



BREAD & ROSES®

live ART delivered *fresh* DAILY™

ISSUE 52

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2003

Celebration for a Great Day First Benefit Concert Since 2000 Renews Mission

By George Nevin

It was an evening of sweet music and memories celebrating the ongoing work of Bread & Roses and honoring its founder, **Mimi Fariña**.

It was also Bread & Roses' first benefit concert since the 25th Anniversary Show at the Opera House in March 2000.

On a cold February night in San Francisco, beneath the heroic murals and faux marble of the intimate Herbst Theatre, close to 900 people came to listen to the music.

Welcoming the eclectic crowd — gents in coat and tie, ladies in sparkly gowns, hipsters in leather — Bread & Roses

Executive Director **Cassandra Flipper** told them:

“We promise you a great show. We're all thinking about our founder, Mimi, and we know she's here in spirit.”

Thereupon she raised the curtain on:

g **Roy Rogers and the Delta Rhythm Kings**, with special vocalist **Shana Morrison**. They delivered an intricate set of bluesy slide guitar melodies clothed in Roy's distinctive country rock lyrics.

In addition to being a fine musician in his own right — and a collaborator with Shana on the 1999 release *Everybody's Angel* — Roy Rogers produced four

Continued on page 2



Boz Scaggs, with Eric Crystal on tenor saxophone, performed a stellar set of mostly jazz standards at the Benefit Concert 2003.

Person to Person – Each Show Links Audience, Performer

Every Bread & Roses show is about people and performers, and the human connection between them. The connection is always there, but at some Bread & Roses shows it's so evident that it's extraordinary.

Several shows in the past few months went beyond the usual in linking performers and audience heart to heart. Here are some of their stories.

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When jazz and pop singer **Wesla Whitfield** and husband/ accompanist

*Jazz singer
Wesla
Whitfield:
Her show
at the
Jewish
Home had
special
meaning
for 91-
year-old
Stella
Brooks.*



Photo courtesy of Wesla Whitfield

Mike Greensill played at the Jewish Home in San Francisco in October, one listener in the audience had a special

reason to be there.

Ninety-one-year-old **Stella Brooks** enjoyed a successful career as a jazz singer from the 1930s to the 1950s. She ran with **Billie Holiday** — some say she was Billie's best friend.

She was there to watch Wesla and Mike, singer and pianist, playing their first Bread & Roses show. The audience was unusually large for the 430-resident skilled nursing facility.

Stella Brooks seldom attended events

Continued on page 7

Bringing Free, Live Entertainment to People Confined in Institutions or Isolated From Society

Wild In the Aisles at Delancey Street

They were jumping in the aisles, swaying at their seats, applauding with abandon, singing with the choruses and generally basking in the musical magic at **Delancey Street Foundation** in San Francisco.

For an enchanted hour on November 18, 2002, in a show presented by Bread & Roses, the band **Pure Ecstasy** broke down the barrier between performer and audience. Time and again, singers **Preston Turner**, **Johnny Trotman** and **Olaf Pollard** jumped off the stage and waded into the audience, cordless mikes in hand, to connect with listeners.

They also invited onlookers to join them on-stage in a festival of song and dance.

From 1960s Motown classics like *My*

Girl to the reggae beat of *You're My Guardian Angel* and an *a cappella* start to *The Way You Do the Things You Do*, Pure Ecstasy poured out an array of feel-good songs that energized the crowd of 150 while bringing smiles and outright laughter.

Backed by a tight, four-piece band of percussion, guitar, saxophone and keyboard, and supported by vocalist **Margo Luiz**, Pure Ecstasy filled the warm, wood-paneled Delancey Street Town Hall venue with a crisp, friendly sound.



Preston Turner of Pure Ecstasy entertains audience at Delancey Street.

Bread & Roses Board members, who met that afternoon at Delancey Street, adjourned in time to join the fun.

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BENEFIT — from page 1

highly acclaimed albums for **John Lee Hooker**.

g **Tom Johnston and Friends** — fellow **Doobie Brothers** **John McFee** on slide guitar, **Keith Knudsen** on drums and **Terry Miller** on bass. Tom and his crew, with backup vocalists **Annie Stocking** and **Jo Carol Davidson**, had the audience clapping and dancing.

g **Boz Scaggs**, backed by a fine ensemble and mixing jazzy, easy tunes with a friendly, funky version of *T-Bone Shuffle*.

