

Donald Harrison Bio

Donald Harrison is being called one of the most important musicians of the new millennium by CBS Sunday Morning. A list of his accomplishments shows that he has developed into a musical category unto himself. In the classic jazz genre, he is the originator of the Nouveau Swing style which merges acoustic swing with modern R&B, second-line, hip-hop, (New Orleans African American roots culture), and reggae rhythms. His smooth jazz recording, "The Power of Cool" went to the top of Billboard Magazine's Smooth Jazz and R&B charts and is considered a classic. His ground-breaking recording, "Indian Blues" captured the essence of Mardi Gras Indian culture within a jazz context.



His latest New Orleans recording, "The New Sounds of Mardi Gras" updates New Orleans music. It puts the sounds of Mardi Gras into Hip-hop, R&B, and Funk. It also marks Harrison's debut as a rapper. The great singer-pianist Dr. John says of the recording, "This is the freshest thing to come out of New Orleans in years. You deserve an award for this one"

Harrison's newest Classic Jazz recording, "Heroes" is now available. The CD is a trio recording with the great bass innovator Ron Carter and drum innovator Billy Cobham. The CD also features three bonus tracks with his young working band.

In April he released "Freestyle" with his young working band. It showcases his Nouveau Swing in an even funkier presentation. In September Half-Note Records will release his second trio recording with Ron Carter and Billy Cobham which was recorded live at the Blue Note NYC.

Presently, Harrison is recording yet another CD titled, "3D" The recording is a three CD set which features a different genre of music on each disc. The genres are Classic Jazz, R&B-Smooth Jazz, and Hip-hop. This exciting project will showcase Harrison's ability to produce, write, sing, rap, and play many instruments.

He is one of the few musicians who can play it all - from traditional New Orleans, to swing, bop, post-bop, modern, smooth, avant-garde, and beyond. Yet, Harrison has developed his own personal style that traverses and synthesizes all these mediums with great success. Through talent and perseverance, Harrison has developed into one of the most significant artist to emerge in the last twenty years.