

DON WAS

Music has always loomed large in the life of Don Was. Born in Detroit in 1952, he has enjoyed a multi-faceted career as a musician, record producer, music director, film composer, documentary filmmaker and radio host. Since 2011, he has also served as President of America's venerated jazz label, **Blue Note Records**.

For his work as a record producer, he has won six Grammy Awards – including Album of the Year in 1989 for **Bonnie Raitt's** *Nick of Time* and Producer of the Year in 1994. Records that Don has produced have sold close to 100 million albums for a wide array of artists like **The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, John Mayer, Ringo Starr, Wayne Shorter, The B52s and Charles Lloyd**. In 1995 he produced and directed a documentary about the life of **Brian Wilson**, *I Just Wasn't Made For These Times*, that won the San Francisco Film Festival's Golden Gate Award. As a film composer, he won the 1994 **British Academy Award (BAFTA) for Best Original Score** in recognition of his work on the film *Backbeat*. He won the **2014 Emmy Award for Outstanding Music Direction** for his work on the CBS TV special *The Beatles: The Night That Changed America*. In 2018 Don was invited to join Grateful Dead guitarist **Bob Weir** to form the **Wolf Brothers**. They continue to consistently tour the US.

In 2011 Was became **President** of the iconic jazz label **Blue Note Records**. He fiercely protects the company's eighty-five-year-old legacy, meticulously caretaking the revered catalog of **Black American Music**. This includes maintaining the availability and quality of vinyl reissues in the **Tone Poet** and **Classic Jazz** audiophile release series. He also signs and produces many of the label's recent roster of artists including, **Robert Glasper, Charles Lloyd, Wayne Shorter, Dr Lonnie Smith, Gregory Porter and Jason Moran**.

Don's deep Detroit roots keep him anchored to the city where, where for the last 15 years he has music directed and played bass in the **Don Was Detroit All Star Revue** concerts which are part of Detroit's annual diversity festival, **The Concert of Colors**. From 2009-2012 Don hosted a weekly Sirius XM radio show on the Outlaw Country channel called **The Motor City Hayride**. Since 2021, he co-hosts a weekly, live radio show on Detroit's NPR station, WDET-FM called **The Don Was Motor City Playlist**. Don is also the voice of **Neville the Dog** in the hit Amazon Prime Video children's show, **Pete the Cat**.

THE PAN-DETROIT ENSEMBLE

Don Was' latest group, The Pan-Detroit Ensemble, is a band made up of stellar jazz musicians from his hometown. "There's a unique sound and feel to Detroit that permeates the music in a way that resonates all over the globe", says Was. "There is a rawness, a lack of pretension and an unmistakable, underlying groove that reflects the people and culture of the entire city"

The band includes long time collaborators like Blue Note Records artist **Dave McMurray** on sax and Eminem's Oscar-winning collaborator, keyboardist **Luis Resto**. Additional musicians include trombonist **Vincent Chandler**, trumpeter **John Douglas**, drummer **Jeff Canady**, percussionist **Mahindi Masai**, guitarist **Wayne Gerard** and vocalist **Steffanie Christi'an**.

"When the opportunity came to put together a new band, the message was clear to me: go back to Detroit where I came from, be who I am, play like who I am and team up with some like-minded individuals", says Was.

DON WAS - DISCOGRAPHY AND CREDITS

Rolling Stones

Voodoo Lounge - 1994 (won Grammy Award for Best Rock Album - 1994)

Stripped - 1995

Bridges to Babylon - 1997

Forty Licks (greatest hits compilation with 2 new songs)

Live Licks - 2004

A Bigger Bang - 2005

Blue and Lonesome - 2016 (won Grammy Award for Best Traditional Blues Album)

Bob Dylan

Under The Red Sky - 1989

Shadow Kingdom - 2022

John Mayer

Born and Raised - 2012

Paradise Valley - 2013

Sob Rock - 2021

Van Morrison

Duets: Reworking the Catalogue - 2015

Wayne Shorter

Emanon (won Grammy Award for Best Jazz Instrumental album - 2018)

Neil Diamond

Melody Road - 2013

Acoustic Christmas - 2016

Ziggy Marley

Spirit of Music - 1999

Family Time - 2009 (won Grammy Award for Best Musical Album for Children)

Wild and Free – 2011

Bonnie Raitt

Nick of Time - 1989 (winner of 5 Grammy Awards including Album of The Year. Chosen in - 2022 by the Library of Congress for the US National Recording Registry)

Luck of the Draw - 1991 (winner of 3 Grammy Awards)

Longing In Their Hearts - 1993

Road Tested - 1995

Willie Nelson

Across the Borderline - 1995

Countryman - 2005

Ringo Starr

Time Takes Time - 1996

Kris Kristofferson

Moment of Forever – 1995

This Old Road – 2006

Closer to the Bone - 2008

Feeling Mortal - 2013

Gregg Allman

Southern Blood - 2017

Iggy Pop

Brick By Brick - 1990

Avenue B - 1999

The B52s

Cosmic Thing - 1989 (including the global hit “Love Shack”)