He treated the audience to the title number from an upcoming album, *What's New* — a one-sided conversation between someone who can't let go and the old lover he meets by chance.

g **Rickie Lee Jones**, who served up her thought-provoking, often dreamy lyrics, accompanied by bassist **Rob Wasserman**. She played guitar and piano

and delighted her fans.

The show, lasting just a shade over two hours, was leavened by the appearance of comedian **Frank Olivier** of Berkeley, who thrilled the crowd by juggling Indian clubs and three swords while riding a very tall unicycle.

At an after-show reception for sponsors of the benefit, guests and performers mingled in a buzz of conversation.

Said Tom Johnston, a longtime friend of Mimi Fariña and a featured performer at the 25th Anniversary Show:

“This is so worth it. Despite the loss of Mimi, Bread & Roses is still doing a great job. I love the people, and I’ll continue to help.”

Event co-chair and Platinum Sponsor **Brenda Rhodes** said, “I continue to be impressed with the dedication of the people and performers of Bread & Roses, and the passion they have. Bread & Roses



Bread & Roses Board member and Development Committee Chair John Iwanicki (left) with Tom Johnston of the Doobie Brothers at the post-concert reception at the Herbst Theatre, San Francisco.

speaks to the performer in all of us.”

Added co-chair **Guy Lampard**, “I’m writing a book on volunteering in America. Organizations like Bread & Roses are all about a sense of what you can give, not what you can get. It’s a good feeling to give.”

The show included several performers who will be featured on the Bread & Roses CD to be issued later this year.

Up Front and Behind the Scenes – We Couldn't Make Music Without Them

By **Elizabeth Share**
Development Director

A big Bread & Roses round of applause and heartfelt thank you to **Irwin** and **Concepción Federman**.

Since they sponsored our 25th Anniversary Show in 2000, they have been the kind of supporters whose consistency and generosity takes our breath away.

Their generosity was key to the success of last year's volunteer appreciation event (*The Jam*) and they were also very early supporters of the Bread & Roses Benefit Concert 2003 at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco on February 13.

What we particularly appreciate about the Federmans is that they've not only taken our work to heart, they have also asked their friends and colleagues to join them in supporting our work. Thank you, Irwin and Concepción, we couldn't ask for better friends.

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A very special thank you also goes to volunteer performer **Susan Z** for creating and producing *Wine, Women, and Roses* – a weekend of concerts throughout Marin County produced as benefits for Bread & Roses and the fight against breast cancer.

Susan donated an enormous amount of time, energy and care to this weekend



Irwin and Concepción Federman with the late Mimi Fariña (left) and Joan Baez (right) in 1999. The Federmans have been key sponsors of several Bread & Roses events over the past few years.

event and we thank her for so generously honoring our work and those we serve.

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We also thank, with deep gratitude, the co-chairs of our recent benefit concert, **Guy Lampard** and **Brenda Rhodes**.

Together, Guy and his wife, **Suzanne Badenhoop**, a longtime board member, spearheaded an effective fundraising campaign that significantly contributed to the success of this exciting and important Bread & Roses event.

Hall Kinion and Associates, the recruiting company of which Brenda is CEO, was our first corporate sponsor

and our largest.

They have brought wonderful new friends to our organization, provided wise counsel and spent countless hours working side by side with staff. Thank you all.

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One of the most touching aspects of our work occurs when a Bread & Roses supporter makes a "special-occasion gift." Whether to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or to honor a loved one who has passed on, special-occasion gifts honor both our donors and the many children and adults we serve.

After reading in our last newsletter about youth volunteer **Shoshanna Bush's** performance at the **Huey Lewis** Benefit Reception last April, our supporter **Manny Kopstein** called to say he was inviting her to sing at his birthday party and would ask all his friends to make gifts to Bread & Roses in lieu of presents.

Now that's quite a generous birthday gift. A tip of the Bread & Roses hat to you, Manny. We hope this year you receive tenfold the joy you gave!

