

# HoraceHeidt PRODUCTIONS

## PRESS KIT

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**Horace Heidt Productions**

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## HORACE HEIDT, JR.

Horace Heidt, Jr. is successfully living up to the impressive family tradition he inherited. His own accomplishments in the musical arts and performing fields are outstanding.

Following in his famed father's musical footsteps, Horace Heidt, Jr. began his performing career at age three singing and dancing on his father's television show and found it not only to his liking, but with the realization that it was the only career he wished to follow. His father, however, insisted he have a good education, and he was sent for several years to boarding schools, such as the exclusive Black-Foxe Military Institute in Los Angeles. "I believe I was an effective student," states Horace, "and I enjoyed participating in athletic activities as well as in the school's musical programs."

During this period he organized "The Satellites," his own rock band who played for private parties. Later while attending Paul Revere Junior High and Santa Monica High Schools he became seriously interested in music and in promoting his own band. "The Stage Band" at Santa Monica High won "The Battle of the Bands" at the Hollywood Bowl, and his group of musicians, which was renamed "The Tradewinds" performed successfully for two years at the Deauville Club on the Santa Monica Pier.

Furthering his education, he attended Culver Military School in Indiana where all of the Heidt men for several generations had graduated. Attendance at Stanford, where he majored in political science and minored in drama and music, led to his graduation and stint in the Army Reserves. In 1977, Horace graduated from Southwestern University School of Law where he earned his Juris Doctorate.

When he was discharged from the Army Reserves, he joined a musical group and played with them at Chicago's Drake Hotel for three years. A highlight was their booking at the posh Westside Room of the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, where the orchestra performed for appreciative audiences which included a number of celebrities. By this time Heidt was becoming a seasoned professional and was completely at home on the bandstand, while at the same time beginning to make a name for himself in the show business world in his own right.

An accomplished vocalist and instrumentalist as well as conductor, Horace is quite comfortable on stage, and audiences respond to his charm, easy manner and obvious talent. He has produced his own successful musical show touring the top showrooms across the country. Following a sold-out tour for Columbia Artists, the band, featuring such musical legends as Helen Forrest, Johnny Desmond and the Modernaires, was invited by President Reagan to perform at the Inaugural Ball in Washington, D. C. In 1996, his Band was selected to play for the Republican National Convention in San Diego and received resounding accolades across the country!

Horace also completed a second Columbia Artists Tour with John Gary, Arthur Duncan, Martha Tilton and Henry Cuesta. Critics called this the best Big Band Tour of the last ten years. Horace Heidt, Jr. was Musical Director for the Los Angeles Raiders. He and his Musical Knights were their official band for thirteen seasons.



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Horace's group is in constant demand to head the entertainment programs for large social events such as the Vintage Club in Palm Desert and many charity functions including the "City of Hope" and "C.A.R.E." They appear at Disneyland and Disney World on a regular basis and also have played at numerous concert halls, e. g. the Avalon Ballroom, the Ambassador Auditorium and the Cerritos Center for the performing Arts.

In the Spring of 1999, the Horace Heidt and his Musical Knights Big Band headlined the Crystal Cruises' "Crystal Harmony" two-week cruise from Acapulco through the Panama Canal to New Orleans on the last cruise to pass through the Panama Canal before the Canal authority was transferred to the nation of Panama. Early in the new millennium, the Horace Heidt Productions produced a major show for the Burbank Chamber of Commerce at N.B.C. Studios, Burbank, featuring the Horace Heidt Big Band and Bobby Caldwell, Henry Cuesta, Arthur Duncan and the Horace Heidt Swing Dancers with wave after wave of standing ovations. The audience did not want to stop dancing following the show. The show got rave reviews and has been the talk of the entertainment scene ever since.

In March of 2005 the Musical Knights completed a Forever Fifties tour with John Davidson, Peter Marshall, Gogi Grant, Gary Mule Deer, Marilyn King, the 4 Freshman, the Platters and the Inkspots. In 2006 the band will tour with Shirley Jones, Nanette Fabray, Anna Marie Alberghetti, Bill Hayes + Willie Tyler Flester, Don Knotts, Jo Anne Worley.

