



# San Gabriel



**Music the Way It's Supposed to Feel.™**



The San Gabriel Seven is an instrumental jazz/funk band that features an explosive rhythm section, brilliant horns, and inspired arrangements of original compositions.

Based in the Los Angeles area, the San Gabriel Seven has performed all over the world, often with such greats as Bill Watrous, Eric Marienthal and Nick Mancini sitting in.

Formed in 2003 by trombonist Jim Lewis, the band recently released its fourth and fifth CDs: "Blue Confluence" w/ Ingrid James, and "Crazy Notes."

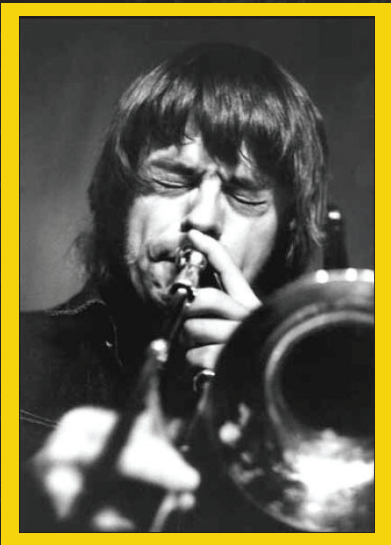
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# What the Pros are Saying about

## San Gabriel 7

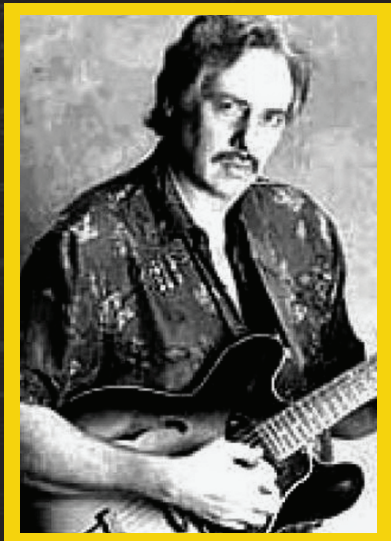


"I have been associated with Jim Lewis and the San Gabriel 7 for some time and find this group to be a very exciting, high energy experience with first-class musicians. The San Gabriel 7 is one of the best up-and-coming groups on the L.A. Jazz Scene. I expect great things from them in the future!"

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- Bill Watrous

7-Time Winner "Jazz Trombonist of The Year"  
Down Beat Magazine



"Unlike many performing groups, SG7 is unique due to its focus, leadership, hard work, and dedication by the core members. It is unusual to find a true instrumental group which has both high musical standards and the work ethic necessary to produce a really tight, believable, personal sound. SG7 has achieved this beautifully on their new album "Blame It On Trio!"

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-Bruce Lofgren, Award-Winning Guitarist

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**Kye Palmer (Trumpet)** is a native of southern California and a graduate of Cal-Poly, Pomona. From 2006-2009, Kye could be heard nightly as lead trumpet on the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno." Other notable TV appearances include Late Night with David Letterman, Good Morning America, the Today Show, and the Conan O'Brien Show.

Kye has toured throughout Europe with the Brian Setzer Orchestra and Japan with the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. Prior to joining the Tonight Show, he toured with the Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band. He has performed with musical legends such as Bob Dylan, Tom Jones, Tony Bennett, Seal and Joe Williams.

As an educator, Kye has taught Applied Trumpet at USC, Jazz Theory and Improvisation at Riverside Community College, and has maintained a private teaching studio since 1999. As a clinician/soloist, he has worked with students and bands at the University of North Florida, University of Memphis, Mount San Antonio College, Riverside Community College, Cal-State Fullerton, and many local high schools. Kye has also authored several articles on jazz improvisation for the International Trumpet Guild.



**Matt Weisberg (Keyboards)** has worked with some of the best performers in the business, including REO Speedwagon, Latin pop star, Estafano, to jazz all-stars Ira Sullivan, Brian Lynch, Bill Watrous, Eric Marienthal, Pete Christlieb, and John Heard.

Matt is a first-call session musician; his playing can be heard on everything from major theatre productions to major-label EP's. As a composer and producer, Matt's music has been featured in movie trailers, television shows, television commercials and radio spots. Most recently, he has been producing music for MTV's, "10 on Top", and feature films such as "Big Momma's House III" and the Hallmark Channel's, "The Town Christmas Forgot."