PRESENTING THE BUBS

Peter Penthaler (left), **David Lusterman** and **Kurt Huget** of *The Bubs* at a recent show at Center Point, a San Rafael drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility for adults. In addition to being volunteer performers, David is a Bread & Roses donor and member of the Program Committee, and Kurt serves on the Public Relations and Marketing Committee.



Photo by Ken Friedman

Robin Williams Comes Through for Bread & Roses — Again

We find ourselves in the enviable and humbling position of giving our sincerest thanks to a figure already well-known and beloved by the world at large.

Robin Williams has once again taken the time to provide crucial support to Bread & Roses, both through his longstanding active support as a major donor, and by writing a very moving letter for our Fall Appeal.

Mimi and Robin enjoyed a special friendship, and we're profoundly moved by the fact that Robin continues to honor Mimi and her vision by being so involved with our work.

We're deeply grateful to him and to all of Mimi's friends who continue to remember her in this and many other ways.

*To respond to the Bread & Roses Appeal, make a telephone pledge by calling (415) 945-7120 (have your credit card ready) or go to the Bread & Roses website, www.breadandroses.org and click on the link **Donate to Bread & Roses Today.***



Dear **Friends,**

My friend Mimi Fariña was a performer who knew the joy that a performer and audience share. Whether through music, comedy, or dance, sharing live art with someone else is good for the heart and soul.

Mimi understood the joy of live performance better than almost anyone I have ever known. Long ago she put her faith and energy into creating it for people who need it the most: people living in places like nursing homes, special schools for neglected and abused children, rehab centers, and AIDS hospices.

Medical researchers have now documented the healing power of music, but Mimi didn't wait for medical research to catch up to her vision—almost 30 years ago she began building an organization so effective that over 300,000 people have experienced this healing effect since its founding.

Last year alone Bread & Roses produced more than 500 live performances for more than 20,000 elders, disabled children, homeless families, and many others in isolated circumstances. That's more than one show every day of the year for children undergoing chemotherapy, families in transition, and teens struggling to make a life for themselves.

I became a volunteer performer and Bread & Roses donor because Mimi was my friend. But I continue to support Bread & Roses because it truly does make a difference for people who really need it.

Share the joy.

Please do what I have done and **give generously** to Bread & Roses. With your help we can make sure that every day of the year someone special will be touched by your generosity.



