

THE STATE OF SOUND

A WORLD OF MUSIC FROM ILLINOIS



OFFICIAL GALLERY GUIDE



Abraham Lincoln
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Written by Dave Hoekstra



THE STATE OF SOUND

A WORLD OF MUSIC FROM ILLINOIS

A companion guide of selected artifacts from the exhibit created by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

The spirit of possibility moves us.

Generations of musicians have come to Illinois by train, bus, airplane, and automobile. Maybe some hitchhiked. The Land of Lincoln has offered the promise of jobs, housing, and a new way of looking at life. Rhythm and lyrics that carried these aspirations shaped a sound with a global reach.

You can feel this powerful sense of adventure in *The State of Sound*. There are no borders. Illinois music reflects America's diversity: Gospel and Blues, Country, Soul and Rock, International, and Hip-Hop and House. These are cultural mountains in a prairie state. Illinois is built on wheat stackers, steel makers, and meat packers. Every beating heart and eternal soul has a song.

Standing in the presence of *The State of Sound's* precious musical artifacts can be very impactful and deeply personal. You are standing in dreams. Music tells us who we are and where we have been. When gathered together under one roof and one heart, it also tells us who we can be.

Dave Hoekstra - April 2021



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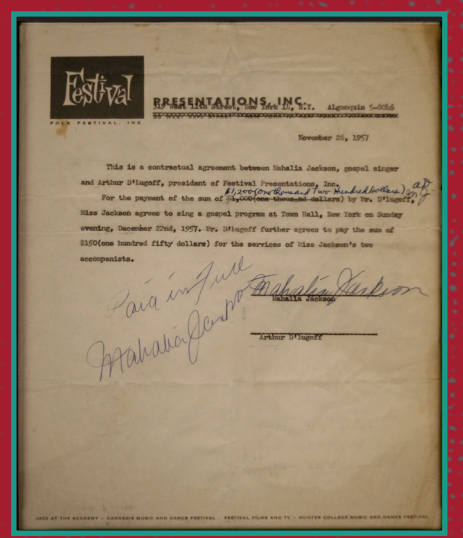
MAHALIA JACKSON

Mahalia Jackson was gospel music's first superstar. She moved from New Orleans to Chicago in 1927 at the age of sixteen. In 1956 she bought a house at 8358 S. Indiana Ave. in Chicago. Her home became a gateway for cultural leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., radio host Studs Terkel, and Roebuck "Pops" Staples, and the Staple Singers.

Jackson was at the top of her game in 1957. She was the first gospel artist to sign with Columbia Records. A Nov. 26, 1957 contract to perform at New York City's prestigious Town Hall revealed her business acumen. Jackson increased her performance fee from \$1,000 from \$1,200.

In 1937 Jackson recorded "God's Gonna Separate the Wheat from the Tares," "Keep Me Every Day" and two other sides at Decca Records studio in the Furniture Mart, 680 N. Lake Shore Dr. in Chicago. The record did not sell well and Decca tried unsuccessfully to persuade her to record blues music.

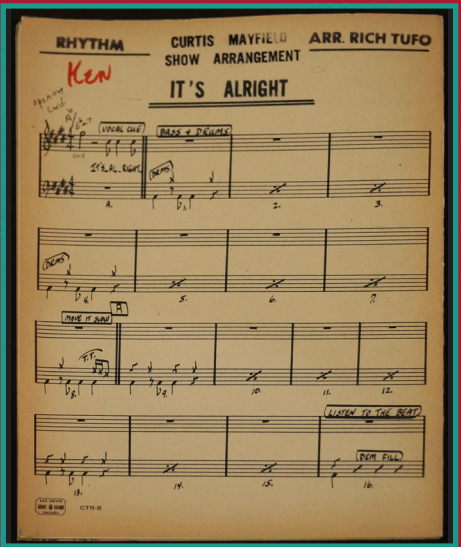
Jackson will be remembered for her stirring version of "How I Got Over" before Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech at the August 1963 march on Washington. Jackson also sang Dr. King's favorite hymn "Precious Lord" at his 1968 funeral service.



Mahalia Jackson signed performance contract at Town Hall in New York.



Mahalia Jackson's first Decca record from 1937.



Performance score for "It's Alright" originally recorded the by Impressions in 1963.

CURTIS MAYFIELD

Curtis Mayfield regularly performed the 1963 Impressions hit that he wrote, "It's Alright," as part of his live show. A stickler for detail, Mayfield was known to mark up his performance scores. High grades, indeed. "It's Alright" has been covered by Etta James, Phil Collins, Bruce Springsteen, and was recently featured in the Disney/Pixar movie "Soul." The Impressions were also a major influence on Bob Marley and the Wailers, who had a hit with "One Love/People Get Ready." The Impressions were stars in Jamaica and the islands' musicians not only covered Mayfield tunes, but also songs he had composed for other artists, like Jan Bradley's 1963 Chess Records hit "Mama Didn't Lie."

STAPLE SINGERS

The Chicago-based Staple Singers provided the soundtrack for the Civil Rights Movement with their inspiring blend of Folk, Gospel, and Soul influences. On January 20, 1961, patriarch Roebuck "Pops" Staples took his family (Cleotha, Mavis, Pervis, and Yvonne) to Universal Studios in Chicago to record the traditional "Sit Down Servant" for Chicago's Vee-Jay Records. With Pops playing his ethereal tremolo guitar and Mavis on raspy lead vocals, "Sit Down Servant" became the family's final studio session for Vee-Jay, where the Staples had recorded since 1956.

"Sit Down Servant" was placed on a seven-inch Acetate test pressing. Acetates were made quickly to get advance music to radio stations. They don't last as long as regular records.

But the empowering message of the Staple Singers will last forever.



Staple Singers 7" Single Acetate Test Pressing

SOUL STIRRERS

The Soul Stirrers were a Chicago-based Gospel quartet that launched the careers of popular Soul singers Lou Rawls, Johnnie Taylor, and Sam Cooke. "Touch the Hem of His Garment" was co-written by Soul Stirrer Cooke. It was recorded on Feb. 2, 1956, at Master Recorders in Hollywood, Cal., for Specialty Records (the home of Little Richard, Guitar Slim, and others.)

Sam Cook was born in Clarksdale, Miss., and migrated to Chicago as a youngster. He later added the "e" at the end of his name. In 1951, Cooke replaced the Soul Stirrers high tenor lead singer R.H. Harris and Harris encouraged the young singer to mimic his voice. Cooke's good looks and smooth vocals attracted a teenage, largely female audience to the Stirrers. Empowered by his crossover appeal, Cooke launched a solo career in 1957. His hits included "Twistin' the Night Away," "Cupid," and the 1964 civil rights anthem "A Change is Gonna Come."

On Dec. 11, 1964, Cooke was shot to death at a Los Angeles motel. He was 33 years old. Cooke was inducted as a charter member in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1986. The Soul Stirrers were inducted into the Rock Hall in 1989.



Soul Stirrers Featuring Sam Cooke 78 RPM Record

BUDDY GUY

Buddy Guy performs with reverence for the past. He is the last of the Blues migration generation and carries a torch previously lit by the flamboyant Eddie "Guitar Slim" Jones and Muddy Waters. Anyone who has witnessed Buddy leaving the stage and going out to play in the street in front of his Chicago club becomes part of Buddy's homage to Louisiana's Guitar Slim.

Buddy honors his late mother Isabell with the polka dot motif that has become a trademark for his clothing and instruments. When Buddy left his native Louisiana in 1957, he promised his mother he would buy her a polka dot Cadillac. Isabell Guy passed away before ever seeing her son perform live, but Buddy has faithfully kept his polka dot pledge.

She is always with him.

The polka dot red and white Fender Stratocaster Guitar is owned and played by Guy. Fender has manufactured more than two hundred Buddy Guy signature models for those looking to emulate his liberating bell-like tones.

Dunlop Manufacturing, Inc. makes Buddy's signature "Crybaby Wah" pedal. The black and white polka dot pedal is adorned with be-jewels. Accenting Buddy's warm ringing sound and midrange richness, the Chicago-based icon only played it a handful of times before deciding it was too precious to take on the road.



Custom be-jeweled "wah-wah" effects pedal owned and played by Buddy Guy.



Buddy Guy's signature polka dot Fender Stratocaster guitar owned and played by Buddy Guy.

WILLIE DIXON

The house of rock & roll is built on the foundation of Willie Dixon.

The profound rhythms and poetry of Chicago bandleader, songwriter, and bassist Dixon traveled across the world. Led Zeppelin never would have had "Whole Lotta Love" without Dixon's "You Need Love." Dixon was an early architect at Chess Records before flying off to Chicago's Cobra Records in the late 1950s where he produced nascent tracks for Buddy Guy, Otis Rush, and Magic Sam.

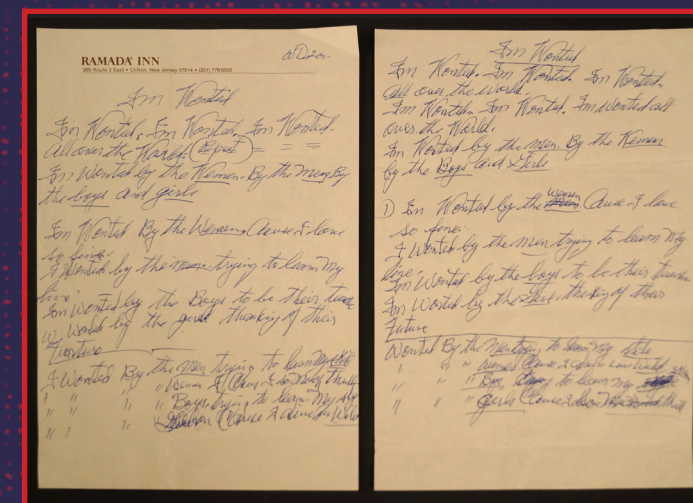
For his 75th birthday, Dixon was given a framed version of the cover from "Willie Dixon: The Chess Box" (released in 1990), which consisted of 36 songs he wrote while at Chess, acquired by MCA in 1985. Just a spoonful of the Dixon selections that illustrate his connection with rock & roll is: "Back Door Man" (Howlin' Wolf, the Doors); "Seventh Son" (Johnny Rivers, the Band); "Little Red Rooster" (Howlin' Wolf, Tom Petty, the Rolling Stones); "My Babe" (Little Walter, Elvis Presley); and "Hoochie Coochie Man" (Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Buddy Guy, and John Mayer).