Matt received a scholarship to study at the acclaimed University of Miami's School of Music. While in Miami, Matt had the opportunity to develop his skills with some of the best educators in the world. Since 2005, Matt has called Southern California home. He lives in the Hollywood Hills where he teaches and produces music out of his home studio.

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**Jim Lewis (Trombone)** is the founder of the San Gabriel 7. He studied jazz at the University of Alabama under Steve Sample and more recently with trombone virtuoso Bill Watrous. He is a regular on the L.A. jazz scene and has performed in many LA based groups including the Bill Watrous Refuge West big band, the Chris Walden big band, Swing City and many other groups.

Jim also leads several groups that perform regularly in the LA area. Jim started as a side man in Birmingham, Alabama and has worked as a session player in Muscle Shoals, Los Angeles, Orlando, and briefly in San Diego.

He moved to LA in September of 2001 and, immediately after 9/11, was sent to Afghanistan for 18 months as a Special Forces Team Leader with his National Guard unit. Upon his return in 2003, Jim focused his attention on starting the San Gabriel 7 and currently performs in many of the local rehearsal bands around town. Jim works full-time as an engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.



**Jonathan Pintoff (Bass Guitar)** was born in New York City and grew up amidst the various sounds, rhythms and flavors of that multicultural metropolis. With more than 25 years of professional experience as a jazz, Latin, rock, and R & B bassist, Jonathan brings broad playing experience and creativity to every project. Performing regularly in the U.S., Jonathan has also played internationally in Brazil, Puerto Rico, Japan and Singapore.

His live performances include La India, Hilton Ruiz, Jeff Lorber, Bennie Maupin, Celia Cruz, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Francisco Aguabella, Don Menza and many others. His studio recordings include Francisco Aguabella - H2O, Dave Pike - Peligroso, Angela Carol Brown

- The Slow Club, Azuquia - Tipicamente, Robert Incelli - From Bolivar to LA, Ladd McIntosh Swing Orchestra, Susie Hansen - Solo Flight, Bobby Rodriguez - Latin Jazz Explosion (Grammy nominee), Craig Pilo - Just Play.

Commercial spots include Denny's, Budget Rent-a-Car, IHOP, Coors, and Hyundai Motor Corp. Television recordings include Ally McBeal, The Office, and The Osbournes. Film and Television performances include Blade (1978), The Office - "Classy Christmas" (2010).

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**Steve Gregory (Guitar)** began playing in bars and for private events at the age of seventeen. While a student at California State University, Northridge, Steve was the recipient of the Shelley Manne Memorial New Talent Award from the Los Angeles Jazz Society and began performing around Los Angeles with his own band. Soon after, Steve began touring the world with the legendary, Ray Charles.

Steve has toured with pop music icon, Frankie Valli, as well as singer/songwriter and Leonard Cohen collaborator, Anjani. Steve has performed and/or recorded with Thelma Houston, Michael Buble, Diane Reeves, Pattie Austin, Marilyn McCoo, Leonard Cohen, Alphonse Mouzon, Macy Gray, Margo Rey, and many others.

Steve is currently very active as a studio guitarist and has recorded for a number of television shows such as "Beavis and Butthead" (MTV), "Playboy Club" (NBC), "Big Time Rush" (Nickelodeon), and others, as well as films and commercials. For more detailed info, check out [www.stevegregory.net](http://www.stevegregory.net).



**Randy Drake (Drums)** began playing at age twelve. After graduating from Goffstown High School in New Hampshire, Randy moved to Denton, Texas, and studied music at the University of North Texas, graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies.

After moving to Los Angeles in 1988, Randy began performing with Dan Siegel, Bill Watrous, John Novello, Pat Kelley, and Gregg Karukas. Between 1990 and 1992, he performed and recorded with artists including Birds of a Feather, the Mark Masters Jazz Orchestra, Uncle Festive, and Ralph Carmichael. After touring Japan with Japanese guitarist Masayoshi Takanaka and the United States with Englebert Humperdinck, Randy performed, recorded, and toured with the

jazz-pop artist Daniel Ho and Kilauea. Recently, he has been performing and recording with Shelly Berg, Jennifer Leitham, Carmen Bradford, the jazz-pop group Kombo, and Suzanne Buirgy.

In 1999 and 2000, Randy worked with aspiring young musicians at Bill Murphy's Summer Jazz program in Jackson, Mississippi. Currently, he teaches private drum set students at California State University Long Beach.

