

# Swoop Unit

**BOOKING INFO** SwoopUnit@gmail.com  
**WEBSITE** SwoopUnit.com  
**HIGHLIGHT REEL** YouTube.com



Born in the legendary, sunken orchestra pit of Bruno's San Francisco, Swoop Unit has been shaking down Bay Area clubs for more than a decade. And if you have yet to witness a Swoop Unit show, you've been missing a rare revival of original dance-floor funk!

"A perfect combination of sound and setting takes place as the jazzy soul and funk of Swoop Unit fills the awesomely divey, darkened corners of the Boom Boom Room," wrote Steve Gonzales, editor of Netvibe.com. "As key members of the local, live music scene for [more than] 20 years, the musicians that make up Swoop Unit have an uncanny ability to get the crowd moving with a jazzy mix of classic covers and original funk masterpieces. Grab a drink, but don't bother with a seat—you won't need it once they get it going..."



This veteran collective of soul survivors can be heard all over the San Francisco Bay Area, whether they're getting airplay on KWMR's Friday Funk Fest, receiving the Best Blues Jazz Band award at the All Shook Down Music Festival, shooting a Verizon Wireless concert in Golden Gate Park, opening for George Porter, Jr. and Leo Nocentelli of The Meters, or members playing alongside heavy hitters like Michael Franti and Spearhead, En Vogue, Steve Turre from Saturday Night Live, Los Angelitos, Fred Wesley, and the late Richie Hayward of Little Feat.

Swoop's albums *Swingin' Freakout* and *Sack o' Funk* are testaments to the work ethic of this group: both records play start to finish with tightness that only a band gigging for so many years together could bring into the studio. Tracks such as "Zebra 3," "Mindeletuduk," and "Snagglepuss" solidify the band's well-deserved spot on the forefront of the instrumental funk scene, while powerhouse soul singer Rossana Fiero's vocals on "In The Ground,"

"Backwards Boogaloo," and "Can't Believe You're Gone" kickstart the ass-shakin' sweat sessions that are guaranteed on a Swoop Unit dance floor. They'll make you wanna Swoop!

Swoop Unit's wah-and-horn-knotted funk-jazz sessions are punchy, swathed with ham-and-cheese organ, stone-skipping guitar, and strutting sax solos. With no guest rappers or soul legends on hand to rearrange the pace, they'd better be catchy if they can't be well-connected. And they are — so much so that they make catchiness look easy in jazz. You can't go wrong with a subspecies of Kool and the Gang as summer fare. **Dan Weiss, SF Weekly**

Each musician is a consummate player with a seemingly endless knowledge of funk, jazz, and rock music. They always provide one of most high energy shows around. **Dana Kamian, Slim's**

The Bay Area's siren for funk, jazz, and soul is a collective of some of the most brilliant musicians in all of Northern California. These guys play with such a funky intensity, if you close your eyes and grit your teeth you can picture James Brown himself dancing onto the stage. **Mark Roemer, CD Baby**

Swoop Unit is a truly rare find in today's musical landscape: a hard grooving band that not only incorporates the driving rhythms of modern day funk and hip-hop, but also has jazz chips to back it up with blistering solos and original arrangements. **Aaron Levin, sfjazz.org**

## GIGS

Funky First Friday Residency at Amnesia	Slim's Crystal Bay Club	Bruno's Pier 23	The Starry Plough Club Deluxe	Bruce Latimer Show	House of Shields
Boom Boom Room	Peri's	Uptown	Make-Out Room	4th Street Tavern	Jupiter
Brick & Mortar	Red Devil Lounge	Park Chalet	Olive & Arts Festival	Bayview Boat Club	Rassela's
	Smileys	Beach Chalet	Crowdad Festival	Casanova	
				Grant & Green	

## THE PLAYERS

Paul Rustigian **KEYS** Adam Willis **DRUMS** Steve Neil **BASS** Patrick Greene **GUITAR** Rossana Fiero **VOCALS** Les Harris **TENOR SAX + FLUTE** Scott Okamoto **TROMBONE** John Gibson **TRUMPET**