A personal companion piece to the framed gift is Dixon's hand-written "I'm Wanted" lyrics. Dixon cut the "I'm Wanted" shuffle in 1971 and it was released in 1980 by blues-rockers George Thorogood and the Destroyers. At a 1990 awards ceremony, a representative from BMI publishing draped Dixon with a printout of more than 500 of his songs, mostly written for Chess Records. In 1989 Dixon received a Grammy (Best Traditional Blues Recording) for his album "Hidden Charms." And in 1994 he was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in the category of early influences.

The native of Vicksburg, Ms. died in 1999 in a Southern California hospital. He was 76 years old. Dixon lived in Chicago for 45 years. In 1937 he won the Illinois State Golden Glove heavyweight championship in the novice division. In 1977 he moved with his family to Southern California for health reasons. Dixon often said, "The blues are the roots and the other music are the fruits. It's better keeping the roots alive because it means better fruits from now on."



A Chess Records commemorative plaque presented to Willie Dixon on his 75th birthday in 1991.



Handwritten lyrics for "I'm Wanted All Over the World" by Willie Dixon written on stationery from a Ramada Inn in New Jersey, ca. 1970.

HOWLIN' WOLF

The birth of Rock & Roll is always a compelling debate. Chuck Berry? Elvis Presley? Louis Jordan?

And Howlin' Wolf (1910-1976).

In 1987, Sun Records founder Sam Phillips told Dave Hoekstra of the Chicago Sun-Times that Howlin' Wolf (Chester Arthur Burnett) had the most profound voice he had ever heard.

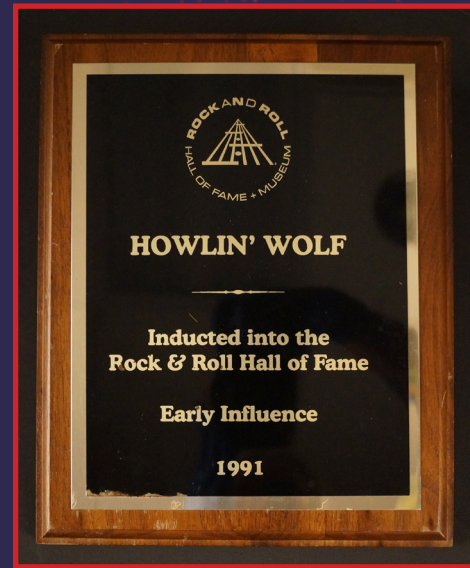
"It was so bad it was magnificent," Phillips said in the living room of his Memphis, Tenn., ranch house. "It contained all of the raw beauty that everything I had thought about in one man." And Phillips cut the nascent tracks of Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Jackie "Rocket 88" Brenston. Ike Turner, Brenston's bandmate, introduced Wolf to Phillips. Phillips signed Wolf in 1949 and, by 1951, Wolf moved to Chess Records in Chicago.

Wolf took the piercing Country yodel of Jimmie Rodgers and layered it over rural Blues by way of fuzzy amplifiers. This was the sound of a new America. The fiery vibe complemented Wolf's grand stature. He stood 6'3", weighed 250 pounds, and packed heat—as you might suspect from the man who wrote "Smokestack Lightning." He carried a handgun for protection. Wolf's 1966 license pre-dates the current FOID (Firearm Owners Identification) cards that are issued today. His trepidation can be traced to childhood, when his grandfather scared Burnett by telling him a wolf in the Mississippi woods would come after him if he misbehaved. Family members joined in with wolf howls and soon little Chester was nicknamed "Wolf."

Wolf was meticulous about how he represented American Blues. He wore a crisp black suit and tie while singing and playing harmonica with Willie Dixon (bass) and Hubert Sumlin (guitar) at the 1964 *American Folk Blues Festival* in England. A clean-cut cat, Wolf never strayed from his personal shaving brush.

The brass Marine Band M. Hohner AA40 (circa 1950s) was Wolf's go-to harmonica. The Marine Band 1896 is regarded as the original Blues harmonica. With his large hands, Wolf cradled the harmonica as if every note was a newborn son. And it was, with Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, Brian Jones, Eric Clapton, Rod Stewart, and others learning from their father.

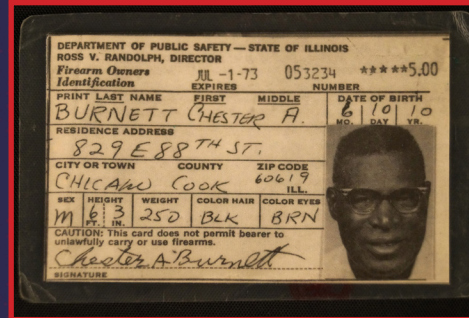
In 1991, Wolf was posthumously inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame (Early Influences) by the Rock Hall's Jon Landau and bluesman Robert Cray. His widow and daughters were present to accept the Hall's plaque. Wolf is buried in the Glen Oaks Cemetery in west suburban Hillside, Ill. and it is not uncommon to find Blues devotees searching out his resting place.



Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction plaque for Howlin' Wolf from 1991.



Howlin' Wolf's shaving brush.



1960s Gun License for Howlin' Wolf (Chester Burnett)



Howlin' Wolf's 1950s era Hohner Marine Band harmonica.



Portrait of Jennifer Hudson as Aretha Franklin used in the 2021 movie "Respect" - artwork by Alexa Holland.

RUFUS

The Chicago Funk-Rock band Ask Rufus emerged from the South Side Rock band The American Breed. Ask Rufus was named after a fishing advice column in *Mechanics Illustrated* magazine. In 1973, the band shortened its name to Rufus and, in 1974, Stevie Wonder and Rufus lead singer Chaka Khan (Yvette Marie Stevens) collaborated on the hit "Tell Me Something Good." The saucy Soul song won a Grammy for Best R&B Vocal Performance by a Duo, Group, or Chorus at the 1975 ceremony. This award was presented to Rufus vocalist-keyboardist Ron Stockert.

Khan grew up in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, where she was an avid record digger. The first LP she ever bought was Led Zeppelin's first album. Her mother worked at the National Opinion Research Center. Her father was in the Air Force. While doing social advocacy work as a teenager for the Black Panthers, an African shaman gave her the name Chaka, loosely meaning "fire, war, and the color red." Her name Khan came from a brief marriage to Hassan Khan, who played bass with Chicago's Staple Singers.

Between her solo career and her years with Rufus, Khan has twenty-two Grammy nominations with ten wins. Amazingly, she has yet to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. The Pop-Disco-Funk-Soul-Jazz singer has been nominated three times as a solo artist and four times as a member of Rufus featuring Chaka Khan.

JENNIFER HUDSON

Always a natural woman, no song has been too demanding for Jennifer Hudson.

The gifted Chicago native made her film debut in 2006's "Dreamgirls" for which she won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. She was just 25 years old. Hudson never had formal voice training for her five-octave range. She did sing at Dunbar Vocational High School in Chicago, which produced Lou Rawls and Cleotha and Pervis Staples of the Staple Singers.

Hudson plays the gospel-soul singer Aretha Franklin in the 2021 biographical drama "Respect." Hudson stars and sings in the film, in which Franklin was involved until her death in August 2018. The vibrant hopes of a young Franklin are captured in a portrait of Hudson as Franklin. The digital portrait was done by New Orleans based production designer-digital artist Alexa Holland and is used in the movie as an interior setting.



1975 Grammy Award for "Tell Me Something Good" awarded to Rufus' keyboard player, Ron Stockert.

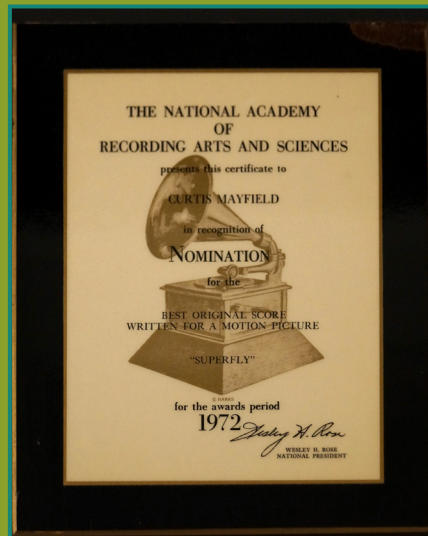
CURTIS MAYFIELD

Few artists mirror the ethos of Chicago better than Curtis Mayfield. His songs contained the spirit of Sunday morning Gospel, the edge of a Saturday night, and the daily struggles of the Civil Rights Movement.

Mayfield was born in 1942 in Cook County Hospital and, by the time he was 12, the family moved into the tiny row houses of Cabrini Green, where he lived until his mid-20s. His grandmother started the Traveling Soul Spiritualist Church and that's where Mayfield met Jerry Butler. Together, they would help form the popular soul group The Impressions. "I found myself in church," Mayfield told Dave Hoekstra in a 1993 interview for the Chicago Sun-Times. "Along with the gift of music I inherited, I also learned a lot from (late 1800s dialect poet) Laurence Dunbar, Dr. Seuss, and limericks. I learned differences in timing with Dr. Seuss. Those influences made me be able to change tempos."

