn Albanese absolutely ignited the place with her version of "Czardas." Then she gently guided her audience back to earth with a lovely, soothing rendition of "Sunday River".

John Brannon
The Cambrian
Cambria, CA

"It was a terrific concert at the Ukulele Co. this past Saturday, a major pleasure discovering Café Musique and its superb musicians!. Boy am I glad I bought your album "The Dancer" with its exquisite music, wow, gotta spread the word !"

Michel Mike Kotski (a new fan)
DaSilva Ukelele Factory Concert
Berkeley, Ca

"You were fantastic, wonderful, phenomenal, suburb and extremely unique. I loved every single second of your show and will definitely be looking for you again in

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the very near future. Thank you for the most exhilarating evening I've had in a very long time. "

Marsha Houston (another new fan)
Red Barn Music Series
Los Osos, Ca

Café Musique is:



Brynn Albanese (violin and vocals)

Brynn has toured and performed world-wide sharing her exhilarating style with audiences from Boston to the Netherlands. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, her first great musical memory was that of concertmaster for the University Orchestra on a tour to the former Soviet Union in 1987. She has also served as concertmaster and soloist for the Tanglewood Festival Orchestra, Boston Philharmonic, and as principal second and soloist of the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra. After seven years of living in the Netherlands and performing with various Dutch Orchestras, Brynn found herself longing to come back to California in search for personal and musical serenity.

Brynn currently teaches violin and does orchestral string coaching at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and has a private teaching studio as well. She regularly presents classical recitals with piano. She also plays as solo violin in the Arab Music Ensemble at Cal Poly. Brynn is a fearless musician unrestrained by a single discipline. She relishes the opportunity to discover and uncover musical and non-musical experiences in all areas of life.



Duane English (accordion)

Since moving to San Luis Obispo in 1971, Duane has been involved in many musical endeavors. He was a founding member and served as director of the Live Oak Music Festival in Santa Barbara, California. He was owner of a nightclub that featured live music from across the nation, has helped produce countless shows and concerts featuring folk, blues and bluegrass music and hosted "Basically Bluegrass" at KCBX Public Radio for sixteen years. Some of his performance credits include being banjoist and accordionist for "The Friends of Ned Perkins" and "All Wound Up". In theatre, Duane has been involved with several musical productions and performances including Cuesta College's "Fete de la Nuit" (directed by bree valle) and Cal Poly's "Round Heads and Pointed Heads" (directed by Josh McHammer). Most recently, Duane was the music director in Philip Valle's multi-disciplinary performance, CQD/SOS, which premiered at the 2008 Sound Symposium in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Pipe Musique

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Piper Heisig (bass, percussion and vocals)

Piper began playing music professionally in 1977 and teaching in 1987. She can be heard singing and playing bass and/or percussion in a number of bands around the California Central Coast. A veteran of many musical genres, including; Old Time, Bluegrass, Country, Western Swing, Trad-Jazz, Swing, Blues, Hawaiian and World/Folk, her name has appeared on many band rosters over the years, including "Those Darn Accordions" and "Cats & Jammers".

Among the musical hats she wears, are those of performer, teacher, recording artist, song writer and record producer. Piper lives in San Luis Obispo, amidst her copious collections, which she shares with her house panther, Kiko. She is a certified Fashion Therapist and a master at creating interior environments.



Craig Nuttycombe (guitar and vocals)

Craig began his musical career in the 1960's playing rhythm guitar in the surf band "The New Dimensions" while attending Hollywood High School. He went on to become half of the acoustic duo "Lambert and Nuttycombe" who's first album "At Home" was released in 1970 on A&M Records. Three years later the duo released their final album "As You Will" on the 20th Century label. In 1978, back at A&M, Craig's solo album, "It's Just a Lifetime" was released. Craig has worked with some well known musicians including members of "Fleetwood Mac", "Three Dog Night" and "The Eagles". Since moving to the Central Coast in the early 1980's, Craig has independently produced several recordings of his original songs and is currently in the studio working on an album which is being produced by Piper

Craig continues to pen new tunes reflecting the peculiarities of life. He lives with his dog, Trilby, in Los Osos where they like to go outside.



Fred Murray (Bass)

Fred has been playing music all of his life, starting with piano, then clarinet, then bass and drums and guitar. He was playing bass in his first band by the age of 14. He's been performing ever since, playing a wide variety of styles from rock to jazz to funk to Cajun to blues and country. After spending many years in Santa Barbara he moved to Austin in 1992, and began playing the upright bass and lap steel in addition to electric bass. His resume also expanded to include venues across the country. Family considerations brought him to the central coast in 1998 where he's been much in demand as an upright and electric player, playing in a very diverse collection of bands and recording projects.

Fred has a recording studio where he amuses himself by playing all the instruments. He also enjoys building and repairing guitars.