

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 5, 2020



**CONTACT:** DeAnn Lubell-Ames – (760) 831-3090

Note: Photos available at <http://mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/media>

**Davina and The Vagabonds and Hot Club of Cowtown**  
**“The Finest Hour”: An Evening of Music That Ended World War II**  
**McCallum Theatre**  
**Tuesday – March 3 – 8:00pm**

Palm Desert, CA – The McCallum Theatre presents “The Finest Hour: An Evening of Music That Ended World War II,” featuring Davina and the Vagabonds and the Hot Club of Cowtown, at 8:00pm., Tuesday, March 3. The show is made possible through the generosity of James Walter “Jim” Neuman.

“The Finest Hour” is a celebration of a time in American popular music, at the end of the World War II, when European jazz, Western swing, blues, and pop energized dance halls and radio waves throughout the country, ushering in the optimism, strength and freedom of a new era. From Billie Holiday, Gene Autry, Django Reinhardt and Bob Wills to the music of Lester Young, Doris Day and Bing Crosby, music masters conjured an exquisite, never-to-be-repeated “Finest Hour” in the history of American music.

**Davina and the Vagabonds** have created a stir on the national music scene with their high-energy live shows, level-A musicianship, sharp-dressed professionalism, and Davina Sowers’ commanding stage presence. With influences ranging from Fats Domino and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band to Aretha Franklin and Tom Waits, the band is converting audiences one show at a time, from Vancouver to Miami and across Europe.

In 2011, Davina and the band released the group’s first full length, all-original album, *Black Cloud*. It was named one of the 10 best releases of the year by the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune* and was awarded 4 1/2 stars from *Downbeat Magazine*. The band is currently celebrating the release of a new album, *Sugar Drops*. *American Songwriter* wrote: “This music, as retro as it may be at times, feels fun, frisky and alive. No big concepts, no heavy lyrics, just Davina and her band swinging with spirited energy and terrific songs.”

DATV’s shows are filled with New Orleans charm, Memphis soul swagger, dark theatrical moments that evoke Kurt Weill, and tender gospel passages. Davina has been compared to Etta James, Amy Winehouse, Janis Joplin, Billie Holiday and Betty Boop, but she truly defies characterization.

**The Hot Club of Cowtown** is celebrating its 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary during the 2019-2020 touring season. Since the band’s beginnings in the late 1990s, the Hot Club of

Cowtown's star has continued to rise as its reputation for jaw-dropping virtuosity and unforgettable live shows has become the band's global brand.

It all started in 1994 in New York City, when Elana James placed an ad in the music section of *The Village Voice* looking to join a band, and Whit Smith answered it. Since then, the music these two have made has always been a secret brew of energy, joie de vivre, and a respect for tradition that is often imitated but never equaled. The trio moved to Austin, Texas, and released its first album, *Swingin' Stampede*, in 1998. *Tall Tales* (1999) and *Dev'lish Mary* (2000) soon followed, but it wasn't until 2001 that the band's lineup solidified with the arrival of bassist Jake Erwin, who cemented Hot Club's larger-than-life, earth-shaking rhythmic foundation.

*Crossing the Great Divide* (2019) is one of the band's latest recordings, a seven-song EP of songs by Robbie Robertson, Bob Dylan and The Band to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Band's first two albums, *Music From Big Pink* and *The Band*. The other new recording is *Wild Kingdom*, an album of new material that was released in September 2019. *PopMatters* raved: "*Wild Kingdom* is loaded with character and charm, a testament to the energy and nuance Hot Club still have to offer so long into their career."

[www.davinaandthevagabonds.com](http://www.davinaandthevagabonds.com)  
[www.hotclubofcowtown.com](http://www.hotclubofcowtown.com)

Tickets for Davina and the Vagabonds and Hot Club of Cowtown are priced at \$68, \$48 and \$28. Tickets are available at the Theatre's website at [www.mccallumtheatre.com](http://www.mccallumtheatre.com) or by calling the McCallum Theatre Box Office at (760) 340-2787. The McCallum Theatre, located at 73000 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert CA 92260, accepts payment by cash, personal check, VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.

*The McCallum Theatre Box Office, its phone center and website, are the **only** authorized outlets for tickets to performances presented at the Theatre. Tickets purchased from any other sources, such as brokers or secondary market websites, are purchased at consumer's own risk and cannot be guaranteed as valid.*

# # #