

## Sylvia Herold – Bio

In 1986 after fiddle players Tony Marcus and Kevin Wimmer played some gigs together they decided to form Cats & Jammers and recruited Piper Heisig [bass] and Sylvia Herold [guitar]. The quartet, inspired by the swing music of the Boswell Sisters and the Mills Brothers, went on to appear at numerous major festivals including the San Francisco Jazz Festival, California's Strawberry Music Festival, the Centrum Hot Jazz Festival in Washington and the Black Mountain Festival in North Carolina. Wimmer eventually left the San Francisco area, and Cats & Jammers continued as a trio and played most of their gigs on the West Coast. Cats & Jammers have released four albums on their own Tuxedo label. On San Francisco's Irish music scene, for thirteen years, at the Plough And Stars Pub, Herold performed as a duo with mandolin player and vocalist Marla Fibish.

As a session vocalist, Herold has recorded with such Bay Area, mainly bluegrass, artists as Laurie Lewis **"True Stories"** [1993], Kathy Kallick **"Use A Napkin [Not Your Mom]"** [1995], Tom Rozum **"Jubilee"** [1998] and also with Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum **"Winter's Grace"** [1999]. Inspired by the music of jazz guitar legend Django Reinhardt, and the group Hot Club of France, for a time Sylvia was a member of The Hot Club of San Francisco, and appeared on the group's self-released albums **"The Hot Club Of San Francisco Live MCMVC"** [1995] and **"Swing This"** [1997]. At the turn of the millennium, Herold became a guitarist and vocalist with the Northern California band, Wake The Dead. The band plays Grateful Dead songs with a traditional Celtic edge, and their debut album **"Wake The Dead"** [2000] was released by Grateful Dead Records. She also appeared on their sophomore album **"Buckdancer's Choice"** [2004] released by Redwing Records.

The Tuxedo label released Herold's debut solo album **"A Bowl Of Crystal Tears"** [1997] and four years the same label released **"A Mockingbird Sings In California."** On the latter album Herold was supported by Scott Nygaard [guitar], Orville Johnson [dobro], Cary Black [bass], Tony Marcus [guitar] from Cats & Jammers, Karen Tweed [piano accordion], Jim Rothermel [horns] and harmony vocalists, Connie Doolan and Patrice Haan.

Herold's 2005 Tuxedo release, the traditional folk music collection **"Lovely Nancy,"** was subsequently picked up by the Illinois based Waterbug label for sale via their web site. She's accompanied on the collection by the trio Euphonia, composed of Paul Kotapish [mandolin] and Brian Rice [percussion] of Wake The Dead and Charlie Hancock [accordion, piano]. In recent times, Chuck Ervin has performed in concert with the group on double bass and vocals, and Sylvia also works with Ervin as The Whippoorwills. **"Lovely Nancy"** was recorded in Alameda's historic Adelphian Club which was built in 1908. Originally a theatre and women's meeting hall it's currently owned by Marla Fibish and Jamie Bell. Herold is also an instructor at adult music schools such as Puget Sound Guitar Workshop, the California Coast Music Camp and Lark in the Morning Music Celebration.

Discography : **"A Bowl Of Crystal Tears"** [1997] ; **"A Mockingbird Sings In California"** [2001] :  
with Euphonia - **"Lovely Nancy"** [2005] :  
with Cats & Jammers – **"Hot Swing Sweet Harmonies"** [1986] ; **"Kicking the Gong"** [1991] ; **"Feel That Rhythm"** [1993] ; **"Too Close For Comfort"** [1996] :  
with The Hot Club of San Francisco - **"The Hot Club Of San Francisco Live MCMVC"** [1995] ; **"Swing This"** [1997] :  
with Wake the Dead - **"Wake The Dead"** [2000] ; **"Buckdancer's Choice"** [2004] :

## Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 11/05 & 12/05

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