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**Glen Berger (Saxophone)** is a native of New Jersey and was born into a musical family. His father was a professional woodwind/keyboard player and his mother was a music educator. Glen attended the Berklee College Of Music.

Performing a variety of woodwinds, he has appeared with Barry Manilow, Shakira, Keith Emerson, Barbra Streisand, Stanley Clarke Band, Tom Jones, Pasadena Pops Orchestra, Poncho Sanchez Band, Max Weinberg Big Band, Bill Watrous Big Band, and many others.

Glen's TV appearances include The Academy Awards, The Tonight Show, 60 Minutes, The Today Show, and Dancing With The Stars. He can also be heard on the soundtracks for a variety of TV shows and motion pictures including Family Tree, The Family Guy, Cleveland Show, Entertainment Tonight, "Extra," CSI, Mad Men, Fairly Odd Parents, The Butler, Sparkle, Burlesque, Mars Attacks! and others.

Glen has recorded with artists and groups such as Robbie Williams, Matchbox Twenty, Steve Lukather, Spinal Tap, Silversun Pickups, Ricki Lee Jones, Fiona Apple, Christina Aguilera, Stanley Clarke and Friends, Marc Broussard and many more.

Glen is frequently called upon to play a variety of woodwind instruments in musical theater shows at the Ahmanson Theater, Mark Taper Forum, and others. Shows include Follies, West Side Story, Randy Newman's Harps and Angels, Dreamgirls, Spamalot, A Chorus Line, Drowsy Chaperone, Avenue Q, Light In The Piazza, Curtains, and The Producers.



**Ingrid James (Guest Vocalist)** is an award-winning jazz vocalist and educator from Queensland, Australia who has performed all over the world. In 2005, Alan Bargebuhr of New York's Cadence Magazine described Ingrid's CD "Essence" as a probable candidate for his Best 10 list. Other reviewers acknowledge the heartfelt warmth and intimate style that characterizes her performances. Tony Backhouse from New Zealand says "Ingrid James floats and swings effortlessly through the changes with a tone of honey. And journalist David Bentley writes, "You've probably heard these songs before - but never like this. Thoughtful, inventive and, above all, swinging, Ingrid squeezes every line for nuance and meaning. The impeccable phrasing and accurate intonation come almost as a bonus."

A graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and The Australian Film, Television and Radio School, Sydney, Ingrid also teaches privately and runs regular master classes and workshops.

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Magnetic Island, Australia - The Great Tropical Jazz Party



Magnetic Island, Australia



Catalina Jazz Club, Los Angeles



Catalina Jazz Club, Los Angeles



Paseo Colorado, Pasadena, CA

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# Reviews

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## “Blue Confluence”



*“The creative interplay throughout this album between Ingrid James' captivating voice and the unique sounds of the San Gabriel 7 is really fresh and exciting. This project showcases the versatility in Ingrid's sultry smooth sound as well as her wonderful intonation and musicality*

*Throughout this great collection of music, I found the arrangements to be creative, fresh and just fun to listen to. The improvisations from Ingrid and the band are exciting and bring the music to an even higher level. This is a great collaboration between one of Australia's most talented vocalists and the unique style of the San Gabriel 7.”*

**- Eric Marienthal, Grammy Award-Winning Saxophonist**

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*“San Gabriel 7's new vocal CD, “Blue Confluence,” is a treat for the ears! Beautiful, sensual vocals by Ingrid James are intertwined with the band through the lush arrangements by Dave Cushman. “Blue Confluence” captures the high level of musicianship that exists in this band, while giving plenty of space to Ingrid to shine. Adding world class soloist Eric Marienthal to this CD is the perfect addition to this already great band.*

*This CD also shows off the talented writing of Dave Cushman, as well as the tight horn playing and solid rhythm playing of the band itself. This CD is a great addition to anyone's collection.”*

**- Jeff Bunnell, Composer/Arranger/Trumpeter**

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*“The San Gabriel Seven is a versatile group that...have their own sound within the world of jazz. They are a perfect match for Ingrid James, both complementing and challenging her singing.*

*The fresh material, strong musicianship, and powerful yet fetching vocals of Ingrid James make “Blue Confluence” an enjoyable and memorable listening experience.”*

