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**Interviews and booking:** Bob Hansen (530) 521-8061

## Fall under the sway of HipNosis

HipNosis – fronted by a tight, powerful horn section and soaring, soulful vocals – will be the next hip thing around town and beyond. Check out the band’s mesmerizing sound at its inaugural show New Year’s Eve at the Gold Trail Grange Ballroom on Highway 49, Coloma. But this isn’t the first show for these musicians, not by a long shot. They have experience in bands that foothill and Sacramento residents have danced to for decades, and these all-stars have shared the stage with some of the greats in modern music history.

For the evening benefiting the Gold Trail Grange, doors open at 8 p.m. Dec. 31; music begins at 9 p.m. No-host bar and refreshments provided. Tickets are \$20. Tickets at the door and online at [hipnosisband.eventbrite.com](http://hipnosisband.eventbrite.com). More information is available at [GoldTrailGrange.com/nye-hipnosis](http://GoldTrailGrange.com/nye-hipnosis)

HipNosis is the vision of multi-instrumentalist Bob Hansen, who has played with numerous local bands including Aftershock, Late for Dinner, The Pickups and the Deb Smith Band. For Hansen, the band is a culmination of 45 years of music, realizing his dream of pulling together the best artists and using his artistic vision to guide and provide unique arrangements of classic danceable songs.

“I’ve played in an uncountable number of different groups over the years,” says Hansen. He remembers performing at the El Dorado County Fair, Wagon Train, and countless events with the Deb Smith Band back in 1980-90s. Smith is a vocalist with HipNosis as well as continuing her own solo work.

“We owned the gig and loved the music,” says Hansen. Both Hansen and Smith bring that commitment and experience to HipNosis.

“I know how well Deb sings,” says Hansen of Smith. “I knew she would add a new sound to this group. Having a female vocalist in there makes all kinds of more music possible. She’s ready to go and works really hard.”

When Smith moved to Washington for a time, Hansen found, “Aftershock was really a dream for me. It got me back into playing sax. And the fusion jazz pulled me back to my roots. It was a home-grown El Dorado County band, not dissimilar from HipNosis.”

Aftershock was where Hansen got his taste for arranging classic tunes and new music, producing a CD for the band. It also gave him a taste for working with excellent players and planted the seed for HipNosis.

The Covid pandemic was a time to hone horn skills and plan the next moves.

This band is based on “more interesting arrangements and the absolute best performers I can find,” says Hansen.

“We’re not just covering great horn tunes but going beyond. I spend a lot of time researching material and put charts together for the whole band. We leave standard arrangements behind and play in a unique brand-new way,” he says. “These excellent all-stars have really gone for it.” The vibe is more concert-like, less bar band.

“We play these interesting arrangements. People will recognize the songs. At the same time, they will be surprised and excited about how different they sound. All played by the best musicians around.”

Arrangements highlight sections of the band, solo passages and feature different members of the band on different songs.

“It’s unique material and a different approach that is very rare in Northern California. We’re hoping it gains traction,” says Hansen.

Gerald Jonutz, a saxophone pal from Aftershock, brings a long history of performance in the region. “He’s always excited, always positive, always pushing forward,” says Hansen. Jonutz has backed Lydia Pense and toured with some of the greats in modern music history.

Another Aftershock alum, guitarist Bill Vallaire, “is an amazing musician, comfortable with anything you want to throw at him,” says Hansen. Vallaire, who has his own recording studio in Cameron Park, brings his experience performing in the San Francisco Bay Area with the late Sista Monica and Blues at Eleven.

Vocalist and keyboardist Aaron Gayden, “has got a huge amount of experience. He just soars with these vocalizations and scats like a crazy man,” says Hansen. The band leader feels they share the same mindset with the new arrangements of classic tunes.

And of course, it’s all held together by drummer Rob Rinnger and bass player Peter Mancini. Rinnger, a multi-instrumentalist, contributes to arrangements and runs Rinngerstudios with his wife Brooke, a vocalist.

Mancini brings the funk to the band “and comes on super strong,” says Hansen, who points out how talented Mancini is in multiple genres. “He’s a really wonderful anchor.”

Horn players Paul Simmons and Dave Johnson on brass and vocalist Martin Beal round out the band.

HipNosis is a collection of pros, many of them band leaders, all contributing to the music, making it a collaboration of excellence.

“This is a dream come true for me,” says Hansen. “We come out of rehearsal and I just sit back and think, ‘I can’t believe what’s happening.’ That joy and excitement in the band is what makes it really special and transfers to the audience.”