After The Impressions had hits with Mayfield's "People Get Ready," "Gypsy Woman," and others, Mayfield launched his solo career in 1970. His clever wordplay, layered over choppy guitar riffs and defined rhythms were the foundation for his Grammy-nominated soundtrack (Best Original Score Written for a Motion Picture) to the 1972 movie Superfly. He also received a Grammy nomination for his song "Freddie's Dead."

Mayfield had a bold sense of fashion in the 1970s. He wore an azure paisley print vest and pants suit during his Superfly era. Mayfield wrote all his songs from the tender, blue vibrato of his beloved guitar. Mayfield died in 1999 from complications after a lighting rig fell on him in 1990 on an outdoor stage in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he was left paralyzed. Mayfield was only 57. But the anthems from Curtis Mayfield's socially conscious soul--- "Keep on Pushing," "Choice of Colors," and "This Is My Country"--- ring out with eternal truth and power.



Grammy Award nomination plaque to Curtis Mayfield for "Super Fly" in 1972



1970s era paisley pants and vest suit worn by Curtis Mayfield



Benny Goodman's Clarinet and cleaning cloth.



Goodman's memorial program

BENNY GOODMAN

Jazz clarinet player Benjamin David "Benny" Goodman was born in Chicago in 1909 and cut his chops in the dense and funky Maxwell Street neighborhood of the city. He rose to become known as "The King of Swing" and single-handedly made the clarinet cool.

Goodman moved to New York in 1929 to become a session musician and in 1933 he connected with promoter John Hammond to record with then-unknown vocalist Billie Holiday. Goodman soon became the premier Jazz bandleader of his era. Goodman led one of Jazz's first integrated groups, hiring the likes of Lionel Hampton on vibes.

There are just two Goodman-owned clarinets left with the family, one of which he used for classical music due to its tuning. In the 1940s Goodman performed the works of Igor Stravinsky and Leonard Bernstein by combining the improvisation of jazz with the keen approach of their classical charts.

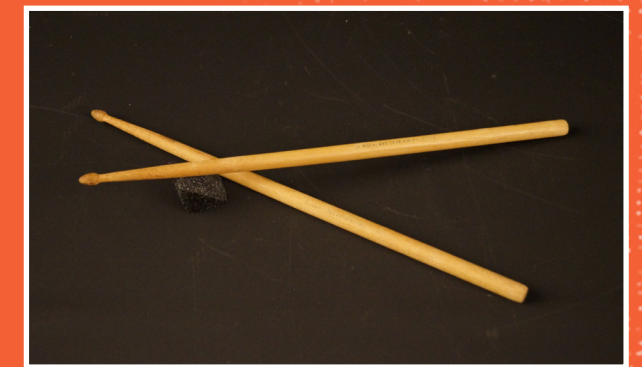
Goodman died in 1986 of heart failure, just days after his final performance. He was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Grammy award in 1986.

GENE KRUPA

Gene Krupa turned heads with his smoking "Boiler Room Drum Solo" in the 1947 musical film Beat the Band. Clicking and twirling around the room, Krupa heats things up with a band that included a young Red Rodney on trumpet. The Slingerland sticks were given to Krupa by fellow drummer Nelson Benton in 1947. Benton had served as a pilot in the United States Army Air Force and, in 1947, he was living in New York and studying drums with Jo Jones. Benton went on to become a CBS News correspondent.

Krupa, of course, went on to become one of the first superstar Jazz artists. Besides Beat the Band, the fierce Chicago-born drummer appeared in films like The Benny Goodman Story (1956) and The Gene Krupa Story (1959), where Sal Mineo portrayed Krupa and "Route 66" songwriter Bobby Troup was cast as Tommy Dorsey.

Krupa died in 1973 from heart failure at his home in Yonkers, N.Y. He was 64 years old.



Gene Krupa's drumsticks ca. 1947

HERBIE HANCOCK

Chicago-born keyboardist Herbie Hancock has always embraced the new morning. His six-decade career defies classification. He appeared as bandmember Eddie Wayne in the acclaimed 1986 film *Round Midnight*, wearing a sharp black and white-striped jacket representative of the late 1950s Paris Jazz scene. The film was loosely based on tenor saxophonist Lester Young and Jazz pianist Bud Powell. Hancock also won an Academy Award for Best Original Score for the film, joining his fourteen Grammy Awards.

The *Round Midnight* and *The Other Side of Round Midnight* soundtracks also featured the last performances of the film's star, tenor saxophonist Dexter Gordon. Both projects were produced by Hancock.

Between 1963 and 1968, Hancock was a member of the second Miles Davis Quintet and he later used a pastiche of Fusion, Funk, and electronics for crossover hits like 1973's "Chameleon" and 1983's DJ scratch hit "Rockit." Hancock guested on Fender Rhodes on Stevie Wonder's "As," one of the hallmark tracks on 1976's *Songs In The Key of Life*.

For ten years starting in 2007, Hancock used the Korg OASYS workstation keyboard synthesizer to write, record, and perform. It was during this period that Hancock released 2010's *The Imagine Project* (recorded worldwide with guests Dave Matthews, Pink, Jeff Beck, and John Legend) and *River: The Joni Letters*, his 2007 homage to singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell. Hancock won Grammys for Album of the Year and Best Contemporary Jazz Album for the latter. Hancock is long-time friends with Mitchell, but his risk-taking in creating art has cultivated music aficionados young and old.



Herbie Hancock's Korg OASYS Keyboard



Jacket worn by Herbie Hancock in the 1985 film *Round Midnight*.



Martin Committee red custom trumpet and Giardinelli mouthpiece made for Miles Davis and used in the 1980s.

MILES DAVIS

The birth of the cool emerged when Jazz innovator Miles Davis was brought forth into this world in 1926 on a clarion call out of Alton, Ill. Davis was raised in East St. Louis And, by 1944, had joined saxophonist Charlie Parker's quintet in New York City. Davis recorded at least fifty studio albums and thirty-one live albums in his career.

A Martin Committee red custom trumpet and mouthpiece was made for Davis and he used it for concert performances throughout the 1980s, which was the last phase of his career. The trumpet was made by the Martin Company, founded in Chicago in 1865. The Martin Committee trumpet was so named because it was designed by a committee that included a member from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Chet Baker and Dizzy Gillespie also used Martin Committee trumpets.

Davis liked the beautiful, free-flowing tones that emerged from the Martin Committee. He played a Martin Committee on his poetic 1957 *Birth of the Cool* record. When the Martin Company was sold in the 1960s and production on the Martin Committee stopped, the horn continued to be custom made for Davis.

During the 1980s, Davis released seven experimental albums that ranged from *You're Under Arrest* (1985) that featured an empathetic cover of Michael Jackson's "Human Nature," to the Funk-driven *Star People* (1983). The latter's Latin-tinged "Star on Cicely" was an homage to his wife, actress Cicely Tyson, while Davis did double-duty playing trumpet and Rock-influenced keyboards on the album's "Speak."

Davis died in 1991 of a stroke and respiratory failure. He was 65 years old. He is buried with a black Martin Committee trumpet in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, N.Y.

RAMSEY LEWIS

Visionary Jazz pianist Ramsey Lewis created the acclaimed 2009 production of *Proclamation of Hope: A Symphonic Poem Toast to Abraham Lincoln*, which premiered at the Ravinia Festival in Highland Park, north of Chicago. Accompanied by nearly two dozen musicians, Lewis examined President Lincoln's life through the liberating lens of Black music; Jazz, Blues, and Gospel influences. His work was ahead of its time. It is now documented by the piano performance score, production notebook, DVD, and program.

Lewis was 74 when he debuted *Proclamation of Hope*, proving that he is an artist who is not content to rest on his five gold records and three Grammy Awards. During the 1960s, the Chicago native hit the Pop charts with "The In Crowd," "Wade in the Water" (an instrumental he adapted from the 1901 African American spiritual), and his mellow-down interpretation of the McCoy's 1965 Rock hit "Hang On Sloopy."



Lewis' score, program and notebook from the performance of *Proclamation of Hope* at Ravinia in 2009.

KURT ELLING

Chicago-born Jazz vocalist Kurt Elling is a fourteen-time Grammy-nominated artist and two-time Grammy winner who was raised in Rockford, Ill., where his father Henry was a Kapellmeister (orchestra leader) at a Lutheran church. Elling signed to Blue Note Records after the label heard the demo that he created with pianist Laurence Hobgood, whose resume included stints with Chicago Jazz giants Von Freeman and Paul Wertico. Those tracks emerged on Elling's 1995 Grammy-nominated debut *Close Your Eyes*.

Elling and his swinging four-octave range have made him a regular at the historic Green Mill Jazz Club in Chicago, where artists do not require a backstage pass. He has curated backstage passes from some of his most prestigious performances, such as the Fourth Annual Jarasum International Jazz Festival in South Korea (2007), the Fifty-Second Monterey Jazz Festival with Dave Brubeck, and folkie Pete Seeger (2009) and International Jazz Day (April 30, 2019) in Melbourne, Australia. Elling has been a tried and true ambassador for Chicago Jazz.



Collection of backstage passes from Kurt Elling's career.



Three DownBeat Magazines

DOWNBEAT

Music fans and scholars can revisit the magnificent history of Jazz through the pages of DownBeat magazine. The periodical was founded in 1934 in Chicago and has grown to attract an international audience. Three distinct eras of Jazz can be traced from August 1937 (Benny Goodman), December 1967 (Miles Davis), and October 1974 (Herbie Hancock).

DownBeat now includes Blues, Soul, and World music as part of its repertoire. A 1980 cover piece on Country music legend (and Swing bandleader) Merle Haggard upset Jazz drummer Buddy Rich. DownBeat is published by the family-owned Maher Publications and is based in Elmhurst, a Chicago suburb.

