

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



east side FUNK

Original Jazz Funk — San Jose, CA

8-piece instrumental ensemble · Jazz · Funk · Latin · R&B

Love, Joy & Groove · eastsidefunk.com

THE BAND

Who We Are



East Side Funk is an 8-piece, San Jose-based ensemble playing original material that fuses jazz, funk, Latin, and R&B. Led by local San Jose composer Bobby Valderrama, the band is known for funky guitar rhythms, relentless grooves, and a soulful instrumental sound driven by a four-piece horn section. The group has built a reputation throughout Northern California for energetic live performances and a contagious message of “Love, Joy & Groove.”

THE STORY

East Side Funk represents the return of noted keyboardist Bobby Valderrama to the San Francisco Bay Area jazz scene. Founded in July 2017, the project was created as a vehicle for original instrumental music that blends jazz, funk, Latin, and R&B into a cohesive live experience.

The band draws inspiration from the East Side of San Jose, where Valderrama’s early musical memories were shaped by a diverse community and a shared love of music. That influence shows up in the sound: deep rhythm, expressive horns, strong melodies, and a feel that connects both classic and contemporary audiences.

East Side Funk’s signature is its ensemble interplay. The four-piece horn section sits at the center of the arrangements, delivering catchy lines over grooves designed to move a room — an instrumental sound that feels both polished and spontaneous, equally at home in clubs, festivals, wineries, and civic events.

The debut record, *Love Joy Groove*, captures that mission in title and sound: an original instrumental jazz-funk project meant to reflect the soulful energy of the East Side years and share that spirit with a wider audience.

IN BOBBY'S WORDS

“East Side Funk is our way of sharing the musical expression that came out of the East Side — the joy, the struggle, and the groove that shaped us.”

“I think we can all use a little more ‘Love Joy Groove’ in our lives.”

EIGHT PLAYERS. ONE GROOVE.

The Lineup



Bobby Valderrama
KEYS • COMPOSER



Les Thomas
GUITAR



John Calderon
BASS



Mercedes Perez
DRUMS



Dave Brigham
TRUMPET



Jesse Dominguez
SAX



Everett Moody
SAX



Felix Diaz Contreras
TROMBONE

COMPOSER & FOUNDER

Bobby Valderrama



A noted Bay Area keyboardist, Bobby writes and arranges every East Side Funk original — recapturing the storied East Side sound for old-school fans and a new generation alike.

"I grew up with Black, White, Latino, Filipino, Hawaiian, Japanese, and Portuguese friends, and the one thing that brought us together was music."

ON STAGE

The Show



THE SOUND

- Original instrumental jazz-funk
- Funk, Latin & R&B influences
- Strong horn-driven arrangements
- Groove-heavy rhythm section
- Soulful, energetic, audience-friendly live show

WHERE THEY PLAY

Music festivals

Street festivals

Wineries & breweries

Art & wine festivals

Outdoor & civic events

Neighborhood events

PRESS & VENUE QUOTES

"Every bit as good as any R&B / Jazz / Funk / Fusion band working in America — blending talent, imagination, rhythm, command, drive, and authenticity. Virtuoso!"

— Michael Ballard, Savannah-Chanelle Vineyards, Saratoga

"An awesome sunset was the perfect setting for the energetic East Side Funk band at Las Positas. You could feel the members' passion. Truly unforgettable."

— Lisa Maier, Las Positas Vineyards, Livermore

"Dynamic, engaging, a must-see group! Truly one of my favorite bands to ever perform at our venue."

— Peter Baron, Backyard Improv Series, Walnut Creek

"All smiles at Jazz and Beyond tonight. Great music, great crowd, awesome event! Beautiful original music. Thanks East Side Funk!"

— Michael Johnson, Downtown Sunnyvale Association

LISTEN & CONNECT

Music & Booking



DISCOGRAPHY

- Better Tomorrows — studio album, 2019
- Love Joy Groove — debut studio album, 2017

STREAM & WATCH

- Spotify — East Side Funk
- YouTube — @eastsidefunk9520
- SoundCloud — /user-774084738

PROMO LANGUAGE (READY TO USE)

- "An energetic 8-member, instrumental jazz-funk band."
- "Original material fusing jazz, funk, Latin and R&B."
- "Funky guitar rhythms, relentless grooves, and catchy horn lines."
- "A soulful and transcendent musical experience."
- "Love, Joy & Groove."



Booking & Press Contact

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Social	Instagram · Facebook · YouTube — @eastsidefunk
Based In	San Jose, California
Founded	July 2017

Love, Joy & Groove