# 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 - 2013  Acoustic 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 – 2009  Neil Young – 2010  Bob Dylan - 2015  **1993 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Blackbird Productions Tribute** | |

- 2012 12 -