

Sandra Wright Band



The Sandra Wright Band

Origins



SWB 2004 Lineup: *Dave - Michael - John - Sandra - Matthew*

The Sandra Wright Band began in 1990 after four former band mates crossed paths at the intersection of I 40 and Broadway in Nashville, TN. Soon a band was formed and every Tuesday night at the Grapevine Cafe, they crafted their sound. **Sandra Wright**, a native of Memphis, TN had met the guys in a local band called Bordello, an eight piece R & B show band. Drummer **Lloyd Herrman** had left Bordello and was in town between tours with **Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown**. Eventually he would take Sandra and organist **Moe Denham** to join Gatemouth's band, touring the US and Canada. Once they saw the reception Sandra received on the road, they returned to Nashville, joined with former Bordello guitar player and vocalist **Pete Marriott**, and created what would become the Sandra Wright Band. After trying several bass players, Lloyd called in his rhythm section soul mate, **John Harris**. John was in Norway touring with a band in sub zero temperatures; he gladly accepted and the band was complete.

The Sandra Wright Band

Origins—2

While on tour in New Jersey, the band met recording engineer, **Jay Newland**, who eventually recorded the band with Hipshake Productions in New York. In 1992 the SWB moved to New England to be closer to the production company and their promotional efforts. The CD "Shake You Down" was released in 1995 but after some personnel changes and the collapse of the production company, only a few copies were ever distributed. Recently we have begun reissuing this CD. Please contact us for details.



Origins: *Lloyd Herrman, Sandra, John Harris—early 1990's*

After touring from Albuquerque to Halifax, the SWB cut back their traveling and concentrated on playing in New England. They have performed at high profile venues like the Toronto Soul & Blues Festival, Ben & Jerry's One World Festival, and the DuMaurier Jazz Festival in Halifax, NS. The current lineup of SWB featuring the **Nerbak Brothers** - **Dave** on guitar and **Matthew** on drums, as well as keyboardist **Michael Sucher**, is still playing to packed houses and enthusiastic audiences.

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Member Bios



Sandra Wright began singing at age four and continued through school and church, eventually training to be an Opera singer at Tennessee State University. Born and raised in Memphis, TN, Sandra remembers the blues and barbeque of Beale Street; her first cousin was Blues legend Memphis Slim. While attending TSU, Sandra was encouraged to enter a talent contest by fellow student "Sweet" Charles Sherrelle (James Brown's Bandleader) and won singing Rhythm and Blues. After college Sandra hit the road with the Canned Souls and in 1974, Sandra recorded an album for Stax / Truth records, *Wounded Woman*. After Stax was lost to the IRS, Sandra sang at the New Modern Era club in Nashville for 17 years. It is there that B-3 master Moe Denham found her and she joined him and future SWB drummer Lloyd Herrman in a local band called Bordello. Sandra next joined Moe and Lloyd in Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown's band touring the US and Canada. In late 1989, she returned to Nashville and with Moe, John, Lloyd and guitarist Pete Marriott, started the Sandra Wright Band. Sandra and the band moved to Vermont in 1992.

Bassist and founding member **John Harris**, a native of New Mexico, grew up in the town of Clovis, and was playing the bass, and gigging in local clubs by the age of fourteen. Early in his music career, John played trumpet on Jimmy Gilmer and the Fireball's record, "Bottle of Wine." Soon he headed to Albuquerque and joined the Planets, a regional rock and roll band. After touring the Southwest, John returned to the Albuquerque / Sante Fe area, playing the regional club scene. John moved east to Nashville, TN, and soon he was playing on recording sessions and touring with Jerry Reed, Daniel Alexander, and Johnny Russell, even appearing on the Grand Ole Opry. After a tour of Europe with Delbert McClinton, John returned to Norway and was on the road with Artie Benoni when he received the call on the tour bus to come back and play with Sandra.



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Member Bios—2



Guitar player and vocalist **Dave Nerbak** played part time with the SWB in the 1990's, and became a full time member as the clock rolled into the year 2000. Originally from Hackettstown, NJ, Dave also started playing at a young age. By his high school years, Dave was playing in bands, sometimes with brother Matthew on the drums, and occasionally his father Ken on bass. He received his degree in music from the Berklee School of Music, graduating in 1983. In 1985 Dave Moved to Vermont, and began performing with local favorites, the Sportin' Johnsons. Before joining the SWB, Dave played with local soul singer, Tammy Fletcher, opening for Taj Mahal, Leon Russell, and Buddy Guy. For five years, Dave hosted a regular Blues Jam in Burlington, VT, sharing the stage with Emmylou Harris, the Charlie Daniels Band and the Ray Charles Orchestra.

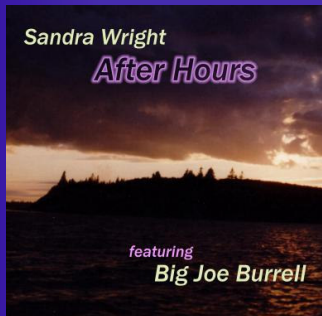
Dave's brother, drummer and vocalist **Matthew Nerbak** has been playing the drums for over 25 years. During those years he played in the junior high and high school bands as well as being a member of a few garage bands. After high school he attended Berklee School of Music from 1982 till 1985. Since then he has been playing the drums professionally, playing or sharing the stage with the likes of Greg Howe, Jimmy Brown, Bloozotomy, NRBQ, Joe Banhamassa, and his own band the Nerbak Brothers. He is currently enjoying the SWB's soulful approach to R & B.



Keyboardist/Composer **Michael Sucher** hails from the Washington, D.C. area, and has worked extensively the along the East Coast, playing jazz, R&B and pop for over twenty years. His experience includes nightclub, concert and television appearances as well as session work. Michael worked frequently with saxophonist Tim Eyermann and guitarist Tom Principato, and has appeared with many D.C. area notables including the late great guitarist Danny Gatton. He appears on the 2003 DVD release of Blazing Telecasters , featuring Principato and Gatton. Michael began working with the SWB after moving to Vermont in the fall of 1996.

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Recordings



Sandra's 2004 release ***After Hours*** showcases the softer side of her artistry. Featuring our good friend **Big Joe Burrell** on tenor sax, this album includes many favorite jazz standards.

“... their performances seem as effortless as they are flawless. ...”

—PAMELA POLSTON *Seven Days Newspaper*

from the liner notes:

"After Hours" offers a rare treat for connoisseurs of jazz classics -- an affectionate musical dialogue between two old friends and jazz greats, singer Sandra Wright and saxophonist Big Joe Burrell. Often Sandra's voice starts the conversation, leading the way until Big Joe's horn comes in to respond, comment, amplify, and query. Sometimes Big Joe sets the tone and Sandra develops and deepens it. Either way, it's a musical discussion made in heaven."



The Sandra Wright Band's 1995 CD ***Shake You Down***, produced by Grammy award-winning producer and engineer **Jay Newland**, was originally released on the Hipshake label. **Warren Hayes**, guitarist for the **Allman Brothers Band** and **Gov't Mule** is featured on two tracks.



Sandra's sought-after classic 1974 debut CD ***Wounded Woman*** (Stax / Truth) was re-released in 1996 on the Over Easy label. It can sometimes be located on the Internet. You can hear samples and possibly find a copy at Amazon.com. In the UK this recording was released on Demon Records.

The Sandra Wright Band
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