JOHN PRINE

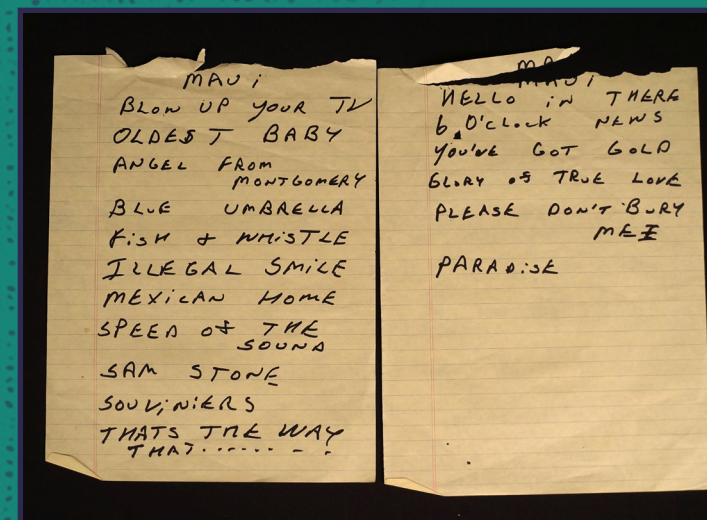


Collection of stage prop materials from John Prine.

Singer-songwriter John Prine was as much a part of Illinois as wheatfields, cardinals, and the Chicago hot dog. In the 1930s, Prine's family migrated from Muhlenberg County, Ky., to the working-class Chicago suburb of Maywood. Prine learned about empathy from his father Bill, who was president of the Maywood United Steelworkers Union. The Maywood native wrote his earliest songs on his mail route in nearby Westchester. It was something to do to pass the time, but Prine always said he'd rather eat a hot dog than write a song.

Older brother Dave began teaching Prine guitar at the age of 14. Prine attended classes at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago and was on the gymnastics team at Proviso East High School in Maywood.

In 2020, Prine became the first honorary poet laureate of the state of Illinois. Governor J.B. Pritzker gave Prine the honor nearly three months after the songwriter died from complications related to COVID-19. He was 73 years old. In 2020, Prine also received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.



John Prine's hand-written set list.

Prine was rare among traveling musicians in that his crew would set up a six-foot by six-foot folding table behind the singer. The table was filled with mementos close to Prine's heart: an Archie comic book, toothpicks (had to be in plastic), a hot dog trophy from his sold-out 2019 show at the Grand Ole Opry, family pictures, a quarter (eagle only, not state), nickel, penny, and dime (the change had to be in his pocket before he walked on stage), and a toy plastic motorcycle. Prine liked to wind down after shows by shopping for memories on eBay.

These treasures provided comfort and emotional support for Prine as he faced large audiences, just as Prine's Country and Folk songs will provide comfort and emotional support for generations to come.

STEVE GOODMAN

"The City of New Orleans" is one of the great modern songs about America. Chicago-born Steve Goodman wrote the Folk ballad about the country's diverse landscape in 1970. He was riding the southbound Illinois Central "City of New Orleans" railroad with his wife Nancy to visit her family when he first took his pen to a sketch pad and then to a yellow pad of paper. He self-edited lyrics, such as changing "goodbye America" to "hello America."

Stevie Goodman was an optimist.

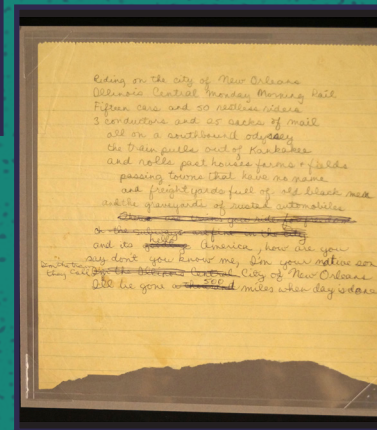
Singer-songwriter Arlo Guthrie had a hit with "City of New Orleans" and, in 1984, Willie Nelson won a best Country Vocal Performance Grammy for his version of the song.

Goodman died of leukemia on Sept. 24, 1984, in a Seattle, Wash., hospital. He was 36 years old. He was a beloved Chicago Cubs fan and sometimes wore a Cubs warm-up jacket during performances. Goodman was known to bring his guitar into the rightfield bleachers to entertain fans during the team's many mundane years.

Goodman died just four days before the Cubs clinched their 1984 Eastern Division title. His friend Jimmy Buffett pinch-hit for him at the first game of the 1984 playoffs, singing the National Anthem at Wrigley Field. The Cubs beat the San Diego Padres 13-0. There was magic in the air. Goodman's 1984 Bo Diddley-inspired anthem "Go Cubs Go" is still played at Wrigley Field after every Cubs victory.



Steve Goodman's Cubs jacket



Hand-written lyrics to "City of New Orleans" by Steve Goodman



Carl Sandburg's Washburn guitar

CARL SANDBURG

Pulitzer-prize-winning writer Carl Sandburg was also an accomplished musician and collector of music. Sandburg's first instrument was a combined comb with paper that he turned into a harmonica. The Galesburg native owned many instruments, including a unique hollow body "Bell-Shaped" Washburn guitar model 5270. The Washburn was made in the Lyon & Healy workshop in Chicago around 1925.

One of Sandburg's three Pulitzer Prizes was for the second of his two-part biography of Abraham Lincoln and he won a 1959 Grammy for his reading of Aaron Copeland's "A Lincoln Portrait." Sandburg was also the first white man to be honored by the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in 1965 with their Silver Plaque Award as a "major prophet of civil rights in our time." Sandburg released twenty-two records before he died in 1967 at the age of 89.



1986 Grammy Award for best Polka Recording to Eddie Blazonczyk.



Fender Precision bass guitar owned by Eddie Blazonczyk.

EDDIE BLAZONCZYK

He worked his entire life (1941-2012) to de-stigmatize Polka's novelty image. Blazonczyk, Sr., was able to draw on an openminded attitude because he began his career in 1957 playing Rock & Roll. His band Eddy Bell and the Bel-Aires had a hit single on Mercury Records with "The Masked Man (Hi Yo Silver)."

Blazonczyk, Sr., however, made his name in Polka circles. His parents owned the Pulaski Ballroom on the South Side of Chicago, where they booked live Polka music. His primary instrument was a 1960 Fender Precision Bass. Blazonczyk, Sr., played the bass from 1965 until the late 1980s. The bass has been refinished several times and was recently restored to its original Olympic White under the watchful eye of Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr., who also played in his father's band.

In 1998, Blazonczyk, Sr., was named a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow. He was a thirteen-time Grammy nominee and won a 1986 Grammy in the Polka category for *Another Polka Celebration*. The album was recorded at his Bel-Aire studio in Chicago and released on his Bel-Aire record label.

LIL' WALLY

Walter "Lil' Wally" Jagiello was an avatar of American Polka music.

The Chicago native (1930-2006) released more than eighty albums in his lifetime, featuring songs like "We Left Our Wives at Home" and "Polish Polka Twist." He also co-wrote the 1959 Chicago White Sox fight song "Go Go White Sox!" Lil' Wally sang in Polish and English, which are two reasons he drew five thousand people to a concert at Chicago's Aragon Ballroom.

Lil' Wally's prized possession was his Chemnitzer Concertina (similar to an accordion). The concertina was Lil' Wally's primary instrument, as well as keeping the Polka beat behind his drums. Lil' Wally brought his Chemnitzer Concertina to the masses in 1966, when he rolled out "Johnny's Knocking Polka" on *The Lawrence Welk Show*.

Lil' Wally subscribed to the DIY ethic. He was a self-taught musician and created Jay Publishing and Drum Boy Records, where he published songbooks, records, and CDs. He sent out Lil' Wally souvenir postcards and photos of himself with Pope John Paul II after a performance at the Vatican Audience Hall. Lil' Wally was the first inductee into the International Polka Association's Hall of Fame in Chicago.



Lil' Wally's custom Concertina with inlaid decoration.

SONES DE MÉXICO

Sones de México was formed in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago in 1994. They are an ensemble specializing in Mexican “son” (sound) that includes the regional styles of Huapango, Gustos, Chilenas, Son Jarocho (from Veracruz), and more. Sones de México honors their roots. Traditional instrumentation includes the quijada, made of the lower jawbone of a donkey. The jawbone is dried out and teeth are loosened. When struck with a hand, the quijada creates a powerful buzzing sound like a rattle.

Sones de México ensemble members wear a Guayabera shirt, red paisley Bandana necktie with a silver ring, and a Sahuayo-style Mexican hat for their performances. Drawing on the diversity of Chicago neighborhoods, Sones De México has collaborated with Irish fiddler Sean Cleland and Chicago Blues harmonica player Billy Branch. Nominated for a 2007 Grammy (Best Mexican/Mexican-American album) for *Esta Tierra Es Tuya (This Land is Your Land)*, Sones de México is a visual, cultural, and sonic delight.

Sones de México performance costume.



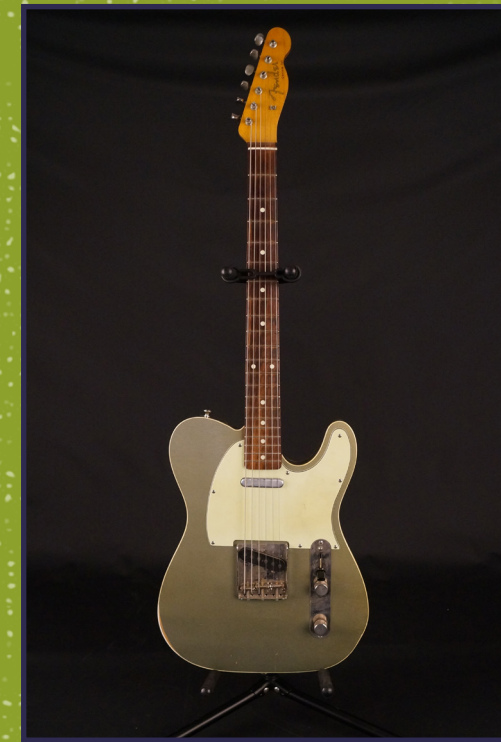
Traditional jawbone instrument, known as a quijada, produces a powerful buzzing sound like a rattle.