Thank you

Robin Williams
Robin Williams

Our Volunteers

ACTIVE INDIVIDUAL PERFORMERS

Keith Allen • Lynn Asher • Marianna August • Dave Austin • John Adam Badgley • Masankho Banda • Terry Barnett • Joanie Bartels • Richard Bay • Phil Bearce • Garrin Benfield • Ionie Bernstein • Catherine Berry • Norman Berryessa • Jacob Bien • Keta Bill • Jim Bitter • Renate Bixby • Tracy Blackman • Blue • Ron Borelli • Paul Breslin • Leon Bristow • Avery Brown • Tina Bryant • Camille Buchanan • Bill Buck • Brad Buethe • Don Bull • Mark Bunnell • Ran Bush • Tim Cain • Edgardo Cambon • James Campbell, Jr. • Milissa Carey • Shanna Carlson • Cherie Chooljian • Suzanne Ciani • Liz Cleo • Don Coffin • Nancy Colman • Colin Cotter and Marika Cotter • Morgan Cowin • Dallis Craft • Randy Craig • Caroline Crawford • Danny Creed • Eric Crystal • Debbie Cucalon • Daria • Garrick Davis • Lynn Dekerchove • Elaine Dempsey • Jolie DePaux • Derique • Andre dos Santos Morgan • Duncan Draper • Charmaine Emery • Kathleen Enright • Barry Ernst • Cash Farrar • Paul Finocchiaro • Kat Fitzgerald • Mary Fleming • Danny Flores • William Florian • Barbara Folger • Emma Jean Foster-Fiege • Nancy Fox • Phil Fraser • Mary Freeberg • Judith Kate Friedman • Wilfred George • Joan Getz • Connie Gill • Robin Goodrow • Rob Grant • Chris Green • Mike Greensill • Noah Griffin • Ross Gualco • Terry Haggerty • Tammy Hall • Noelle Hampton • Leslie Harlib • Rita Haronian • Dan Hicks • Ellen Hoffman • Joe Holiday • Gaby Holmquist • Kurt Huget • Inka • Henry Irvin • James Jenkins • Kelly Johnson • Jennifer Karno • Greg Kelly • Glenn Kingston • Mike Klapholz • Rich Kuhns • Jef Labes • Odile LaVault • Brady Lea • Michael Lee • Dorothy Lefkowitz • Ed Levine • John Chase Lewis • Alison Lewis • Bobcat Loeper • Valerie Lowe • Gareth Loy • David Lusterman • Gary Malkin • Phyllis Marcus • Kitty Margolis • Liz Mathews • John Maxwell • Libby McLaren • Tom McLaren • Lindsey McLennan • Diane Merlino • Natasha Miller • Miss Kitty • Jerrold Moore • James Moseley • Paul Mousavi • Peter Munks • Holly Near • Marc Neilson • Patti Newman • Natasha Nicolette • Frederick Nighthawk • Neil O'Neill • Frank Olivier • Jim Olmstead • Shota Osabe • Deborah Pardes • Susan Pease • Bill Pemberton • Peter Penthaler • Si Perloff • Melissa Phillippe • Liz Pisco • David Ponkey • Sandy Popovich • Michael Pritchard • Sharon Pucci • David Quinby • Shaynee Raimbolt • Anne Rainwater • Wiley Rankin • Steven Rappaport • Lisa Redfern • Joshua Rich • Tony Rizzi • Rodney Roberts • Rob Robinson • Ben Rosenblatt • Zack Rosenblatt • Jim Rothermel • Gary Rowe • Tom Salinger • Annie Sampson • Joan Shaff • Gayle Schmitt • Mike Schulist • Steve Schuster • Michael Schwartz • Michelle Sell • Adrienne Serna • Reggie Shell • Hua Shen • John Siracusa • Ken Sites • Jeanne Skybrook • Anthony Smith • Wanda Stafford • Lucille Steele • Karolinka Tekiela • Mike Temple Brady • Howell Thomas • Cami Thompson • Dianne de Laet • Barbara Traylor • Lily Tung • Mariel Vondersteel • Cathi Walkup • Patrick Weldon • Wesla Whitfield • Austin Willacy • Lily Wilson • Wendy Worsley • Jennifer Youngdahl • Susan Z

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2002

Youth Showcase and Celebration Set For April 5

On Saturday, April 5, Bread & Roses will hold its first-ever **Youth Performer Showcase and Celebration.**

Our 37 active youth groups and individual performers are invited to meet each other, share their talents and enjoy an afternoon of food and fun. Among the many youth who will perform is the teen *a cappella* group **"Til Dawn**, Bread & Roses volunteers since 1995.

The idea for this party came out of the **Teen Advisory Committee**, which is in its second year. This 13-member auxiliary includes adult community members and youth volunteers from ages 12 to 20.

Unlike *The Jam*, the annual volunteer recognition event, this will be a party just for kids where they can perform for each other.

The Teen Program also holds semi-annual auditions for youth performers. Last fall **The Redwoods** in Mill Valley graciously



Since her audition in November, Lindsey McLennan, a junior at Terra Linda High School, has made two appearances for Bread & Roses at senior convalescent facilities in Marin. She also sings with the group The Chantons.

Bread & Roses Reaches Out

- 517 performances in 2001-2002
- 1,188 active performer volunteers
- 20,724 audience members

allowed Bread & Roses to use their auditorium. Seven young people attended, and several gave us a sampling of their talents.

Since January 2002, Bread & Roses has presented 53 shows featuring youth performers. They are especially appreciated in special needs schools, juvenile detention centers and elder care facilities. Their talent ranges from classical music to clowning, from show tunes to hip-hop, from Irish step dancing to a variety of unique, original compositions.