Good Stuff - 1992

Carly Simon

Spoiled Girl - 1985

Paul Young

The Crossing - 1993

Waylon Jennings

Waymore's Blues - 1994

The Highwaymen

The Road Goes on Forever - 1995

Joe Cocker

Organic - 1996

Paul Westerberg

Suicaine Gratification - 1999

Garth Brooks

Garth Brooks in ... The Life of Chris Gaines - 1999

Solomon Burke

Make Do With What You Got - 2005

Amos Lee

Last Day at the Lodge - 2008

Stone Temple Pilots

Stone Temple Pilots - 2010

Aaron Neville

My True Story - 2013

Bobby Hutcherson, David Sanborn, Joey DeFrancesco

Enjoy the View - 2014

Katharine McPhee

I Fall in Love Too Easily - 2017

Bob Seger

The Fire Inside - 1991

Hootie and the Blowfish

Hootie & the Blowfish - 2003

Brian Wilson

I Just Wasn't Made for These Times - 1995

Travis Tritt

The Restless Kind - 1996

The Black Crowes

Lions - 2001

Richie Sambora

Undiscovered Soul - 1998

Barenaked Ladies

Maroon - 2000

Jessi Coulter

Out of the Ashes - 2006

Old Crow Medicine Show

Tennessee Pusher - 2008

Lucinda Williams

Blessed - 2011

Martina McBride

Everlasting - 2014

Jose James

Yesterday I Had The Blues - 2015

Gov't Mule

Revolution Come... Revolution Go - 2017

Trisha Yearwood

Let's Be Frank - 2018

Ryan Adams

Wednesdays - 2020

Big Colors – 2021

Charles Lloyd & the Marvels and Lucinda Williams

Vanished Gardens - 2018

Bobby Weir and The Wolf Bros

Live in Colorado Vols. 1 & 2 – 2022

Don has also produced songs for **Michael McDonald, Elton John, Michelle Shocked, Glenn Frey, Roy Orbison, Delbert McClinton, David Crosby, Jackson Browne, Alison Krauss, Lyle Lovett, Marianne Faithfull, The Knack, Stevie Nicks, Paula Abdul, Bette Midler and Mitch Ryder** among others.

He has produced albums for many international artists, including:

Cheb Khaled (Algeria)

Khaled - 1991 (featuring the global hit “Didi”)

Sahra - 1996

N’Ssi N’Ssi - 1993

Ya-Rayi - 2004

Zucchero (Italy)

Fly - 2006

All The Best - 2015

Chocabeck - 2010

La Sesion Cubana – 2012

Black Cat - 2016

The DOC - 2018

The Chieftains (Ireland)

The Wide World Over - 2002

Johnny Hallyday (France)

Rester Vivant - 2014

Ofra Haza (Israel)

Kiryah - 1992

Jaguaires (Mexico)

El Equilibrio de los Jaguares - 1996

Intocable (Mexican/American)

Percepcion - 2019 (won Grammy Award for Best Regional Mexican Music Album)

As a featured recording artist, Don has released six albums:

Was (Not Was)

Was (Not Was) - 1981

Born to Laugh at Tornadoes – 1983

What Up Dog? - 1988.

Are You Okay? - 1991 (Grammy Nominated Best R&B Single) *Boo!* - 2008

Orquestra Was

Forever Is a Long Long Time - 1996

- more -

He has served as Music Supervisor/Consultant/Soundtrack Producer on numerous motion pictures, including:

Thelma and Louise, The Rainmaker, Hope Floats, Phenomenon, Tin Cup, Honeymoon in Vegas, 8 Seconds, Switch, The Freshman, Days of Thunder, Boys on the Side, and Toy Story.

Concerts/Broadcasts saluting:

Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Kenny Rogers, Mavis Staples, Jerry Garcia, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Kris Kristofferson, Emmy Lou Harris, Levon Helm, and Merle Haggard.

He has served as Music Director for:

The 72ND Academy Awards Telecast [co-music director with Burt Bacharach] (CBS) - 2000

President and Michelle Obama's A Salute to the Troops: in Performance at The White House (CBS) - 2014

The Beatles: The Night that Changed America (CBS) - 2014 [won Emmy Award for Outstanding Music Direction]

Kennedy Center Honors –(CBS)

Bob Dylan - 1997

Willie Nelson - 1998

Chuck Berry - 1999

Willie Nelson: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize (PBS) - 2015

Willie Nelson: The Big 6-0 (PBS) - 1993

Elvis: The Tribute-One Night with You (ABC) – 1995

Elvis All Star Tribute (NBC) - 2019

Roy Orbison Tribute (HBO) - 1990

MusicCares Person of the Year Awards

Neil Diamond – 2009

Neil Young – 2010

Bob Dylan - 2015

1993 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Blackbird Productions Tribute