**- Steve Yallow, Author “The Jazz Singers”**

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# Reviews

## “Crazy Notes”



*“This is a serious fusion CD. With fiery solos from trumpeter Kye Palmer, guitarist Steve Gregory and keyboardist Matt Weisberg, along with smokin’ arrangements by Dave Cushman, this CD is sure to please!*

*Highlights include Kye palmer’s and Steve Gregory’s burning solos on “Camille’s Cookin’; Steve Gregory’s lyrical solo on “Extreme Wattage” (reminiscent of Larry Carlton), Matt Weisberg’s funky solo on “Sneakin’ Out Of Camarillo”; and Francisco Torres’ energetic solo on “Kidlette’s Revenge”. Throughout this CD is the solid and creative writing of Dave Cushman, who penned some smokin’ horn solis expertly nailed by the San Gabriel 7 horn section. This is a CD to be reckoned with!”*

**- Jeff Bunnell, Composer/Arranger/Trumpeter**

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*“Crazy Notes” is a refreshing change of pace for people who love instrumental jazz. There is such a wide range of music on this CD. It keeps you in it from start to finish. On this 5th recording from San Gabriel 7, the writing is better than ever and the horn arrangements are unique and original. The soloists throughout the band are some of the best in the biz and their contribution to these charts really brings the music to a peak.*

*What I love about this record is it's live and spontaneous sound. It makes you feel as though you're sitting in the front row of a jazz club with the band 5 feet away. There's something different happening at every turn. Great tunes, terrific soloing and a sound that's right in your face! The Crazy Notes will be hitting you from all angles so keep your ears open and watch out!”*

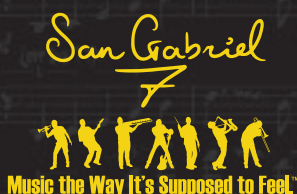
**- Eric Marienthal, Grammy Award-Winning Saxophonist**

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*“Throughout its existence, the San Gabriel Seven has always been versatile, funky and creative. Sometimes the group’s ensembles sound a bit like a big band, or perhaps a little like Tower Of Power, a rock group or a bop septet. In all cases, the San Gabriel Seven’s musical personality shines through.*

*On Crazy Notes, the music often features funky grooves but always contains strong jazz solos. Steve Gregory’s rockish guitar stars on “Crazy Notes” and “Camille’s Cooking.” Trumpeter Kye Palmer is a joy whenever he is in the spotlight, particularly on the ballad “Chloeology.” Glen Berger’s soulful tenor is an important part of the group’s sound and he displays some of his wit on “Sushiman Sivaman.” The group’s leader trombonist Jim Lewis sounds particularly fine on “Sneakin’ Out Of Camarillo.” Keyboardist Matt Weisberg contributes a great deal to the group’s sound while bassist Jonathan Pintoff and drummer Randy Drake display their talents throughout the set as stimulating accompanists.”*

**- Steve Yarrow, Author “The Jazz Singers”**



For Immediate Release  
July 17, 2012

## ***World-Class Jazz Back to Magnetic in August***

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*"This is truly a world-class musical event. Many of the jazz festivals in the US would be hard pressed to compete with the excellent musicianship you presented."*

*- Bob Montgomery from The American Jazz Quartet, Denver, USA.*

Commencing on Friday 24 August, the Great Tropical Jazz Party features internationally acclaimed jazz musicians in a festival programme that includes three nights and two days of jazz, culminating in an informal Jam Session on the Sunday night. This year the GTJP is at a new venue, the beachside Hotel Arcadia on Geoffrey Bay. The jazz festival is the signature entertainment event on Magnetic Island and the stage is set poolside, creating a relaxed, intimate venue that attracts jazz lovers from all over Australia.

The 2012 programme features seven bands and more than 40 leading jazz musicians, playing exciting jazz styles from mainstream to contemporary through modern to Latin.



Among another excellent line-up, this year sees Queensland's **Ingrid James & the San Gabriel 7** from Los Angeles, featuring the legendary Bill Watrous, 7-time winner, Jazz Trombonist of the Year – Downbeat Magazine, USA.

The GTJP has earned an impeccable reputation since its inception in 1997 for offering top-class entertainment in a relaxed setting, becoming one of Australia's premier jazz events. Festival Director Marilyn Sheather says, "Every Jazz Party seems to be bigger and better than the one before. We're able to attract quality musicians simply because they love to play on Magnetic Island. The festival is unique in that all sessions are held at the one venue; this enables musicians who are between sets to sit back and enjoy the music and camaraderie of their peers, which creates a lively buzz amongst the crowd."