Sean Cleland's fiddle.

THE DROVERS

The Drovers were a popular touring Irish band from Chicago. Originating in 1988, they recorded several albums and were featured in the motion pictures *Backdraft* (1991) and *Blink* (1993). Drovers founder Sean Cleland deployed a traditional Irish fiddle that had been modified to run through an amplifier for live performances. As the Drovers evolved through its 14-year-career, they began adding rock, psychedelica and American folk music to their base of traditional Irish reels jigs.



Jeff Tweedy's telecaster guitar

WILCO

Singer-songwriter Jeff Tweedy emerged from Belleville, Ill. in 1987 with Jay Farrar to create their first successful band, Uncle Tupelo. After Uncle Tupelo splintered, Tweedy formed the band Wilco in 1995. Playing ethereal Country-Blues-Rock music, Wilco has delivered a string of eleven acclaimed albums that included a 2005 Best Alternative Album Grammy for *A Ghost is Born*.

The Fender Telecaster guitar has been one of Tweedy's frequent songwriting and performance guitars. It has been altered and updated over the years. He is a fan of the edgy rhythms played by late Howlin' Wolf guitarist Hubert Sumlin, who also charged forth with a Fender Telecaster.

Tweedy has been writing songs since he was 14 years old and continues to make everlasting music from his Loft studio on the north side of Chicago. He has also published two books: *Let's Go (So We Can Get Back): A Memoir of Recording and Discording with Wilco, Etc.* (2018), and *How To Write One Song: Loving the Things We Create and How They Love Us Back* (2020).

FARM AID

The first Farm Aid, subtitled “A Concert for America,” took place before 78,000 people on a rainy Sept. 22, 1985, at the University of Illinois Memorial Stadium in Champaign. The concert was launched only four weeks after the idea was hatched, one of the greatest logistical achievements in live music history.

Genre-bending acts included Bob Dylan, Billy Joel, B.B. King, Roy Orbison, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Carole King (who rarely performed live), and Tom Petty. Eddie Van Halen and Sammy Hagar rocked out onstage together for the first time. Rickie Lee Jones and Bonnie Raitt dueted on John Prine's “Angel from Montgomery.” Tickets were just \$17.50 and proceeds raised \$9 million for U.S. family farms.

Promoter Mike DuBois was one of the event organizers. DuBois began his career in 1978 as box office manager for the Illinois State Fair. He wore a colorful Farm Aid staff shirt so he could be easily recognized in the comings and goings of the twelve-hour concert.



Event organizer Mike DuBois' Farm Aid shirt, 1985.

MEKONS WACO BROS. SUNDOWNERS

During the Mekons' first tour of the U.S. in 1986, vocalist-guitarist Jon Langford visited the RR Ranch in downtown Chicago. The Mekons are a Punk band from Leeds, England. The smoky subterranean honky-tonk featured the Sundowners house band playing traditional Country music. The trio knew more than 25,000 songs. Some of their customers wandered in the RR (Ringside Ranch) from the Greyhound bus station around the corner.

These were real Urban Cowboys.

In 1986 the Mekons played the Cubby Bear across the street from Wrigley Field. After the show, Langford and his mates sat in with the Sundowners. The multi-generational musicians showed how great art can be made from what appears to be incongruous connections. When the Mekons later migrated to Chicago, they began playing Country-infused music. The Sundowners spirit also helped birth the Waco Brothers, Langford's popular Chicago based Country-Rock band. In 1991 the Sundowners even played at the wedding of Langford and his Chicago-born wife Helen.

A visual artist as well as a musician, In 2006 Langford designed and created a wood art print that celebrated the Sundowners' 1959-1989 legacy. Rhythm guitarist Bob Boyd, bassist Curt Delaney, and lead guitarist Don Walls had hearts as open as their ears. They have all passed on, beloved riders in the sky. In 1993 Bloodshot Records, promoter Leigh Jones and journalist Dave Hoekstra organized a Sundowners tribute at a Chicago bar called Bub City. Mayor Richard M. Daley declared a "Sundowners Day in the City of Chicago." Langford designed a Hatch Show Print (Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville) for the celebration.

Langford also turned to Hatch Show Print for a 2007 Mekons concert poster. The poster was for the band's 30th anniversary tour and the Mekons record *Natural*, released on Chicago's Quarterstick Records. In 2019 the Mekons recorded the album *Deserted* in a studio outside of Joshua Tree National Park for Chicago's Bloodshot Records. One of the album's highlights is the Langford composition "After the Rain" with Sally Timms on lead vocals. The hopeful ballad takes Langford's love of Chicago music full circle. The sun always shines after the rain.



Sundowners limited edition poster, artwork by Jon Langford.

Diamond Weapon Bomed dirt dey
Tongue teeth hook round eye
Exoskeleton bristling antennae
Hunkered down in this barrenhale
come back comeback later
You should see us after the rain
Armor plated seeds and spores
Armor plated desperation
Springs ~~from the ground~~ ^{from the sky}
Bleached white across desert floor
Tracks in winter storms of spring
when flood and mud roll in
sleep and wake to germinate
bursting out of the ground
a moment a thousand years

Jon Langford's handwritten lyrics for The Mekons song "After the Rain."



2007 Mekons tour poster designed by Jon Langford.



Sundowners tribute concert poster featuring the Waco Brothers.



Quadruple platinum award for *Chicago 17*.



Lee Loughnane's silver trumpet from 1970s.

CHICAGO

The band Chicago was the biggest thing to emerge from Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood since De Paul University. In 1967, former Chad & Jeremy sideman James William Guercio met De Paul University saxophonist Walter Parazaider who invited him to hear his band The Big Thing.

Guercio was impressed.

In 1967, he was producing hits for The Buckingham's by emphasizing defined brass arrangements over sweet rock songs. Guercio worked the same magic with Chicago, drafting Big Thing members Parazaider, Lee Loughnane (trumpet), James Pankow (trombone), Terry Kath (guitar), and Robert Lamm (keyboards).

By 1971, Chicago became the first act to sell out a week-long engagement at Carnegie Hall in New York City and released a multi-disc live album to celebrate that accomplishment.

Lee Loughnane played a Carnegie-ready Bach Stradivarius Bb trumpet with a Claude Gordon mouthpiece. The Bach Stradivarius was used extensively during the band's rise to rock stardom in the 1970s. Guercio had moved the band to Los Angeles in 1968 and changed their name to The Chicago Transit Authority.

The Pop-Rock-horn sound connected with many Sunset Boulevard musicians. Jimi Hendrix admired Kath, notably his spiraling solo on the 1970 hit "25 or 6 to 4," written by Lamm. Hendrix saw Chicago at the Whisky a Go-Go. Loughnane, a graduate of St. Mel High School in Chicago, and Kath were good friends. Kath died in 1978 from an unintentional self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head in Woodland Hills, Cal. He was 31 years old.

By the 1980s, Chicago's horn charts fell to the background in favor of a softer sound that highlighted the vocals of Peter Cetera (Cetera left Chicago in 1985 to be replaced by Jason Scheff, son of Elvis Presley bassist Jerry Scheff). The 1984 album *Chicago 17* received three Grammy Awards, was a top-5 hit on the Billboard Hot 200 Album charts, and charted the number 3 single "You're the Inspiration." This was Cetera's final project with Chicago.

A quadruple platinum sales award was presented to Loughnane when sales hit four million. *Chicago 17* has now hit six million sales. It must rank as one of the highlights of Loughnane's career along with Chicago's 2020 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, their 2016 induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and his role as a pig farmer in the 1973 film *Electra Glide in Blue* that included Kath, Cetera, Parazaider, and actor Robert Blake. The action film was directed by the band's old friend and manager, James William Guercio.

THE BUCKINGHAMHS

The Buckinghamhs were Chicago's answer to The Beatles.

They scored three top 10 hits in 1967. "Kind of a Drag," written by Jim Holvay of the Chicago Pop-Soul band the Mob, became a number one hit across America in February 1967. It was recorded at Chess Studios in Chicago.

The Pop ballad "Don't You Care" was the follow-up hit and the '67 trifecta ended with a sultry version of the Cannonball Adderly Jazz hit "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy," with lyrics from Rhythm and Bluesmen Johnny "Guitar" Watson and Larry Williams.

The Buckinghamhs were first known as The Pulsations. While appearing on WGN-TV in Chicago, a station security guard suggested the band use The Buckinghamhs name to capitalize on the British Invasion. There's also a Buckingham Fountain in Chicago. Leaning into this jolly ol' motif, The Buckinghamhs wore English-type suits for their appearances on many television shows, including *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *American Bandstand*.

Bassist Nick Fortuna and Guitarist-vocalist Carl Giammarese are the original Buckinghamhs keeping the band name alive. Giammarese also kept his long cut stage coat, one of a series of matching suits designed by MGM Hollywood in 1967.



Carl Giammarese's custom made stage coat from the 1960s.

REO SPEEDWAGON

REO Speedwagon is the pride and joy of Champaign, Illinois.

The Rock band formed in 1967 at the University of Illinois in Champaign. Founding member Neal Doughty noticed the name "REO Speed Wagon" while walking to his History of Transportation class. Keyboardist Doughty is the only REO member to have played on all the band's sixteen albums. REO Speed Wagon was a 1915 truck designed by Oldsmobile founder Ransom Eli Olds. One wouldn't be "Ridin' the Storm Out" with one of those rugged trucks.

In August 2017, REO Speedwagon was awarded the Diamond Sales Award, an industry milestone achievement of ten million copies sold of their landmark album *High Infidelity*, which was released in 1980. *High Infidelity* produced pop anthems "Keep On Loving You" and "Take it on the Run."

