

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



MICHAEL McDONALD

This five-time Grammy winner is one of the most unmistakable voices in music, singing hits for three decades. His husky soulful baritone debuted 30 years ago, famously revitalizing the Doobie Brothers with "Takin' it to the Streets," "What a Fool Believes," and "Minute by Minute". He went onto a distinguished solo career including duets with such R&B greats as James Ingram and Patti Labelle. Michael released the Grammy nominated *Motown* in 2003, selling over 1.3 million copies, followed by *Motown 2*, released in October 2004.



PHIL COLLINS

One of the music industry's rock legends, Collins played drums, sang, wrote and arranged songs, played sessions, and helped Genesis become one of the leading lights in the Progressive rock field. After numerous solo hits and Platinum-selling albums, Walt Disney studios asked him in to compose the songs to their animated feature "Tarzan," and the single, "You'll be in my Heart," was a major hit which earned him the prestigious Academy, Grammy and Golden Globe Awards. He is currently working on three new Disney projects. With a new album in the pipeline, and a continued interest in all aspects of his past, Phil Collins has proved that there is no substitute for talent.



SMOKEY ROBINSON

Entering his fourth decade as a singer, songwriter and producer, this velvet-voiced crooner began his career as a founding Motown executive, and frontman for the Miracles. Writing some of the biggest songs in musical history including "Tears of a Clown" and "I Second That Emotion", his Motown recordings became radio staples and his songs haven been recorded by artists worldwide including The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Aretha Franklin and the Jackson 5. Now 36 Top 40 hits later including his solo hits "Cruisin'", "Being With You" and "Just to See Her", Smokey's list of achievements is long, highlighted by a Grammy Living Legend Award, and the highest honor any artist could ever receive, the National Medal of Arts Award, given by the President of the United States.



JON SECADA

Bred from the hugely successful Miami Latin pop scene, this superstar got his start back-up singing and writing songs for Gloria Estefan. His own solo career skyrocketed in the early 90s and Jon went on to win 2 Grammy Awards (Best Latin Pop Album and Best Latin Pop Performance) and has achieved album sales worldwide of more than 20 million units. He has also written and produced landmark songs for such stars as Ricky Martin and Jennifer Lopez, and holds a Masters in music for jazz vocal performance. Jon is also an accomplished stage actor, holding starring roles on Broadway in "Grease," "Cabaret" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."



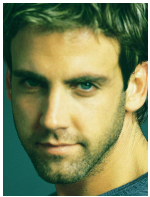
DAVE MATTHEWS

A charismatic and outspoken front man and songwriter, Dave Matthews has stretched the boundaries of rock and pop, integrating jazz, classical, and world music influences with the lyrics of a natural born storyteller. In the ten years since the release of the Dave Matthews Band debut, "Remember Two Things" -- one of the few independent recordings to sell more than a million copies -- Dave Matthews has galvanized a community of music fans, releasing multi-platinum live and studio discs year after year, and remains one of the top grossing touring artists.



RICHARD MARX

This Grammy-winning songwriter/producer first emerged as a vocalist in 1987, and was a fixture on pop and adult contemporary radio with a string of hit singles including "Don't Mean Nothing" and "Hold on to the Nights". Marx went on to become a top producer, working with some of the biggest names in the music business: NSYNC, Barbra Streisand, Josh Groban, Vince Gill and Luther Vandross. One of his biggest collaborations won him a "Song of the Year" Grammy for "Dance With my Father", written with Luther Vandross, and performed on A Father's Love by Buddy Jewell.



CARLOS PONCE

In a career spanning well over a decade, Carlos Ponce has successfully employed his talents in numerous facets of entertainment, proving himself to be a formidable figure with vast talent. Having released four albums and appeared on countless television shows as an actor and host, he has raised the bar in this competitive arena and proven that the range and possibilities of creativity can go well beyond common expectations. As an "Entertainment Tonight" personality, Carlos has interviewed some of Hollywood's brightest stars. He has also hosted the "Premios Billboard de la Música Latina" and the "Miss Universe" on the Telemundo network. He is also featured in the comedy "Chasing Papi" as well as a guest appearance on the ABC drama, "Karen Sisco." And as if all of that wasn't enough, in 2004 EMI Latin released "La Historia," a collection of Carlos's greatest hits from his prior CDs. His penetrating blue eyes and unassuming sex appeal have made him a favorite on well over 100 magazine covers. Being selected to grace the pages of People en Español's 25 Bellezas (Most Beautiful People) issue once again, Carlos has been the only artist featured three times on the cover of this highly celebrated magazine.



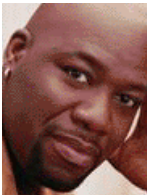
SOLOMON BURKE

Known as the "King of Rock & Soul", this Philadelphia native made his first mark in the music world with a platinum selling gospel record at the age of 14. Six years later, on his Atlantic records debut, he applied his gospel technique to secular R&B and S-O-U-L was born. Influencing artists from Tom Jones to Otis Redding to the Rolling Stones, he has gone on to sell 17 million albums worldwide throughout his career. A Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction and a 2002 Grammy win for Best Contemporary Blues album are just some of his achievements.



JAMES EARL JONES

The voice recognized around the world. The voice of Darth Vader, Mufasa from “The Lion King” and Verizon Wireless. He started his career as a successful Broadway Shakespearean actor, and went on to win two Tony Awards for his theater roles. He began to be cast in small television roles and became the first African American to appear regularly on daytime TV (“Guiding Light” and “As the World Turns”). His career grew to include leading roles in both film and nighttime TV, earning him an Oscar nomination, a Golden Globe and four Emmy Awards.



WILL DOWNING

With a career spanning two decades and 11 records, this Grammy-nominated vocalist’s rich and sensual baritone is a staple at both R&B and Smooth Jazz radio. He is a gifted song stylist and composer, and the recipient of two NAACP Image Awards, in 1993 for Outstanding R&B Male Vocalist and in 2003 for Outstanding Jazz Artist. His latest release features collaborations with Norman Brown, George Duke, Gerald Albright and Kirk Whalum.



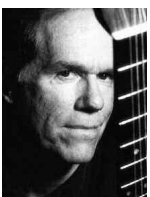
BUDDY JEWEL

Buddy won the hearts of America in 2003 when he was crowned “Nashville Star”, beating out 8000 performers on this USA Network TV show. A college football star that started his career in talent contests, he struggled for 10 years in Nashville, recording 663 demos in pursuit of his dream. The world class country vocalist released his debut on Columbia records last year, and entered the Billboard Top Country chart at #1, selling more records than any country debut CD since Leann Rimes’ Blue in 1996. Buddy’s self-titled cd is certified gold.



KIRK WHALUM

His warm and melodic sax enjoys dual success at both Gospel and Smooth Jazz radio. With musical roots in the Baptist church, Kirk developed his signature sound in the height of the “Texas Tenor” scene during college in Houston. Moving to Los Angeles skyrocketed his career, where Kirk became one of the most in-demand session players and worked with superstars like Quincy Jones, Barbra Streisand and Whitney Houston. With major label releases on Columbia and Warner Brothers, Kirk has earned seven Grammy nominations and several Top 10 Billboard hits.



LOUDON WAINRIGHT III

One of America’s most astute lyrical commentators, Loudon is known for his clever and honest songwriting. His first major label release was the self-titled debut in 1970 and he has gone onto to record twenty albums, earning two Grammy nominations along the way and becoming a radio and live show favorite. National Public Radio (NPR) and ABC’s Nightline have both commissioned Loudon to write numerous topical songs on events and individuals in the news.