



## DONALD HARRISON, JR. (The King of Nouveau Swing)

Donald Harrison is being called one of the most important musicians of the new millennium. He is the originator of the Nouveau Swing style, which merges acoustic swing with modern R&B, second-line, hip-hop, Mardi Gras Indian, and reggae rhythms.

The 41-year-old saxophonist is one of the most influential modern jazz players of his generation, yet he remains inextricably tied to his New Orleans roots. The son of late great Mardi Gras Indian Chief Donald Harrison, Sr. graduated from the famous arts high school NOCCA (New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts) and began touring with Roy Haynes in 1980 and Jack McDuff in 1981. He moved to New York in 1982 and joined Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. A few years later he co-led a band with Terence Blanchard that had an enormous impact on the development of the so-called "neo-conservative" movement. After that group split in 1989, Harrison became a prodigious leader, releasing a number of well-received records, including the groundbreaking recording "Indian Blues" in 1991, which captured the essence of Mardi Gras Indian culture within a jazz context. He also worked throughout the 90's with a wide variety of world-class talents, such as Lena Horne, Roy Haynes, Latin jazz giant Eddie Palmieri, and the smash hip-hop groups Jazzmatazz and Digable Planets. All of this diverse experience fuels Harrison's dynamic Nouveau Swing sound. In the new millennium, Harrison has performed with The Head Hunters, The Art of Four with Billy Cobham and Ron Carter. He is also Big Chief of The Congo Nation.

Harrison is one of the few musicians who can play it all, from traditional, to swing, bop, post-bop, modern, smooth, avant-garde, and beyond, but Harrison has developed his own personal style that traverses and synthesizes all these mediums with great success. Harrison recordings have made the top ten of three billboard charts. The Classic Jazz, Smooth Jazz, as well as the R&B chart. Through talent and perseverance Harrison has developed into one of the most significant jazz artists to emerge in the last twenty years!

"Mr. Harrison turned out to be one of the most musicologically literate jazz players to come out in ages." New York Times

"Donald Harrison Jr. may be the most interesting, most accessible, and most adventurous musician in the country right now." East Bay Express

"... one of the more innovative bandleaders New Orleans has produced in the past 20 years." – Chicago Tribune

~ "Blessed..." LA Times ~ "Classic..." Rolling Stone ~