Horace's recorded album, "New Heidts" features a variety of standard and contemporary tunes with original ear-tingling arrangements. "The Big Band sound never has gone out of style," Heidt maintains. "It's a classical music expression that just gets better!"

On June 1, 2002, Heidt aired a new radio show, "Horace Heidt, Jr.'s America Swings," on KSUR 1260 AM, on Saturday mornings from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m., which aired on Sunday evenings from 8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Some of the guests to date are: Pat Boone, Tony Danza, Herb Jeffries, Louie Bellson, Tony Martin, Barbara McNair, Gil Stratton, Gary Owens, Peter Marshall, Dick Van Patten, Gloria DeHaven, Sue Raney, Peggy Lennon, Tom Dreesen, Shirley Jones, Andy Williams and Terry Gibbs, to name a few. When K-SURF changed their format, "America Swings" syndicated nationally and airs weekly throughout the nation.

An additional part of his busy lifestyle offstage is engaged in managing the unique ten-acre, 160-unit Horace Heidt Magnolia Estate Apartments in Sherman Oaks. Built by Mr. Heidt, Sr., it has long been home to many members of the entertainment industry with its 18-hole golf course, tennis court, four swimming pools, seven waterfalls, exotic aviary, health club and a schedule of professional shows presented on a regular basis for residents. A new addition, the Haleakala Apartments is scheduled to open in the fall of 2005 with forty-five new apartment homes.

Since good citizenship is important to him, Horace Heidt, Jr. has been very involved in community affairs. Among many other activities, he ran for California State Assembly and then for the Los Angeles Charter Commission, and also in 1997, he was one of the five finalists for the most prestigious Fernando Award. Other community involvement is in the United Chambers of Commerce, Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce, Valley Cultural Center, San Fernando Valley Business and Professional Association and New Directions for Youth.

Horace Heidt, Jr., the only one of Horace Heidt, Sr.'s four children to enter the field of show business, is proudly and successfully carrying on the traditions of good music, good citizenship and showmanship that made his father an all-time great and, on his own, he is continually breaking new ground in quality entertainment in the new millennium!

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## THE MUSICAL KNIGHTS

*Under the direction of HORACE HEIDT, JR.*



HORACE HEIDT'S famous MUSICAL KNIGHTS, under the direction of HORACE HEIDT, JR., continue to delight audiences with the big band sound. Once one of the most popular bands in the United States, the MUSICAL KNIGHTS consisted of such all-star musicians as Jess Stacy, Irving Prestopnik, Warren Covington, Shorty Sherock, Frankie Carle, Joe Rushton, Glenn Miller, Bobby Hackett, Red Nichols, Bill Finegan, Gene Krupa, Lionel Hampton, Pete Candoli, Benny Carter, Al Hirt, Pete Fountain, Ernie Passoja, the Triple Tonguing Trumpeteers and many others.

The MUSICAL KNIGHTS were famous for long-term engagements at the Drake Hotel in Chicago and the Biltmore Hotel in New York. They were also very big stars on radio in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's, starring in such shows as "Horace Heidt for Alemite," "Answers by Dancers," "Treasure Chest," "Welcome Home," "Family Night with Horace Heidt," "The American Way," and a talent contest, famous on both radio and television entitled, "The Original Youth Opportunity Program" through which HORACE HEIDT, SR. discovered such great stars as Art Carney, Frankie Carle, Gordon MacRae, the King Sisters, Alvino Rey, Ken Berry, Frank DeVol, Dick Contino, Al Hirt, Fred Lowrey, Ronnie Kemper, Larry Cotton, Donna and her Don Juans, Ollie O'Toole and many others. During this period of time the band also had hit records with "Gone With The Wind" (1937), "Ti-Pi-Tin" (1938), "I Don't Want To Set The World On Fire" (1941), "Deep In The Heart Of Texas" (1942) and million-seller "It's In The Book" (1952), America's first Comedy Record Hit.