The make-out ballad "Keep on Loving You" was written by REO's lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist Kevin Cronin, a graduate of Chicago's Brother Rice High School. "Take it on the Run" was composed by REO lead guitarist Gary Richrath. The Peoria, Ill., native died in 2015 at the age of 65.



REO Speedwagon's Diamond Sales Award for *Hi Infidelity*.

STYX

The band Styx was formed in 1972 in Chicago. Blending Hard Rock, soft ballads, and heavy synthesizers, Styx found its first audience playing high school gymnasiums and teen clubs in suburban Chicago. The band's breakout hit was the 1973 ballad "Lady" that Styx co-founder and keyboardist Dennis DeYoung wrote for his wife.

Guitarist Tommy Shaw joined Styx in 1976 for the making of the *Crystal Ball* album. He brought along his 1969 Gibson Les Paul, the primary instrument from his previous band, South Side club rockers MS Funk. "Mademoiselle" marked Shaw's vocal debut and the soul-tinged power ballad became a top 40 hit. The neck of the Les Paul had to be replaced after Shaw accidentally ran over the guitar with his car.

Shaw shares another distinction with State of Sound artist John Prine. They were 2020 inductees into the White Castle (hamburger) Cravers Hall of Fame. In the early 2010s, Shaw ordered thirty White Castle cheese sliders to fill out the menu at a fancy banquet when Styx received a lifetime achievement award from the International Entertainment Buyers Association (IEBA) in Nashville.

Founding Styx member and lead guitarist James "JY" Young now stands as the only original member in Styx. His 1989 Kramer Sustainer guitar was used when the band reformed in 1990—after a 1984 split following their *Kilroy Was Here* album. *Kilroy Was Here* was a Rock opera recorded at the late Gary Loizzo's (American Breed) Pumpkin Studios in suburban Oak Lawn. The record delivered the 1983 hit singles "Mr. Roboto" and the tear-jerking pop ballad "Don't Let it End" that foretold the Styx breakup. Young attended Calumet High School on the South Side of Chicago and fans refer to him as "The Godfather of Styx."



Tommy Shaw's Les Paul guitar.



James "JY" Young's Kramer guitar.

DAN FOGELBERG

Although he was a proud son of Peoria, Ill., singer-songwriter Dan Fogelberg was on the ground floor of the 1970s Southern California Folk-Rock scene that produced the Eagles, Jackson Browne, and others. Fogelberg began playing his spruce-topped Martin Dreadnought D-41 acoustic guitar when he moved to Los Angeles in the early 1970s. The D-41s were bestowed to Fogelberg and future Eagle Joe Walsh, who were rehearsing their bands in an L.A. studio. Fellow Eagles Glenn Frey and Don Henley appeared on Fogelberg's 1974 album *Souvenirs*, produced by Walsh.

Fogelberg named his guitar "Buck" and it was his favorite guitar in the last part of his career. The strings on the guitar have not been changed since before he passed away from cancer in 2007.

Fogelberg's Chicago-born father Lawrence was key to his musical development. Lawrence was faithful to his conducting baton as a music teacher and bandleader at Pekin High School, twenty miles south of Peoria. On Sept. 22, 1981, Lawrence wrote a tender thank you letter to his son after Fogelberg recorded the "Leader of the Band" tribute to him. Lawrence Fogelberg died on Aug. 5, 1982.

Dan Fogelberg's Martin guitar



Lawrence Fogelberg's conducting baton



Frankie Sullivan's Anderson guitar.

SURVIVOR

The suburban Chicago Rock band Survivor reached immortality with their 1979 hit "Eye Of The Tiger" from the movie *Rocky III*. The song was composed by band members Jim Peterik and Frankie Sullivan at the request of the film's star, Sylvester Stallone.

A sharp bright red Tom Anderson Cobra guitar was made for founding Survivor member Frankie Sullivan. The versatile-sounding Cobra has served Sullivan as a primary tour guitar and has been played worldwide.

Peterik played his final gig with Survivor on July 3, 1996, ironically at the "Eyes to the Skies" festival in west suburban Lisle, Ill. "Eye of the Tiger" won a 1982 Grammy for Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal and was nominated for Best Original Song at the 1982 Academy Awards. Combined sales of the original vinyl single and digital downloads total over nine million copies.



Rick Nielsen's "Little Dick" Hamer custom guitar.



Stage sweater worn by Rick Nielsen ca. 1980s.

CHEAP TRICK

Rockford, Illinois, is the home of the beautiful Rock River, the historic Coronado Theatre, and Mrs. Fisher's Potato Chips. These modest riches are why Cheap Trick lead guitarist Rick Nielsen continues to live in his hometown. Nielsen defies the unwritten laws of Rock & Roll just as his Hamer guitars defy the laws of engineering.

Cheap Trick was formed in 1973 and is known for Power Pop hits, like "Surrender" and "I Want You To Want Me." The band (Nielsen, singer-songwriter Robin Zander, bassist Tom Petersson, and drummer Bun E. Carlos) was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2016.

Nielsen owns more than five hundred guitars. One of his favorites is what he calls "Little Dick," a sleek black and white variation on the double-necked Hamer "Uncle Dick" design. Nielsen has embraced his eccentric persona, which ranges from his public co-ownership of Piece Pizza in Chicago to the memorable outfits he has worn over the years. His 1984 Metallic three-neck Flying V guitar is on the wall at Piece. Many times, Nielsen's clothing will match his guitars. A 1980s black and white sweater features Nielsen's face on the front, sprinkled with signature checkerboard elements and the Cheap Trick name logo upside down in the back.

Nielsen has always been connected with checkers and chess. During the late 1960s, he did session work at Chess Studios in Chicago. "I was the only guy that owned a Mellotron [tape replay keyboard, recently popularized by the Flaming Lips]," he told Dave Hoekstra of the Chicago Sun-Times in a 2012 interview. "Except for Stevie Wonder. I went to England in 1968 and found a used Mellotron like The Beatles had [featured on "Strawberry Fields Forever."] I had it shipped over on a boat." It is this sense of adventure that has kept Cheap Trick afloat for almost fifty years.

MATERIAL ISSUE

Carrying the torch of the second wave of Midwest Power Pop, Material Issue burst on the scene in 1991 with their critically acclaimed major label debut *International Pop Overthrow*. The Material Issue sort-of-Motown-inspired logo drumhead was used by drummer Mike Zelenko on his touring kit for the 1994 Freak City Soundtrack tour. The tour included INXS and the Pretenders.

Like many pop and rock bands before them, Material Issue emerged from Chicago's western suburbs. Singer-songwriter-guitarist Jim Ellison grew up in Addison and was the key player in establishing Material Issue in 1985. Ellison met bassist Ted Ansani in 1986 at Columbia College in Chicago while Zelenko answered an ad in the storied Illinois Entertainer newspaper. Their *International Pop Overthrow* compilation of tightly knit demos was produced by Jeff Murphy, of Power-Pop favorites the Shoes. Ellison committed suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning on June 20, 1996. He was 32 years old. His death marked the end of the band.



Mike Zelenko's Material Issue drum head from the 1990s.



Hand-painted Pezband logo drum head ca. 1970s.

PEZBAND

Pezband was an influential Power Pop band formed in 1971 in suburban Oak Park, Ill. They delivered a grittier sound of power pop, influenced by the Yardbirds and the Kinks. The pop-rock scene of the early 1970s was defined by a DIY ethic and Pezband heard the call. Lead singer-guitarist Mimi Betinis hand-painted the band's bass drumhead that was used for live performances from 1972 through 1976. Its design was influenced by the Schlitz Brewing Company logo.

During its peak, Pezband performed five sets a night, five days a week at smoky Rush Street clubs in Chicago. Besides Betinis, the original members were Mike Gorman (bass), John Pazdan (guitar, piano), and Mick Rain (drums.) By the time their self-titled, debut album was released in 1977 (featuring guest saxophonist Clarence Clemons from Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band) they had morphed into a New Wave sound filled with rich harmonies.

Pezband disbanded in 1980 and Betinis became a Chicago public school teacher for the next 22 years. Meanwhile, Schlitz Brewing is enjoying a comeback with hipster drinkers.

THE KIND

The Kind was an engaging Power Pop band from west suburban Oak Park. During their 1977-78 nascent years, they were in the same orbit as the west suburban Pop group Pezband. The Kind's 1982 self-titled debut on their own Three-Sixty Records delivered a top-20 anthem "Loved By You," although their 1981 single "Total Insanity" is filled with timeless hooks and reckless love. "Total Insanity" was featured in the 2019 Motley Crue film *The Dirt*.

The Kind's (Frank Jalovec on guitar and lead vocals, Frank Capek on guitar, Mark Gardner on bass, drummer Frank Sberno) multi-track master tapes were made during February 1982 recording sessions at Pumpkin Studios in south suburban Oak Lawn, Ill. Pumpkin was owned by the late Gary Loizzo, the guitarist and lead singer of the American Breed Rock band. The Kind's Jalovec died in January 1993 when he was crushed by an escalator he was repairing in Chicago's Union Station. He was 41 years old.



Master recording tape and tracking sheets for The Kind's debut self-titled album (pictured).

SHOES

Perhaps no band from Illinois carries the Power-Pop torch with the enduring dignity of Shoes. Brothers John and Jeff Murphy started Shoes in 1974 in Zion, Ill. and they were active through the mid-2000s. Shoes celebrated huge harmonies and hook lines. They established their own Black Vinyl Records label and operated their own Zion recording studio (where Material Issue recorded).

In 1979, Jeff Murphy ordered an edgy guitar from Hamer, then all custom-made in suburban Palatine, Ill. It was the first blue guitar Hamer had made. Over time the color bleached out of it to its current state of a natural wood finish. On Dec. 3, 1979, Hamer delivered the guitar to the Shoes gig at the late great Haymakers in Wheeling. Time magazine was doing a cover story on The Who and the magazine assigned a reporter to write about Shoes for a sidebar on the second generation of Rock. Dec. 3, 1979, was also the date of the deadly Who concert riot in Cincinnati, Ohio. The sidebar story was cut in favor of expanded coverage of the Cincinnati event.



