

Who is Commodore Callahan?

"This is a versatile group of talented musicians. Everything from soul to Brazilian jazz! Perfectly lovely!" – Suzanne Fowler Palmer, Exec. Director, Boys Hope Girls Hope S.F. Bay Area



As heard on Bay Area 89.5 KPOO and 91.1 KCSM!

We are a band with a conscience and a heart, and that spirit comes through in our music. Coming from diverse musical backgrounds, the members of Commodore Callahan - Don Kane (bass, clarinet, vocals, music); Lauren Speeth (lyrics, vocals, backup instruments); and Josh Workman (guitar, vocals, backup instruments) – have embarked on a unified mission to support nonprofit fundraisers, uplift spirits, and spread social awareness through music. We often perform as an acoustic trio, but other instruments can be added to turn up the heat. The songs we write and record encompass love and hope, but also tackle the harder issues.

The band's first gig was a fundraiser at Google, for a hospital to be built in Bihar, India. Our first album, *Love is Here* - described as "upbeat spiritual, with a gospel flavor" - had CD release debut concert at the big kickoff fundraiser for San Francisco Boys Hope Girls Hope. This CD was used in a fundraising telethon by Peter Young Housing Industries and Treatment. That was followed with two additional singles. More are on their way!

Availability and Gigs

Talk to us about YOUR fundraiser or worship service...

Since our inception, we have played primarily fundraisers. We have lent our musical talents to international efforts and domestic, secular and religious. In our longest running gig to date, we sang in support of an Elfenworks Foundation effort, "Second Saturdays," every Second Saturday throughout the campaign. During that time we could reliably be found singing and raising awareness about social justice issues, tied to the seasons. Around September 11th, we focused on a peace and harmony theme; around Thanksgiving time, our focus was food insecurity, and around the winter gift-giving season, the issue included simple gifts, for those who could not provide them, for their children.

We're all for supporting nonprofits and promoting public awareness of social issues, and assisting in fundraising. If you'd like us to consider writing music about your cause or issue, or to discuss booking Commodore Callahan for *your* next nonprofit fundraiser, please contact us.

Enjoy this uplifting and lush synthesis of our musical lifetimes...

Lauren Speeth ~ Vocals, Lyrics & Melodies, Guitar, Flute...

“Vocalist Lauren Speeth, with her quiet-but-confident and sultry Brazilian style...”

Lauren Speeth has been writing music since she could hold a blue crayon... but she first began dreaming of a career as a songwriter while reading ‘songwriter’ magazine and plotting her escape from high school.

A solo *light lyric soprano* in the invitation-only choir *Singing Angels* in Cleveland when she was a youth. She was coached in California by Eleanor Cohen and Faith Winthrop, and although influenced by Suzanne Vega, Astrud Gilberto, James Taylor and others, Speeth has her own authentic voice and style. As a musician, she has had wonderful piano and flute instructors, learned from guitarists Jeffrey Chinn and John Cordell, and gotten tips from friends like Michael Lorimer and fellow band member Josh. On violin, she’s studied with Betty Haag, Christopher Kranyak, Joseph Gold, Jeremy Cohen and Aaron Rosand. For Lauren, music is a great way to get in touch with the divine, and to make ‘a joyful noise.’ She’s especially excited about fundraisers, praise music, and in joining her voice with others in the interests of compassionate understanding and social justice.



Don Kane ~ Melodies, Bass, Vocals, Clarinet, Sax...

“Speeth, Kane and Workman bring powerful combined musical presence to awareness-raising...”

Don Kane (www.donkanebass.com) has played professionally for many decades, having joined the Musician's Union at 14. Don started his career playing clarinet and saxophone, apprenticing with his father's band, *The Three Beats*, a local San Francisco mainstay which appeared at Nick's Rockaway Beach through the '50s and '60s. Don studied bass with Chuck Rainey and Carol Kaye and clarinet with John Geanacos, and voice with Faith Winthrop. Don added bass to his repertoire while serving with the U.S. Air Force military band during the Vietnam era. After receiving an honorable discharge, he began his days as a touring musician, working with Bob Crosby, Xavier Cugat, Sammy Kaye, Vaughn Monroe, Skeeter Davis, The Sounds of Joy and others. Kane also lived for two years in Nashville, working for and touring with Eddie Arnold back when Arnold was CMA Entertainer of the Year. A highly sought-after musician for his flexibility, versatility, and easy-going nature, Don is comfortable with a wide variety of styles. After a lifetime of improvisational performance, Don began venturing into writing formally, on behalf of the band. His first published melody can be heard as our album's first cut: *One Way Track*.



Josh Workman ~ Melodies, Guitar, Vocals

"Josh Workman set the tone with his soft, jazzy guitar rhythms..."

