# 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 Color*s.*** 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 Canaday**, percussionist **Mahindi Masai**, guitarist **Wayne Gerard** and vocalist **Steffanie Christi’ann.**

“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.

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| **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 - 20*04*A Bigger Bang* - 2005*Blue and Lonesome* - 2016 (won Grammy Award for Best Traditional Blues Album) | **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 |
| **Bob Dylan***Under The Red Sky* - 1989*Shadow Kingdom* - 2022 | **Willie Nelson***Across the Borderline* - 1995*Countryman* - 2005 |
| **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) | **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 |
| **Neil Diamond**Melody Road - 2013Acoustic Christmas - 2016 | **Iggy Pop***Brick By Brick* - 1990*Avenue B* - 1999  |
| **Ziggy Marley***Spirit of Music* - 1999*Family Time* - 2009 (won Grammy Award for Best Musical Album for Children)*Wild and Free* – 2011 | **The B52s***Cosmic Thing* - 1989 (including the global hit “Love Shack”)*Good Stuff* - 1992 |
| - more - |
| **Carly Simon** *Spoiled Girl* - 1985 | **Bob Seger***The Fire Inside* – 1991 |
| **Paul Young***The Crossing* - 1993 | **Hootie and the Blowfish***Hootie & the Blowfish* - 2003 |
| **Waylon Jennings***Waymore’s Blues* - 1994**The Highwaymen***The Road Goes on Forever* - 1995**Joe Cocker***Organic* - 1996 | **Brian Wilson***I Just Wasn’t Made for These Times* - 1995**Travis Tritt***The Restless Kind* - 1996**The Black Crowes***Lions* - 2001  |
| **Paul Westerberg***Suicaine Gratifaction* - 1999 | **Richie Sambora***Undiscovered Soul* - 1998 |
| **Garth Brooks***Garth Brooks in ... The Life of Chris Gaines* - 1999 | **Barenaked Ladies***Maroon* - 2000 |
| **Solomon Burke***Make Do With What You Got* - 2005 | **Jessi Coulter***Out of the Ashes* - 2006 |
| **Amos Lee***Last Day at the Lodge* - 2008  | **Old Crow Medicine Show***Tennessee Pusher* - 2008  |
| **Stone Temple Pilots***Stone Temple Pilots* - 2010 | **Lucinda Williams***Blessed* - 2011  |
| **Aaron Neville***My True Story* - 2013 | **Martina McBride***Everlasting* - 2014 |
| **Bobby Hutcherson, David Sanborn, Joey DeFrancesco***Enjoy the View* - 2014 | **Jose James***Yesterday I Had The Blues* - 2015 |
| **Katharine McPhee***I* *Fall in Love Too Easily* - 2017 | **Gov’t Mule***Revolution Come... Revolution Go* - 2017 |
| - more - |
| **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**The Chieftains (Ireland)***The Wide World Over* - 2002 | **Zucchero (Italy)***Fly* - 2006*All The Best* - 2015 *Chocabeck* - 2010*La Sesion Cubana* – 2012*Black Cat* - 2016*The DOC* - 2018 |
| **Johnny Hallyday (France)***Rester Vivant* - 2014 | **Ofra Haza (Israel)***Kirya* - 1992 |
| **Jaguares (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 – 2009Neil Young – 2010Bob Dylan - 2015**1993 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Blackbird Productions Tribute**  |

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