The most popular radio show, however, was the "Pot of Gold" which was later made into a movie by the same name starring Jimmy Stewart and Paulette Goddard. The "Pot of Gold" was America's first

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give-away money Game Show and for this Horace Heidt, Sr. was awarded a Radio Star on the "Hollywood Walk of Fame" in 1960.

During the 1950's, Horace Heidt Senior starred in two network television shows dedicated to showcasing young performers from all parts of the United States. The show on CBS sponsored by Philip Morris was called "The Original Youth Opportunity Program" and aired Nationally in 1950. The 1955 Network show aired on NBC and was called the "Horace Heidt Swift Show Wagon." For these two highly successful television shows, Horace Heidt received a second Star on the "Hollywood Walk of Fame" in 1960 for his accomplishments in television. Mr. Heidt also served as Honorary Mayor of Van Nuys in 1964.

In 1955, the same year Disneyland opened, Horace fulfilled his life-long dream by building a 180-unit, 10-acre resort apartment complex complete with an 18-hole golf course, the first of its kind in the Valley. It's not hard to say that Horace Heidt was a true Valley pioneer in entertainment and the San Fernando Valley. He was the first to put a band on the stage in Vaudeville, the first to give away money on radio, the first to discover talent on television, the first to put a big band on television, and the first to build a Palm Springs Style Resort in the San Fernando Valley.

Horace Heidt, Jr., now conducting the MUSICAL KNIGHTS, began his performing career at age three. He is an accomplished vocalist and instrumentalist as well as conductor. Horace, Jr. had his own successful musical show which appeared in many of the top show rooms across the country. For thirteen years, Horace, Jr. was the conductor of the very popular Los Angeles Raiders Band.

In 1984, the band had a most successful tour for Columbia Artists featuring Helen Forrest, Johnny Desmond and the Modernaires. As a result of that national tour the band was invited by President Reagan to perform at the prestigious Inaugural Ball, Washington, D. C.

In 1990, the band once again toured the United States breaking all attendance records. The tour featured John Gary, Martha Tilton, Arthur Duncan, Henry Cuesta and, of course, the Horace Heidt Orchestra.

In the spring of 1999, Horace Heidt and his Musical Knights big band headlined the "Crystal Harmony" two-week cruise from Acapulco through the Panama Canal to New Orleans with standing ovations every night. It was the last cruise to pass through the Panama Canal before the Canal authority was transferred from the United States government to the nation of Panama.

Critics all over the nation agree that the Musical Knights band is one of the top bands in the country. "The Big Band sound never really went out of style," Heidt maintains. "It's a classic musical expression that just gets more and more popular."

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## KAE BUTTERFIELD

Kae Butterfield is the "Diminutive Dynamo!"

There's a distinction between being a "Star" and being a "Famous Person." Kae Butterfield is considered by all who have heard her to be a "Star" of the highest calibre!

Kae is the personification of, "Big things come in small packages." It is amazing how this pint-sized, brown-eyed girl can belt out showtunes like Ethel Merman or Judy Garland, and at the same time make everyone in the audience smile.

Born in Valentine, Nebraska, Kae has entertained throughout the world in night clubs, show rooms and theatres. She started her career in the Holiday Inn, Yuma, Arizona, where she eventually teamed up with her good friend, Jimmy Griffin.

Kae came to Los Angeles and joined the Horace Heidt organization singing at the prestigious Escofier Room at the Beverly Hilton Hotel with Horace Heidt, Jr. She then toured the United States for three years with the Horace Heidt Orchestra, appearing from Los Angeles to Clearwater, Florida.

