

CHICK COREA

An NEA Jazz Master, 16-time Grammy winner, prolific composer, keyboard virtuoso and 2010 Artist of the Year in DownBeat's Readers Poll, Chick Corea has attained living legend status after four decades of unparalleled creativity and an artistic output that is simply staggering.

From straight ahead to avant-garde, bebop to fusion, children's songs to chamber music, along with some far-reaching forays into symphonic works, Chick has touched an astonishing number of musical bases in his illustrious career while maintaining a standard of excellence that is awe-inspiring. A tirelessly creative spirit, Chick continues to forge ahead, continually reinventing himself in the process.

Since embarking on a solo career in 1966, Chick has been at the forefront of jazz, both as a renowned pianist forging new ground with his acoustic jazz bands and as an innovative electric keyboardist with Return to Forever and the Elektric Band. His extensive discography boasts numerous essential albums, beginning with his 1968 classic, *Now He Sings, Now He Sobs*.

STANLEY CLARKE

Stanley Clarke is nothing short of a living legend, having liberated the bass in much the same way that Louis Armstrong and Charlie Parker liberated their instruments decades earlier.

Born in Philadelphia, Clarke headed to New York City right after college as a classically trained bass virtuoso. He quickly made his mark on the New York jazz scene by gigging with Stan Getz, Joe Henderson and Horace Silver before joining Getz pianist Chick Corea to form the seminal, GRAMMY-winning fusion outfit Return to Forever in 1972. As the band took more of an electric focus (with Bill Connors and Lenny White, and later Al Di Meola), Clarke not only split his time between upright and electric bass, but also launched the high-end boutique bass guitar market via his use of custom-made Alembic basses.

Taking issue with the narrow perception of the bass as a support rather than solo instrument, Clarke released a string of solo albums, including the watershed recording, *School Days*, with a title track that served as the first bona fide bass anthem. Clarke also a number of acclaimed pairings, including the Clarke/Duke Project and appearances on two Paul McCartney albums

Clarke branched into film and TV scores in the late '80s, when scored the TV series *Pee Wee's Playhouse*. His acclaimed credits also include the films *Boyz n the Hood*, *Passenger 57*, *What's Love Got To Do With It?*, *Poetic Justice*, and *The Transporter*.

LENNY WHITE

As one of the founding fathers of the musical movement that became known as "fusion," Lenny White earned a worldwide reputation as the drummer in the mid-'70s supergroup Return to Forever. But as with many

drummers, often overshadowed by the so-called "lead" players in their band, White's legendary work with RTF, although important in the history of jazz, hardly represents the entirety of his musical contributions.

White was still a teenager in 1967 when Jackie McLean asked the lanky left-hander to join his band. Within a year he had played on two of the most important fusion records ever made: Miles Davis' *Bitches Brew* and Freddie Hubbard's *Red Clay*. In 1972, before joining RTF, White established his rock 'n' roll credentials in the Escovedo brothers' Latin rock band Azteca.

White proved his individual mettle in the 1970s by recording three critically-acclaimed jazz rock records on his own, in addition to collaborations with Joe Henderson, Stan Getz, Jaco Pastorius, Carlos Santana, and RTF band mates Stanley Clarke, Al Di Meola, and Chick Corea. White's acclaimed work as a producer can be heard on the straight-ahead projects *The Griffith Park Collection* and the GRAMMY®-nominated *Echoes of an Era* with vocalist Chaka Khan. In May 2010, White released his 13th album, *Anomaly*, in conjunction with the Abstract Logix label.