

[PAUL JACKSON, JR.]



Paul Jackson Jr. a talented and prolific jazz guitarist, composer, arranger and producer is recognized for his unique sound and incredible range of playing styles. His remarkable virtuosity gives the guitar a genuine voice that stirs the soul.

IN THE BEGINNING

Born and based in Los Angeles and a member of numerous local bands from his early teens, including a band composed of himself and his siblings, Paul Jackson, Jr. very quickly established his skill and sensitivity and was soon called upon to do many R&B and pop sessions, as well as jazz dates. Jackson began his own solo recording career in the late 80s. Over the years his much imitated distinctive style, and significant musical and technical skills made him a favorite among live audiences and his becoming recognized by many as the most recorded guitarist in the world.

INFLUENCES

Though Jackson never got to meet or work with one of his chief guitar/musical influences, Wes Montgomery, he has forged professional relationships with all the others who touched his formative years. Guitarists including Gary Bell, Greg Poree, Earl Klugh, George Benson, Ray Parker Jr.,

George Duke, Al McKay, Lee Ritenour, along with his mentor, Patrice Rushen, have played key roles in his musical development and professional career.

Jackson's career as a highly accomplished L.A. session player, spans multiple decades. He has appeared on the recordings of superstars such as Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Barbara Streisand, Celine Dion, Quincy Jones, Luther Vandross, Kenny Rogers, Barry White, Patti LaBelle and Luis Miguel, to rockers such as Chicago and Elton John, to jazz-oriented players such as George Duke, George Benson, Dave Koz, Al Jarreau, David Benoit, Marcus Miller and Kirk Whalum, Boney James, and to Christian artists such as Leon Patillo, BeBe and CeCe Winans, Donnie McClurkin and Don Moen.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Paul Jackson, Jr. continues to expand on his solo projects. Seven previous successful albums, containing several top ten releases include: *I Came to Play* (Grammy Nominated), *Out of the Shadows*, and *River in the Desert* under the Atlantic Label. *Never Alone Duets* under the Pony Canyon/Blue Note Labels, *Power of the String*, and *Still Small Voice* under the Blue Note label, and *Lay it Back*, under Branch Records, Inc. In 2014, Jackson contributed to several tracks on the album, *Random Access Memories* by Daft Punk, which garnered 5 Grammy Awards, was the #1 album in 104 countries. Jackson earned a Grammy recognition for his contribution to the album.

In addition to live performances and collaborations Paul has appeared on many television shows and specials: *The American Cinema Awards Show*, which honored Bob Hope (Music Director). Sitcoms *Martin* and *Townsend Television* (Music Director); the movie, *Undercover Brother* (Co-Composer), and the 2008 Grammy After Party (Music Director) featuring many notable artists including Herbie Hancock, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Jill Scott, Ne-Yo and Lionel Richie. Paul was a band regular playing a wide variety of styles of the highly regarded television shows: *Don't Forget The Lyrics!* hosted by Wayne Brady, NBC's *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, and Fox's *American Idol*.

Jackson can also be seen playing internationally at Jazz Festivals, including Berks, Montreaux, North Sea Jazz, Capital Jazz, JVC Hollywood Bowl, Playboy, JVC Concord and many others.

NEW PROJECTS

The new project, ***Stories from Stompin' Willie*** is a CD about musical friendships garnered over several years. Specifically Jackson's long time relationship with keyboard legend George Duke, who nicknamed Jackson, Stompin' Willie. This project features many of Paul's old friends like Jeff Lorber, Jimmy Haslip, Karen Briggs, Michael Lington, Tom Scott, Ndugu Chancelor, Byron Miller, and John Beasley not to forget Jackson's longtime "boss" Patrice Rushen, and the entire Rickey Minor Band of American Idol and Tonight Show fame. Also helping on the project are new friends like violin sensation Nicole Neely and recording engineers, Erik Zabler, who has worked with George Duke for over two decades and Craig Burbidge, who mixed Jackson's first #1 radio single *It's a Shame*

"I wanted to do a first class tribute to George (Duke). He was my mentor, my coach, and my friend," Jackson states. Featured on the CD are the re-recorded Duke classics *Geneva*, *Hip Pockets* and *That's What She Said*. ***Stories from Stompin' Willie*** is sure to please... it is a timeless homage, true George Duke fans will know and love —and promises to deliver a fresh twist on classics that will rock the jazz world.

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