Kae worked in Las Vegas and Atlantic City as Production Singer with Minsky's Follies. She also headlined at the famous Drake Hotel, Chicago, during that time. She returned to Los Angeles, and she has performed at many of the Performing Arts Centers throughout the state with Horace Heidt, Jr. and notable stars such as the Ink Spots, Tony Martin, Peter Marshall, the Modernaires, Dick Contino, Barbara McNair, and Roberta Sherwood, to name a few.

Kae is highly sought after for commercials, voice-overs and TV series, such as, "In The House," a sitcom with L. L. Cool J. But what Kae loves the most is belting out a song, and she sings from the heart, which makes her loved by all of those who hear her.



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## STEPHENIE MONICO

Singing with a rare, intense clarity, she seasons her music with subtle spices that slowly heat you from the inside out. Drawing the audience to her, she wraps them up, touches their hearts, and caresses them with her songs. She's hot and sultry — — she's Stephenie Monico.

Stephenie's style is unique and she dislikes attempts at being categorized. Truly a versatile performer, recently nominated for a Grammy as Best Female Jazz Vocalist, her talents range from big band to jazz-rock and everything in between. Often asked to state where she is musically: "I'm an entertainer, and I perform to please the public - -that's what's important. Working with a live audience is an incredible experience, they change from night to night." You must have flexibility in your act to mold it such that the audience is inextricably moved toward you. The difference between a good show and a terrific show is the ability of the performer to sense the mood of the audience. Once you have their essence, you can add or delete to suit the mood, or to subtly change it.



One does not become a great performer overnight: it takes experience, hard work, talent and energy. Vivacity and a dash of wit enhances her bountiful and diverse talents which first were recognized at age thirteen when Stephenie won the Milwaukee Journal talent contest, "Young America On Stage." During the next four years she toured with the musical group The Brothers and Sisters, playing with talents the likes of Bob Hope, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Bobby Goldsboro, Wayne Newton, Joan Rivers and Liberace.

After watching The Brothers and Sisters perform, Doc Severinsen hired them along with The Now Generation Brass, to be part of his first nightclub act. He then added the Ace Trucking Company and this touring show broke records throughout college and concert circuits. The impact these singers and musicians had on the Seventies music cannot be minimized, for from this touring group emerged many of today's top recording artists. In fact, this experience was so valuable it enabled Stephenie, after leaving the group, to solo at Carnegie Hall.

In 1972 Stephenie formed a musical rock group called Free Society which played major hotels throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean. Her previous experience had paid off and she moved from being a 'spoke in the wheel to being the hub itself,' as the group's soloist. The music critic of The Cleveland Plain Dealer said of Stephenie's performance:

"...when soloing, her rangeful, disciplined and penetrating voice is heard at its best. If there is a star in the group, Ms Monico is it. "Perfect pitch is a rare attribute which few singers ever possess. The clarity with which she sings qualified her as one of the first performers to ever record direct to disc.

Not being one to rest on her laurels, when Free Society disbanded, Stephenie moved on as soloist with The Harry James Orchestra. Sharing the stage with the likes of Tony Bennett, Sarah Vaughn and The Mills Brothers, it was during this time Stephenie made her solo television debut on "Dinah" with guest star Kenny Rogers. With this, her traveling and reputation grew more extensive. She became opening act for Juliet Prowse in South Africa, as well as lead singer and dancer in Juliet's show. Working with the high-powered Prowse for over three years throughout the world, Stephenie emerged a seasoned performer. Recently she performed at two Presidential Inaugural's.

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Her wit, dry humor, and quick one-liners win audiences over immediately. “The best way to weld an audience to you is through laughter,” remarks Stephenie. Now all her energies are directed toward becoming a head-liner and recording artist. With her past experience, wit, lovely voice and enchanting looks — how can she not succeed?

In her personal life, Stephenie lives with her husband and three children in a modest house in Glendale, CA that boasts a well cultivated garden in which she works out all of her frustrations. The fruits of these labors find themselves sizzling in her favorite utensil -- her Chinese wok in which she re-creates spicy Szechwan dishes and other international culinary delights. Woman and songstress — the blend is unique and savory; she’s one of a kind.

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