



COW BOP

Mix swingin' grooves, thrilling riffs, sweet and hot vocals, acoustic western sensibilities and tons of fun and you have only begun to describe Cow Bop. Formed in 2003 by internationally-acclaimed guitarist Bruce Forman, the cowboy jazz and western bebop band has toured extensively throughout the country, exciting audiences with their unique and infectious brand of western music.

"It's hot, jazzy and has a drawl!" –San Francisco Chronicle

The bands' collective experience crosses the spectrum of American music, from the hottest jazz and the coolest swing to the fiercest bluegrass and most down-home honky-tonk. Comfortable in diverse settings from roadside taverns to the granddaddy of cowboy gatherings – the 2008 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada – Cow Bop always hits the stage with an electrifying and entertaining assortment of music and frolic. What makes Cow Bop the hottest cowboy jazz and western bebop band in around?

Bruce Forman, Cow Bop leader's guitar style has been an important part of the international jazz scene for more than two decades. Bruce is dedicated to making music, as witnessed by his busy touring schedule; soundtrack performances on two of Clint Eastwood's distinguished films – the Oscar-winning *Million Dollar Baby* and Oscar-nominated *Flags of Our Fathers*; thirteen recordings as a leader; over twenty appearances at the landmark Monterey Jazz Festival; a featured role on one of jazz great Ray Brown's last albums; and in residence at USC's Studio/Jazz Guitar Department. Aficionados of classic cowboy music welcomes Bruce Forman and Cow Bop with arms wide open!

Along with Bruce Forman on guitar, the band features Pinto Pammy on vocals, whose talent and experiences range from big band swing, old-time country and musical theater. The musicality of fiddlin' Phil Salazar, lights up the stage with his world-renown swing, Americana, bluegrass and jazz stylings.

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Versatility and expansive dynamic control are key components of Michael (Mike) McKinley's signature drum style. Artists including Herb Ellis, Dianne Schurr, Kenny Rankin, and Monty Alexander have featured Mike in their bands. Cow Bops' bass player – fans will always be delighted when a guest performer fills this slot – adds to the unique style and flexibility of the bands hip western beat.

Fans love Cow Bop Cds! Forman's unique "western bebop" band has received rave reviews. Their debut CD, *Swingin' Out West*, released in 2004, charted on Americana, Jazz, College and Adult radio stations. The band's newest CD, *Route 66*, released 2008, features songs and musicians from across the wide spectrum of the American musical palette.

JazzMasters Workshop

Bruce Forman, a distinguished music educator and in-kind philanthropist, is the founder of the national music-mentoring program, JazzMasters Workshop, which has provided over 2000 sessions for kids. Always free of charge, JazzMasters sessions occur during after-school hours, which are critical to adolescents' development. Each year Cow Bop hits the road on the **Way Out West Music for Route 66 Challenge** www.wayoutwestmusic.com to raise money for the JazzMasters Workshop. Code of the West Entertainment is a proud sponsor of JazzMasters.

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