



Supporting local live music and helping you find it

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media and Public Contact:
Ann Hutchinson, Founder/Owner
(707) 953-1663, ann@socodancebeat.com
socodancebeat.com

***Sonoma County Dance Beat's 6th annual fundraising music event
features Wendy DeWitt with Kirk Harwood
and the Blues Burners Band***

Santa Rosa, Calif., Feb. 28, 2020—[Sonoma County Dance Beat](http://socodancebeat.com) presents its sixth annual spring fundraising event on Sunday, March 29, 2020 from 4 PM to 7 PM. This year's live music extravaganza, formerly called April Foolery, will be held at Redwood Café, winner of the 2019 NorBays Music Award for Best Venue.

Headlining is Wendy DeWitt with Kirk Harwood, a dynamic boogie woogie duo, who, between them, have played with Hank Ballard, Western Swing Hall of Famer Tommy Thompson, Steve Miller, Elvin Bishop and Steve Miller. For the Birthday Bash, they will be joined by special guests, to be announced. The Blues Burners, a critically acclaimed, local seven-piece band will also play the event.

So Co Dance Beat Birthday Bash celebrates live, local music and funds the free, comprehensive, online calendar that helps locals and visitors find that music at nearly 100 venues in the county.

"Our celebratory fundraiser just keeps getting better and better. We are so grateful for the community support and for Redwood Café for making the event itself so easy. We count on individual and corporate donations to keep the calendar free and look forward to serving musicians, dancers and music lovers for years to come," said Sonoma County Dance Beat co-founder Ann Hutchinson.

Recent praise for the calendar:

"What a terrific web page!" says local veteran musician Larry Natalini. "I don't know how many times I've had to wade through the Internet, trying in vain to see who was playing and where. Your coverage is better than any I've seen online."

Founders Kevin and Ann Hutchinson also teach private dance lessons, specializing in reluctant beginners, give dance demonstrations and group lessons at events, and provide talent buying services for local venues.

[Wendy DeWitt with Kirk Harwood](#) has been wowing audiences in the Bay Area, across the nation and abroad with its high-energy, virtuosic brand of boogie-woogie and blues that has garnered national and international attention. In 2012 and 2014, DeWitt and Harwood represented The Golden Gate Blues Society in the International Blues Challenge, Memphis, and are 2014 Finalists. The duo's third album, "Getaway," maximizes Harwood's jazz and Big Band background, creating a compelling mix of modern and traditional blues. (See full bio below.)

Praise for Wendy DeWitt with Kirk Harwood:

"All the cool kids already know DeWitt is one smoking boogie woogie piano/organ gal and it's time for the word to spread beyond her regional awards." —Chris Spector, Midwest Record

"She has rightly earned the title of "Queen of Boogie" in the Bay Area and beyond." —Bernie Butcher, Blue Wing Festival

[The BluesBurners](#) play a spicy mix of funk, rock, electric blues and old school R&B. Voted favorite local band by KRSH listeners and nominated for a NORBY for Best R&B/Blues Band, The BluesBurners, currently celebrating over 20 years on the music scene, comprise seven experienced and talented musicians.

Admission is \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the show.

6th Annual Birthday Bash Sponsors

Stanroy Music Center, Oliver's Market, Redwood Café
With additional support from Pronoeo Insurance Agency, Montgomery Village, Kenwood Hearing Centers and April's Mobile Notary
Additional in-kind support from the Mystic Theater

Photos available upon request

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: 6th Annual So Co Dance Beat Birthday Bash

WHEN: Sunday, March 29, 2020, 4-7 PM

WHO: Wendy DeWitt with Kirk Harwood PLUS The BluesBurners

WHERE: Redwood Café, 8240 Old Redwood Highway, Cotati, 94931

COST: \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the show

DETAILS: benefit, all ages; door prizes

INFO: socodancebeat.com, 707-953-1663 or answers@socodancebeat.com

Full Bio for Wendy DeWitt with Kirk Harwood

International Boogie Woogie master Wendy DeWitt, known for her powerhouse left hand, paired with the brilliant, jazz-trained drummer Kirk Harwood (formerly with Norton Buffalo, Huey Lewis and Roy Rogers) make for a high-energy duo capable of holding its own on any stage with power, pizzazz and presence. When adding Steve

Freund on guitar, Steve Evans on bass or Nancy Wright on sax, the combination is unstoppable.

DeWitt performed for four years with Hank Ballard and the Midnighters, and with Charlie Musselwhite, Otis Rush, Big Time Sarah and Jimmy Thackery. She has appeared at the Cincinnati Blues Fest, Boston Symphony Hall and the San Diego Museum of Art with Hadda Brooks in one of his last performances. DeWitt also performed at the San Francisco Blues Festival, St. Croix Blues and Heritage Fest, Les Nuits de Boogie Woogie in Paris and festivals in Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary and Belgium. A festival producer as well, DeWitt produces the Queens of Boogie Woogie and co-produces the San Francisco International Boogie Woogie Festival.

Introduced to the blues at the age of 10, with help from Western Swing Hall-of-Famer Tommy Thomsen, Wendy DeWitt's passion for music led her to Chicago Blues and Texas Boogie Woogie, with influences ranging from Otis Spann, Memphis Slim and Professor Longhair to Katie Webster and Bessie Smith.

DeWitt teaches workshops at JazzSchool in Berkeley, California, and the duo has inspired students in Centrum in Port Townsend, Washington, Augusta Blues Week and, in conjunction with the US Embassy, Budapest, Hungary.

In 2012 and 2014, Wendy DeWitt with Kirk Harwood represented The Golden Gate Blues Society in the International Blues Challenge, Memphis and are 2014 Finalists.

The duo's third album, "Getaway," maximizes Harwood's jazz and Big Band background, creating a compelling mix of modern and traditional blues.

About Sonoma County Dance Beat

[Sonoma County Dance Beat](#) has been providing a free, online calendar, listing all the dance music events in the county, from outdoor summer concerts to dance halls and dive bars since April 1, 2014. Sonoma County Dance Beat supports Sonoma County musicians and venues by providing an invaluable resource for dancers and music lovers to find them. The organization, founded by dancers, Ann and Kevin Hutchinson, also offers affordable talent buying services to venues and group dance lessons for public or private events. The Mr. Music Foundation, a local 501c3 nonprofit, supports SCDB's mission and acts as its fiscal agent.