

KAMASI WASHINGTON



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BRANDON COLEMAN CAMERON GRAVES RYAN PORTER

STEPHEN BRUNER TONY AUSTIN MILES MOSLEY

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KAMASI WASHINGTON (Saxophonist/Band Leader)

Performed/Recorded With: Gerald Wilson, McCoy Tyner, Kenny Burrell, Billy Higgins, Wayne Shorter, Freddie Hubbard, John Fadis, Dianne Reeves, Russel Malone, Dr. Art Davis, Hubert Laws, Herald Land, Lula Washington Dance CO, Terrence Howard, The Emotions, George Clinton, Bootsy Collins, Snoop Dogg, Nate Dogg, Puff Daddy, Mos Def, Lauryn Hill, and Raphael Saadiq

Shows/Venues/Awards: Playboy Jazz Fest, Detroit Jazz Fest, The Tonight Show, Last Call with Carson Daly House Band, Radio Music Awards, Rock The Mic Tour, Project Revolution Tour, John Coltrane Saxophone Competition First Prize Winner, Lackawanna Blues (Movie and Sound Recording)

RYAN PORTER (Trombonist)

Performed/Recorded With: Wynton Marsalis, Diana Krall, Clayton/Hamilton Big Band, Lionel Hampton, Wayne Shorter, McCoy Tyner, Freddie Hubbard, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Night, The Emotions, Snoop Dogg, Lauryn Hill, Raphael Saadiq

Shows/Venues/Awards: Playboy Jazz Fest, Grammy Awards, Black Movie Awards, Teen Choice Awards, The Tonight Show, Rock The Mic Tour, Last Call with Carson Daly House Band

CAMERON GRAVES (Pianist)

Performed/Recorded With: Billy Higgins, Harald Land, Kenny Burrell, Jada Pinkett Smith, The Score, Leon Ware

Shows/Venues/Awards: Playboy Jazz Festival, Amistad (Movie)

STEPHEN BRUNER (Electric Bassist)

Performed/Recorded With: Wayne Shorter, George Duke Ndugu Chancler, Leon Ware, Snoop Dogg, Raphael Saadiq, Suicidal Tendencies

Shows/Venues/Awards: Playboy Jazz Fest, The Tonight Show

TONY AUSTIN (Drummer)

Performed/Recorded With: Billy Higgins, Charles Lloyd, Brad Mehldau, Roy Hargrove, Erykah Badu, Solomon Burke, Salvador Santana, Ozomatli, India Arie, Lauryn Hill, The Calling, The Score, Rhian Benson, Quetzal, Rama Duke, Terrence Howard

Shows/Venues/Awards: Playboy Jazz Fest, E Ring(NBC) One One One (Paramount), Studio 60 (NBC), What I Like About You (CW), T.H.E.M. (NBC), An American Family (PBS), Charlie's Angeles (Telemundo), Reyes y Reyes (Telemundo)

BRANDON COLEMAN (Keyboard Player)

Performed/Recorded With: Roy Hargrove, Brian McNight, Stanley Clarke, Sheila E, Rubin Studdard, Prince, Stevie Wonder, Karen Briggs, Lauryn Hill

Shows/Venues/Awards: Playboy Jazz Fest, North Sea Jazz Fest, Monterey Jazz Fest, Carnegie Hall, The Tonight Show, The Late Show

MILES MOSLEY (Acoustic Bassist)

Performed/Recorded With: Herbie Hancock, Lalo Schifrin, Frank Capp, Ernie Andrews, Ricky Woodard, Jeff Clayton, Ray Brown, Al McKibbin, Kenny Burrell, Joany Mitchell, Jennifer Warnes, Jason Mraz, Dakah, Mos Def, Common Sense, Terrence Howard, Lauryn Hill

Shows/Venues/Awards: Playboy Jazz Fest, Verizon Jazz Fest, Grammy Awards, Coyote Ugly (Movie), What I Like About You (T.V. Show), Last Call with Carson Daly House Band

Life Story

Life began for Kamasi Washington on February 18, 1981 in Los Angeles, California. In the Washington family music was more of a prerequisite than a privilege. But Kamasi never saw it that way, his love for music began at first sound. His father, Rickey Washington is a professional saxophonist by night and a high school music teacher by day. Kamasi's mother, Valerie Washington is an accomplished flutist who fell in love with the world of science and became a high school chemistry teacher after her stint as a genetic researcher. By the age of two Kamasi had already begun to play the drums and piano, the only thing that kept him away from the wind instruments at that early age was his lack of dental development. He began his exploration into the world of the reeds and brass when he was about seven and his father gave him a clarinet. By the age of twelve Kamasi had found his voice in the form of a tenor saxophone, in fact it was the same saxophone that his father played in high school.

Over the next year Kamasi's development and devotion to music had out grown his academic environment. So he transferred from The Los Angeles Center of Enriched Studies (one the top academic high schools in the nation) and enrolled into the Hamilton High School Music Academy. It was around this time that Kamasi also joined The Multi School Jazz Band (M.S.J.B.), an assembly of the finest young jazz musicians in Los Angeles County and led by Reginald Andrews the same man that taught Kamasi's father in high school. Because of the sheer vastness of talent that he was surrounded by it was in The Multi School Jazz Band that Kamasi was most inspired during his high school years. Through M.S.J.B. Kamasi was also able to meet, learn, and create relationships with many of his musical idols such as Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Horne Tapscott, Gerald Wilson, and many others. In Kamasi's senior year of high school he had the opportunity to compete in the John Coltrane Saxophone competition, in which he received the first place award. As an additional benefit to winning the competition the band of M.S.J.B. members that he assembled to accompany him had such an immediate connection that they decided to stay together and form a group that soon after would be known as "The Young Jazz Giants".

This fiery group of "Young Giants" wasted no time in spreading their musical wings and flying all over the Los Angeles jazz scene spreading the good news that jazz was still alive and in very good hands. It was during this time that Kamasi became interested in composition and he started writing his own music. Over the next year "The Young Jazz Giants" had really began to develop their own sound and were creating a lot of excitement in their community. After graduating from high school Kamasi began his studies at U.C.L.A. where the faculty included some of the finest musicians in the history of Jazz, such as Kenny Burrell, Billy Higgins, Harold Land, Lew Mathews, Garnett Brown, Jeff Clayton, Gerald Wilson, and many others. By the end of his first year at U.C.L.A. Kamasi began performing with many of his professors. In fact he joined Gerald Wilson's big band and later became the only member of his regular Los Angeles band to be invited to play on his latest album "In My Time" which was recorded in New York. During the summer after Kamasi's first year at U.C.L.A. the head of a new record label called "Bird Man Records" heard him playing with "The Young Jazz Giants" and became very interested in making an album with the group. So Kamasi recorded his first album it was called The Young Jazz Giants. The completion of the album seemed like the "big break" for "The Young Jazz Giants" but unforeseen delays in the products release ended in the album being released almost two years after it's completion. Ironically the talent level of the group was far too high for any of the members of the band to stay "ready and waiting" for too long, thus "The Young Jazz Giants" unofficially disbanded. Kamasi began to take interest and became influenced by many other forms of music, from European Classical to Hip Hop. This really opened his mind to the fact that all of the different forms that music takes are equally relevant. From this Kamasi ended up playing with many of the most legendary musicians of the current variety such as Snoop Dog, Raphael Saadiq, and many others. Yet during this time Kamasi despite his newfound respect for all of the forms of music realized that Jazz was still the music that was closest to his heart. So he started a new band that would be able to play the new music that he is creating. The new group is called "The Next Step" and that's precisely what Kamasi intends on taking.