We encourage our youth to learn about the joys of volunteerism through the teen program. If you know any talented kids with a 45-minute set ready to go, have them contact **Carolyn Gauthier** at (415) 945-7120 or cgauthier@breadandroses.org

• Tommy Rox & Friends • Urban High School Chorus • Vexed • Yesterday's Kids • Young Performers International • Yuri Prince of Color

ACTIVE HOSTS

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DONORS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN OUR SUMMER 2003 NEWSLETTER

Staff & Board Changes

A warm welcome to new Board member **Courtney Bock**, who joined our Board last fall.

Courtney, a successful executive recruiter, is National Product Innovative Manager with **Deloitte & Touche**.

Welcome also to new Board officers **Mary Doan**, President, and **Mark Nelson**, Vice President. **Chris Erdman** will continue as Treasurer and **Joni Beemsterboer** as Secretary.

A very heartfelt thank you to **David Stollmeyer**, Board President for the last calendar year, who stepped down in December after serving two three-year terms on the Board.

David was invaluable to Bread & Roses in his roles as Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, and his leadership in financial areas has been unmatched.

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A sad farewell to **Kim Williams**, Program Assistant for almost two years, who moved to Tucson, Arizona, to become an educational interpreter for the deaf community.

Lisa Gray of San Francisco has been hired as part-time program assistant. Lisa graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston and has significant production experience with music industry and related film projects.

Fairfax resident **Dianne Levy** has joined the staff as executive assistant to **Cassandra Flipper** and will also be supporting the Bread & Roses Operations Department.



Board member Mark Nelson (right) joins Olaf Pollard of Pure Ecstasy at a show at Delancey Street Foundation.

Photo by Sudha Pemathur

Dianne was recently Executive Director of the Season of Sharing Fund at the **San Francisco Chronicle**, where she also coordinated many special events, including San Francisco's Fourth of July Festival.

Please join us in welcoming Courtney, Dianne and Lisa to the Bread & Roses family.

DELANCEY STREET — from page 2

The happy crowd of Delancey Street residents, many of whom knew well the high quality of past Bread & Roses shows, enthusiastically welcomed Bread & Roses Executive Director **Cassandra Flipper** as she introduced the band.

Pure Ecstasy jumped right in with *My Girl*, the singers swaying and using body language to engage the audience from the start. When they got to the lyric “my girl,” frontman Preston Turner pointed at a woman sitting in the front row.

“Were going to sing a little old, a little new and maybe some *a cappella* too,” he promised, and so it was. After a few numbers, Olaf Pollard hopped down from the stage and made his way to one of the few empty seats.

Here, he delivered a ringing solo in

You've Got Me Going in Circles straight to Bread & Roses Board member **Brenda Laribee** sitting in the next chair. The performance was so hot that people sitting nearby fanned him with their show programs, the bright yellow paper fluttering like butterflies.

Soon, his bandmates joined Olaf off-stage, each in turn soloing to women and men in the crowd.

And so it went through *Route 66*, *Fly Me to the Moon* and *Guardian Angel*.

The act that took the show from musical event to interactive art came late in the concert, when Preston asked for volunteer singers. In moments, Delancey Street residents **Erica, Liz, Jack, Gwen, Ricky** and **Jerry** were arrayed in front of the stage, along with **Mark Nelson**, a Bread & Roses Board member.

Each got a chance to solo, and they had the crowd up and clapping along.

When, toward the end of the set, Preston pointed at various dancing members of the audience to come forward and strut on stage, Bread & Roses Board member **Vance Sharp** answered the call.

He was rewarded for his 15 seconds of fame with a standing ovation.

“What a night,” Cassandra Flipper said when it was over.

“It was so gratifying to see the Delancey Street community support the members who put themselves on stage to perform with the show.

“Pure Ecstasy bridged the usual gap between performer and audience not only by going into the audience, but by inviting people to come up front and participate.”

Hosts Contribute Greatly to Program

Bread & Roses has a total of 32 volunteer hosts who assist staff producers in presenting more than 500 programs a year at more than 100 facilities in the greater Bay Area.

Volunteers hosted more than one-third of the institutional shows we produced in the last six months, making an important contribution to our program. Volunteer hosts introduce performers and help with logistics on site, show reviews and monitoring the success of our ongoing program.