Josh Workman (www.joshworkman.com) began playing guitar at age 10 and by the tender age of 13 was already out performing in the smoke-filled bars of San Francisco's infamous North Beach. Some of his earliest guitar teachers included Ray Scott, Tuck Andress (Tuck & Patti), Dave Creamer and Bruce Foreman. Josh spent a year at the Berklee School of Music in Boston, at age 19 Josh left to finish his studies at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in New York City. This is where he fully immersed himself in learning to play jazz guitar. He has recorded and performed with artists such as world music ensemble D'Vash, The Jazz Passengers (featuring Deborah Harry of Blondie) and offshoots of the Groove Collective. During the neo-swing craze of the late 1990s, his band, Indigo Swing was regarded as one of the bands leading the pack, touring internationally and performing 200-300 dates per year, touring with The Brian Setzer Orchestra and headlining many prestigious festivals around the globe such as the Stuttgart Jazz Festival in Germany, where they shared the stage with legends Rosemary Clooney, Lionel Hampton and vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater. He also toured as a member of Hot Club of San Francisco, and released his own CD, *Jumpin' At The Border*.



Past Performance Highlights

"Garden in my Soul has become a mantra for our agency, we strive to incorporate these values into the work we do every day. Peace, Love, Justice, Hope! We sing it to ourselves to lift our spirits!" - Suzanne Fowler Palmer, Exec. Director, Boys Hope Girls Hope S.F. Bay Area

- **Project Respite** kickoff fundraiser benefiting the Shechen Medical Center, the only provider of modern medical health care services for a population for over 200,000 in Bihar, India, an important pilgrimage site. This fundraiser was undertaken on behalf of Google and the Dalai Lama's interpreter, Matthieu Ricard, at the Google campus, in Cupertino, California. See www.projectrespite.com for how to support the ongoing needs of this worthy initiative.
- **Boys Hope Girls Hope** gala fundraiser, downtown San Francisco, California. See www.boyshopegirlshope.org for information about how to support this worthy organization.
- **Elfenworks Foundation's Second Saturday** Kickoff Event. Subsequent Second Saturdays throughout the campaign, which included a road trip, in which 35 cities were visited.
- **S.A.L.T. Conference** "Vulnerable Populations and Economic Realities" at Golden Gate University campus, San Francisco California.
- **Private Parties**, Boxing Day, Winter Party, etc.
- **More than Bluegrass** fundraisers benefitting the many missions of the Burlingame United Methodist Church. Two annual *More than Bluegrass* events supported, so far, and we're looking forward to next time.
- **Your group here... ?**

Raves...

"From the moment our event began, Josh Workman set the tone with his soft, jazzy guitar rhythms. He later was joined by rest of Commodore Callahan's musicians, Don Kane on the bass, Ross Gualco on piano and John Watkins on bass while Don slipped in a Clarinet solo. They were joined by vocalist Lauren Speeth with her quiet-but-confident and sultry Brazilian style blended with Alison Lewis whose vocal dynamism and sculpted tones balanced out the act. Outstanding harmonies and marvelous lyrics bringing warmth and hope to us all!" - *Suzanne Fowler Palmer, Exec. Director, Boys Hope Girls Hope S.F. Bay Area*

"The true magic of music is when it unifies several emotions and spirits into a perfect harmony, with words that capture a moment, feeling and emotion all at once. Garden in My Soul did that beautifully, and used that magic to musically memorialize the essence of what Boys Hope Girls Hope is all about." - *Paul Minorini, Esq., International President of Boys Hope Girls Hope*

"The music of Commodore Callahan set the tone for our Growing Hope Graduation Gala... thoughtful, deliberate and fun! A spectacular group of professionals to work with. So many of our guests commented on the synergistic message of the lyrics and our message as a nonprofit agency." - *Suzanne Fowler Palmer, Exec. Director, Boys Hope Girls Hope S.F. Bay Area*

"If there's one thing that can light up the faces of a group of poverty law veterans and pioneers-to-be, it's singing along to "Such a Crime," with Commodore Callahan, the band of Lauren Speeth, the polymath philanthropist, scholar and activist." - *Dru Ramey, Esq., Dean of Golden Gate University School of Law (regarding the Golden Gate/SALT National Poverty Law Conference)*

"Speeth, Kane and Workman bring powerful combined musical presence to awareness-raising. The impressive versatility and soulfulness of their delightful set provided the splendid ambiance to a wonderful event." - *Kenneth Tam, Executive Director, Elfenworks (regarding ElfenWinterParty)*

"Many thanks to Lauren Speeth and Commodore Callahan who joined with us at our recent Church benefit concert here in Burlingame California. The music was both joyful and inspirational and was delivered with professionalism and graciousness. With a style all their own, Commodore Callahan's music demonstrated both depth and accessibility. The ease with which they delivered their original songs belied the sophistication present in their music. We are very grateful indeed to Lauren and the band for their help and generosity of time and spirit. Cheers and blessings to all in Commodore Callahan in the continuance of your good work." - *Kevin Morgenstern*

Gig Candids...



Boys Hope Girls Hope Fundraiser



Project Respite Fundraiser at Google



The Elfenworks Foundation "Elfenwinter Party"

CONTACT

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