Jeff Murphy's custom Hamer guitar

FRANKIE KNUCKLES

DJ Frankie Knuckles was the Godfather of House Music.

Knuckles was born in 1955 in The Bronx, N.Y., and came to Chicago in the late 1970s. He was paramount in testifying for the love of House.

Knuckles deployed a Technics 1100A turntable in the Warehouse Nightclub, a three-story factory in Chicago's West Loop where "House" music got its name. The Warehouse opened in 1977. Knuckles was a master at utilizing multiple turntables to create a memorable sound experience for live events. His arsenal also included a Technics RS-1520 reel-to-reel tape deck.

There would be no EDM (Electronic Dance Music) and maybe even no Madonna without House. Knuckles built openminded bridges. He sampled Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, "I Have a Dream" speech as a vocal bed and deployed the rhythms of tugboats in The Police's 1980 instrumental trance "Voices Inside My Head." By 1997, the maestro had won a Grammy for Remixer of the Year, Non-Classical.

Knuckles died in 2014 of complications from diabetes. He was 59. He is remembered through the Chicago-based non-profit Frankie Knuckles Foundation that addresses LGBTQ youth homelessness and music in schools, among other initiatives. His collection of more than 5,000 vinyl records are archived and preserved in the Stony Island Arts Bank building in Chicago. In 2005, he was inducted into the Dance Music Hall of Fame.



Technics 1100A Turntable Used by Frankie Knuckles



Technics RS-1520 Reel Tape Recorder Used by Frankie Knuckles

Top: Akai MD280 Disc Drive
Middle: Yamaha TX 81Z Synth Module to create new mixes for Michael Jackson and others.



Bottom: Akai S 612 Sampler used for bass and keyboards early in his career, in the mid-1980s

DERRICK CARTER

House music is one of the most precious musical exports of Chicago.

Its cultural power is equal to that of Blues and Gospel. DJs play House music fast, like 120 beats-per-minute fast. The drum machines and bass lines are profound and turntables spin-off into Latin, Soul, and Rock landscapes.

Chicagoan Derrick Carter has been a key player in taking House music across the world. The congenial Carter was raised in the western suburbs of Chicago and became a master of underground House keyboards.

His sonic repertoire includes a CDJ-1000 digital turntable and a Numark PPD DJ Mixer. Carter used the four-channel audio mixer control center early in his career creating music originating from multiple sources. It was originally two analog turntables, but he eventually updated to digital CD turntables. Carter's career spans thirty years as a sonic pioneer.

STEVE "SILK" HURLEY

The 1987 hit song "Jack Your Body" is an essential forward step in the evolution of House music. The title refers to jacking, a fast, relentless style of dancing in the House Music scene. Jacking is not to be confused with the slower, old-school Chicago tradition of *stepping* to Soul Music.

House gets its name from the underground Warehouse dance clubs in Chicago where people danced until the wee hours of the morning. "Jack Your Body" also became the first House Music hit in the United Kingdom. Steve "Silk" Hurley deployed his Akai S 612 Sampler/MD280 Disc Drive for bass and keyboards in the mid-1980s, notably on "Jack Your Body" and vocal samples on the Chicago group Ten City's 1989 hit "That's The Way Love Is."

The Chicago native became a sought-after remixer-producer for many artists. Between 1988 and 1997, his Yamaha TX 81Z Synth Module was his primary instrument to create new mixes for Michael Jackson, CeCe Peniston, Inner City, Ten City, Madonna, and others. Hurley was nominated for a Grammy as Remixer of the Year, Non-Classical in 1998 and 1999, and for Best Remixed Recording, Non-Classical in 2002 and 2003.



Top: Numark PPD DJ 4-channel Mixer
Bottom: CDJ-1000 digital turntable.

EARTH WIND & FIRE

Earth, Wind & Fire combine the elements of Funk, Soul, Latin music, Pop, and Disco into a distinctly urban sound. The collective began in 1969 in Chicago as the Salty Peppers. The late founding member-songwriter Maurice White was a studio musician at Chess Records who appeared on projects by Chuck Berry, Etta James, Muddy Waters and others. White left Chess in 1966 to join the Ramsey Lewis Trio in Chicago, playing on their hit "Wade in the Water."

Maurice and his younger brother Verdine moved to Los Angeles in 1970 and the band was renamed Earth, Wind and Fire as a homage to ancient astrology. The sky was the limit. Earth, Wind & Fire went on to become members of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, win six Grammys and be honored at the 2019 Kennedy Center Honors.

Earth, Wind & Fire's costumes are as mind-bending as their music. A custom-made silver, black and red herringbone weave was worn by a backing band member of Earth, Wind & Fire. Fun fact: In 1980 Verdine White married Shelly Clark of the 1970's soul group Honey Cone ("Want Ads," "One Monkey Don't Stop No Show.")

The White's early years were spent in the Henry Horner projects near the old Chicago Stadium. Earth, Wind & Fire shared the same migratory path from Chicago to California in time and space as the band Chicago. Both bands successfully explored the world of horn-driven Rock & Roll. Earth, Wind & Fire still tours, and often with Chicago. A 2005 DVD of their first tour, *Chicago & Earth Wind & Fire—Live at the Greek Theater* was certified Platinum. The many Earth, Wind & Fire hits: "Shining Star" (1975), "Reasons" (1975), "September" (1978), "Boogie Wonderland" (1979) and more have created a memorable soundtrack for generations.



Earth Wind and Fire 1980s band member costume



Lighted, scenic microphone stand used during Ministry's 2012 *Defibulator* Tour.

DISTURBED

The Chicago Metal band Disturbed has sold more than 17 million records worldwide, making them one of the most popular bands in the genre. The band has released seven studio albums, five of which consecutively debuted at number one on the Billboard 200.

Lead guitarist-keyboardist Dan Donegan started Disturbed in 1994. A native of south suburban Oak Lawn, IL, Donegan is a self-taught guitarist. In 2000 Disturbed released *The Sickness*, its debut solo album. It has since certified five times platinum for shipments of over five million copies in the U.S.

The Gibson Les Paul guitar Donegan used during *The Sickness* tour features a graphic from the band's mascot "The Guy." The cloaked character was born on that album and has endured in one form or another since. The Guy's skin cannot be penetrated and his heroic repertoire includes taking down large armies and corporations.



Dan Donegan's Les Paul guitar with "The Guy" graphic.

MINISTRY

Just as Chicago's urban House music scene was moving to a higher level in 1981, Al Jourgensen launched the industrial band Ministry. Jourgensen was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1958 and moved with his family to Chicago in the mid-1960s. Ministry began in the Synth-Pop landscape of the period before evolving into its wheelhouse of Industrial Metal. Ministry has been nominated for six Grammy awards for Best Metal Performance.

Scenic centerpiece microphone stands have been created for "Uncle Al" Jourgensen since the second Lollapalooza tour in 1992. Ministry worked its way through stands that were made of medical symbols, cow bones, and skulls. After a four-year hiatus, Ministry returned with a new stand with metal wings created by Kevin Largent of Largent Studios in New York City. The microphone stand was used on the 2012 *Defibulator* tour that promoted the album *Relapse*. The mic stand also appears on the album cover for the 2012 live album *Last Tangle In Paris*.

The Largent mic stand is now enjoying its retirement years in Los Angeles after spending some time at the entranceway of the band's compound in El Paso, Tex.

SMASHING PUMPKINS

The Alternative Rock icons Smashing Pumpkins were formed in 1988 in Chicago with lead vocalist-guitarist Billy Corgan, bassist D'arcy Wretzky, guitarist James Iha, and Jazz-influenced drummer Jimmy Chamberlin. The band's exploration of Metal, Rock, and Psychedelic Pop helped put Chicago back on America's musical map. Despite undergoing numerous personnel changes, the group has sold more than thirty-five million albums worldwide.

Smashing Pumpkins' 1995 *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness* continued their careers into global superstardom. Chamberlain was presented a Billboard Magazine Award for when the twenty-eight-track record was the number one album on Billboard's Top 200 charts.

A native of Joliet, Ill., Chamberlin was the backbeat for the band's sonic adventures. A drumhead with a traditional Jazz shield was used during the 1990s. In 2007, Smashing Pumpkins released their seventh studio album *Zeitgeist*. It was Corgan and Chamberlin's comeback project after playing in the supergroup Zwan.

The *Zeitgeist* red album cover was done by graphic designer-activist Shepard Fairey. He depicted the Statue of Liberty drowning in the sea as a nod to global warming. Chamberlin's drumhead for the *Zeitgeist* tour featured a companion blue image of the album cover. Smashing Pumpkins appeared at Al Gore's Live Earth climate change festival in July 2007 at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. Fairey, a native of South Carolina, became widely known during the 2008 U.S. presidential election for his Barack Obama "Hope" poster.

The Smashing Pumpkins have won two Grammys in the Best Hard Rock Performance category: "Bullet With Butterfly Wings," (1996) and "The End Is the Beginning Is the End" (1997). In 2020, the band released its synth-pop album *Cyr*, which was preceded by ten of its songs as singles. *Cyr* was dispatched on all digital platforms, CD, and vinyl.



Jimmy Chamberlin's custom drumhead created by Shepard Fairey for the 2007 *Zeitgeist* tour.



Jimmy Chamberlin's signature jazz badge drumhead used throughout the 1990s.



Billboard Magazine #1 album award, 1995.



Jacket and shirt worn by Patrick Stump from the filming of "The Youngblood Chronicles"



Clip from "The Youngblood Chronicles" video.

FALL OUT BOY

Fall Out Boy tumbled out of Wilmette, Ill., the northern suburb of Chicago that produced Bill Murray and former Playboy CEO Christie Hefner. Fall Out Boy's resumé is as eclectic as its legacy neighbors. The quartet debuted in 2001 with a Power Punk sound and evolved to include Rock and Hip-Hop grooves.

