

## 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 Canaday**, percussionist **Mahindi**, 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* - 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

- more -

**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

- 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

**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)**

*Kiryá* - 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

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

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

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

***Elvis All Star Tribute*** (NBC) - 2019

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

***Roy Orbison Tribute*** (HBO) - 1990

***Kennedy Center Honors –(CBS)***

***MusicCares Person of the Year Awards***

Bob Dylan - 1997

Neil Diamond – 2009

Willie Nelson - 1998

Neil Young – 2010

Chuck Berry - 1999

Bob Dylan - 2015

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

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

- 2012 12 -