Recently, Bread & Roses held its biennial meeting to recognize and thank its host volunteers. The event was a smashing success due to the generous hospitality of volunteer **Mary Alice Kirincic**, who hosted the event in her Mill Valley home and prepared a gourmet meal for the gathering, complete with a cake resembling a keyboard.

To become a host volunteer, please contact **Lisa Gray** at (415) 945-7120 or email lgray@breadandroses.org



Volunteer host Priscilla Pearson greets residents of Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco after a recent Bread & Roses show.

HUMAN CONNECTION — from page 1

at the Jewish Home, but she made it a point to come to this one. “She absolutely loved it. She thought they did it right,” said **Director of Resident Programs Mark Friedlander**.

“She told me, ‘Singers don’t go to listen to other singers,’ but when she found out who was performing that day, she did come down.”

Wesla Whitfield said, “Stella Brooks is famous. We were astounded to know she was there. We knew her music. We were honored that she would show up.”

Editor’s note — Two months after the October Bread & Roses show, Stella Brooks died at the age of 92.



Singer-guitarist **Don Coffin** took one look at the audience at the **Veterans Home of California** in Yountville and knew they wanted him to be *real*. So he was.

“It was clear they wanted someone to relate to them on a personal level,” said Don, who describes himself as a “working class musician.”

“They gave me enthusiasm and

I was able to give it back to them,” he said. “I felt something in common with them. I told them I was a veteran in the Vietnam era and that I appreciated their contribution.”

Don’s music especially touched audience member **Leroy Toten**, a country swing musician. From his room, he fetched a certificate awarded to him by the Country Swing Hall of Fame and showed it to the performer.

Matt Mittman, music therapist at the Veterans Home, said the veterans gave unusual attention to Don Coffin’s one-hour show. “Usually there’s a lot of talking at performances, but the guys were spellbound. They were really into it. Don made them laugh, and everyone had a good time.”

Music, he added, “is critical in the way it gets people socially involved and off of stewing about their worries.”



Elaine Dempsey, a singer-songwriter and guitarist, revived the troubadour tradition at a show at the **Alta Bates Medical Center** in Berkeley.

Rather than bringing patients to her

performance, she went to them.

For about an hour, Elaine went bed to bed. In each room, she scanned bulletin boards and looked at personal items on bedside tables to get a sense of who the patients were, then selected music to fit.

Activity Director **Claudia Hergersberg-Dempsey** and Bread & Roses Program Director **Carole Robinson** escorted the musician through the hospital wards. “Claudia was wonderful,” Elaine said. “She had it set up so that there were two or three patients in each room.”

Though most patients were not able to respond in words, “Usually we would see a grin or a smile. Claudia would tell us when she saw an expression that was notable.”

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*Bringing Free, Live Entertainment
to People Confined in Institutions or Isolated From Society*

New Bread & Roses Merchandise Debuts

Bread & Roses' new line of merchandise makes it easy to show your support for "Live Art Delivered Fresh Daily."

Elegant and classy silk-screened T-shirts, (\$18 black, \$15 white), embroidered tote bags (\$10), baseball caps (\$10), and latte-size tumblers (\$10) all feature the Bread & Roses logo. Tax and shipping are extra.

To place an order, call us at (415) 945-7120 and ask for **Maxine** or **Dianne**, or email mstraiten@breadandroses.org

Merchandise may also be purchased Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at our office at 233 Tamalpais Drive, Suite 100, Corte Madera.

Beginning March 31, we will sell our merchandise online and will have the capacity to accept online donations. For more information, visit our website: www.breadandroses.org

We also plan to have a presence at various fairs and festivals to promote our mission, recruit new volunteers and sell our merchandise. If you know of a potential venue, or you would like to help us with this new venture, please contact us.

Benefit Musicians Take a Bow



Photo by Andrew de Lory

Performers at the February 13 Bread & Roses Benefit Concert 2003 at Herbst Theatre, San Francisco, receive flowers and thanks from **Carole Robinson** of Bread & Roses. From left: **Boz Scaggs**, **Frank Olivier**, **Rickie Lee Jones** (behind microphone), **Roy Rogers**, **Tom Johnston** and **Terry Miller**. Several of the musicians will be featured on the Bread & Roses CD to be issued this year. *See story, page 1.*