"Jazz musicians clamor for an invite to play at the iconic festival, with first timers usually blown away by the venue and the surroundings," Marilyn enthuses. "Many musicians bring their partners and families as well. It's such an intimate, friendly setting that encourages families to linger and enjoy the balmy nights and warm days of Magnetic Island."

Weekend pass is only \$80, which allows admittance to all five day and night sessions. Single session & concession tickets are also available.

Contact Marilyn on: 07 4778 5918 or email: [magneticjazz@hotmail.net.au](mailto:magneticjazz@hotmail.net.au)

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August 12, 2012

It's an unbeatable combination - a singer who can sound like a perfectly played instrument, and a horn player who comes astonishing close to matching the human voice. Put the two together, give them material that ranges from '70's funk to boss nova to ballads and the result is quite possibly the best Australian vocal album of 2012.

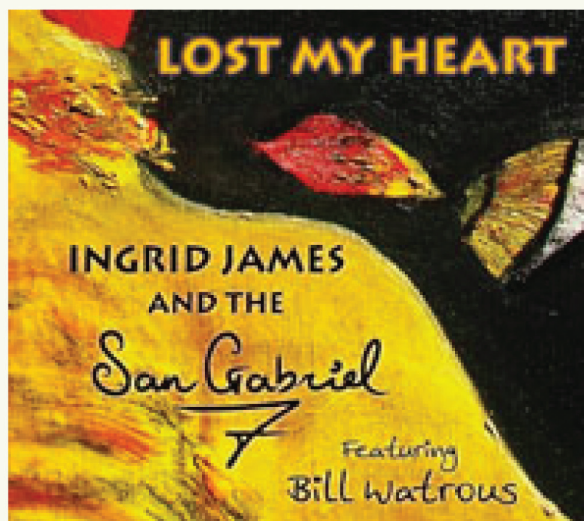
The vocalist is already well known in Queensland and is rapidly making a name for herself on the national and world stage, too. She's Brisbane singer, teacher and mum Ingrid James, whose note-perfect delivery and depth of lyrical expression has elevated her into the elite of Australia's musical talents.

The horn player is quite simply the best trombonist in the known universe, Los Angeles-based legend Bill Watrous. His gift is to make it all sound so easy, the mark of genius. The material comes from myriad sources, Joni Mitchell to Albinoni, '70's pop boogaloo to a classic '30s ballad, accented with a healthy dollop of Brazil. Lyric interpretation aside, Ingrid's chief gift is the purity of her wordless vocals, no easy task. Watrous' horn, meanwhile evokes the sweet expressiveness of masters from Tommy Dorsey to Urbie Green. No less a trombone titan than James Morrison himself stands in awe of Bill's tone, technique and outpouring of rich musical ideas.

Highlights abound, the sensuality of Ingrid's Portuguese words on Jobim's "O Grande Amor", her haunting lyric and Louise Denson's sumptuous melody on title track, the happy bebop of "Conception", and the classic '70's fusion of "Jogral", so reminiscent of Bill's much-loved band of that decade, Manhattan Wildlife Refuge. My own top choice, though, is "I Fall in Love Too Easily", with utterly perfect lovelorn ballad statements from Ingrid and Bill, and fine support from their LA band the San Gabriel 7. It's the most vulnerable, heart-rending treatment of this tune since Chet Baker made it his own in 1955.

Good news if you want to catch Ingrid and Bill in person. The two are playing at festivals at the end of this month in Noosa, Brisbane and Magnetic Island. But if you can't head north, appreciate them on this delightfully varied release.

- Steve Robertson

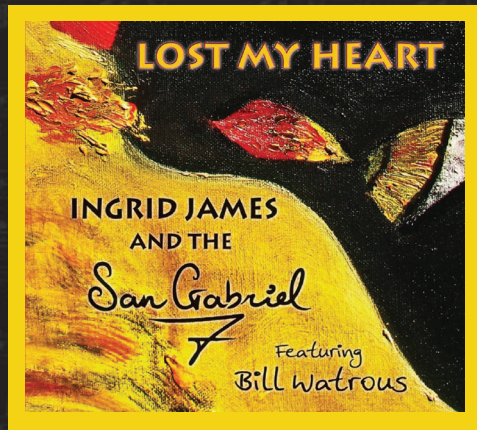


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# Discography



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