By 2005, Fall Out Boy was heard all over America with their *From Under the Cork Tree* album that went double platinum. In 2014, Fall Out Boy released a fifty-minute feature video entitled "The Young Blood Chronicles" that accompanied their album *Save Rock and Roll*. The video featured appearances from Elton John, Tommy Lee, and others. Fall Out Boy lead singer Patrick Stump wore a jacket that got all bloodied up from a death scene in the video's final segment.

Fall Out Boy drummer Andy Hurley wielded a snare drum crossbow "Weapon" prop as part of "The Young Blood Chronicles." The chronicles are a collection of eleven videos and the "Weapon" was used in the "Rat-a-tat" section with guest star Courtney Love. The Grunge vocalist plays the role of a tough chick who gathers her vixens to destroy the band's instruments. At the end of the film, "God" (Elton John) presents the band with new instruments and even guests on vocals.

In 2018, Fall Out Boy headlined their first stadium show at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The band was touring in support of *Maria*, their fourth number 1 album and sixth consecutive top 10 album. Fall Out Boy has also hit a few home runs with videos. They were nominated for Best Rock Video for the song "Dear Future (Hands Up)" at the 2020 MTV Video Music Awards. It was their ninth nomination in that category, the most nominated band in history.



Snare Drum Crossbow weapon prop used by Fall Out Boy from the filming of "The Youngblood Chronicles."

NAKED RAYGUN

Naked Raygun is a cornerstone of Chicago's Punk scene. The pioneering band emerged from the working-class Beverly neighborhood on Chicago's far south side in 1980 and evolved to include elements of Power Pop and Rock. The DIY ethic is part of Beverly's DNA. Punk rockers like Naked Raygun forged their own ways of creating, promoting, and bringing music to fans. Naked Raygun stepped up with a branded matchbook, comb, and a 7" vinyl record for Vanilla Blue and CDs for both 1989's *Understand* and the 1997 compilation *Last of the Demo Hicans*.

During Naked Raygun's early years, guitarist-songwriter-founding member Jeff Pezzati turned to a Telecaster-styled guitar hand-made by Flynn Guitars in north suburban Evanston. Foo Fighters/Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl has talked about seeing Naked Raygun as his first concert in 1982 (when he was 13) before 150 fans at the Cubby Bear in Chicago. Naked Raygun opened for Foo Fighters on select dates of the 2015 *Sonic Highways* World Tour.



Flynn guitar made in Evanston and owned by Jeff Pezzati of Naked Raygun.

RISE AGAINST

The punk band Rise Against emerged when Chicago's hardcore music scene was rocking.

The band's lead singer-lyricist-rhythm guitarist Tim McIlrath attended Rolling Meadows High School, northwest of the city. McIlrath formed his first band while studying English at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. In 1999 McIlrath and bassist Joe Principe started Transistor Revolt, which was quickly renamed Rise Against.

During Rise Against's early tours and recording sessions, McIlrath favored a white Gibson Les Paul. The words "Out of Step" printed in bold black letters on the back of the guitar is an homage and reference to a song and album by Washington, D.C. DIY Punk pioneers. Minor Threat (1980-83) is a major influence on Rise Against.

Throughout its eight-album career, Rise Against has maintained a passion for its political commitment. Rise Against has supported Amnesty International, PETA, and the gay activist movement It Gets Better Project. On their best-selling 2013 compilation *Long Forgotten Songs: B-Sides and Covers* (2000-2013), Rise Against reinterprets Bob Dylan's "Ballad of Hollis Brown" and delivers a scorching live version of Bruce Springsteen's "The Ghose of Tom Joad," with guests Wayne Kramer of the MC5, Gaslight Anthem's Brian Fallon and shredder Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine.



Tim McIlrath's Les Paul guitar with Minor Threat's song title "Out of Step" on the back as tribute.



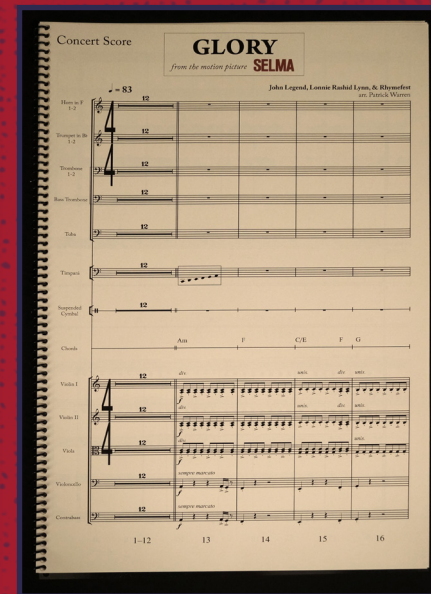
A custom Prada suit worn by Common for a performance at the 2015 Academy Awards.

Common (Lonnie Rashid Lynn, Jr.) has used his neo-Soul groove to crossover into Hollywood.

He won a 2015 Academy Award for Best Original Song for "Glory" from the 2014 film *Selma*, in which he also appeared. Common wore a custom suit designed by Miuccia Prada for his Academy Awards performance with "Glory" songwriter John Legend. Common also earned roles in films like *American Gangster* and *Date Night*.

Common was born in 1972 in Chicago. His mother Mahalia Ann Himes was principal at Hope College Prep High School in Chicago, and his late father Lonnie Lynn played ABA basketball for a season with the Pittsburgh Pipers. His father's spirit was an inspiration for Common's role as professional hoop star Scott McKnight in the 2010 romantic comedy *Just Wright* that also starred Queen Latifah. The film featured appearances from NBA stars Dwayne Wade, Jalen Rose, Chris Paul, and others. It was nominated for Outstanding Motion Picture in the 2011 NAACP Image Awards.

Common is also a writer, having penned two memoirs. He read his poetry at the White House on the invitation of Michelle Obama and has graced the covers of Rap Sheet and Stress magazines. Common is one Tony Award (for excellence in Broadway theater) away from the rare superfecta of winning Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards.



Performance score of "Glory" use at the 2015 Academy Awards performance.



Rap Sheet Magazine, 2000 and Stress Magazine, 2000.



Movie prop jersey for "Just Wright", 2010.

SHURE MICROPHONES

Shure Microphones was founded in 1925 by Sidney Shure in Chicago. The company began as a supplier of radio parts kits but is now heard across the world through its microphones. The Shure SM57 (instrumental applications) was used by Michael Jackson on the hit "Billie Jean." Every president since Lyndon Johnson has used the SM57 from the presidential lectern.

Bruce Springsteen, The Who, and Led Zeppelin liked the durability of the SM58 for vocals and it is considered the bestselling microphone in the world. But every voice has its demands: Freddie Mercury of Queen chose the 565SD, introduced in 1966 with a chrome ball grill. The 565 was also the primary vocal microphone at the Woodstock music festival. Model 520DX is the top choice for Blues harmonica players. The mic produces an aggressive sound. Also known as the "Green Bullet" for its green and chrome die-casting, the 520DX was originally developed for two-way radio use. Shure is headquartered in north suburban Niles, Ill.



Collection of Shure Microphones

HEIL 'TALK BOX



Talk box prototype with Peter Frampton's autograph.

Bob Heil is an amateur radio devotee, tinkerer, and theater organist who founded Heil Sound microphones in 1966 in Fairview Heights in Southern Illinois. But in 1973, the free spirit became known across America for creating his high-powered "Talk Box," which layers speech sounds onto the sound made by an instrument, that was popularized by rockers Peter Frampton and Joe Walsh.

One end of a long plastic tube is inserted into the hole on the top of the box and the other end is placed adjacent to the microphone. The talk box sits on the floor and is deployed as an effects pedal. Heil designed his first high-powered Rock & Roll box for Walsh. Heil bonded with the future Eagles guitarist over their shared love of ham radio. Heil Sound is the only manufacturer to be invited to exhibit at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

VICTORIA AMPS



Victoria Golden Melody model is used by Bob Dylan, Joe Bonamassa and many others.

The world-renowned Victoria Amplifiers are made in a quiet industrial park in Naperville, Ill., about forty miles west of Chicago. Victoria is the amplifier of choice for Bob Dylan, Keith Richards, Buddy Guy, John Legend, John Mayer, and many more. Mayer made the effort to visit the amplifier company in Naperville.

The Golden Melody is one of Dylan's favorites. Victoria founder Mark Baier calls the Golden Melody his "most fully realized amp" because it combines the best aspects of the three major Fender amp periods:

1. *The Tweed*, where the foundation is the *Bassman*. (bass guitar prototype for tube amps)
2. *The Blackface*, where the contribution is a brighter reverb.
3. *The Brown* amps which provide tremolo.

Bob Dylan has purchased seven amps from Victoria. The Golden Melody is also used by Phish and Chicago Blues-Soul guitarist Dave Spector. The company does not sponsor artists, so each amplifier is purchased by the player. All Victoria Amplifiers are custom-made.

The Victoria VickyVerb Tweed amplifier is a go-to model for Buddy Guy, Billy Joe Armstrong of Green Day, John Mayer, and Chicago bluesman Toronzo Cannon. The smaller all-pine Tweed model honors the tube reverb that has become a Victoria trademark, while providing effect from subtle to full-on surf's up.

A former stockbroker, Baier started Victoria in 1993 by building amps on a ping-pong table in the basement of his Naperville home. Along with his two-female (his former wife Maureen and JoAnne Klein) warehouse team, Baier has constructed more than 8,000 amplifiers since then. They are all hand-made and hand-wired. Baier and Maureen have two daughters: Maggie is a Chicago public high school teacher and Victoria works for Amazon in Seattle. Baier named the company after Victoria. "RCA Victor, Victrola," he said. "It infers classic American electronics."



Victoria Vicky Verb Tweed model is coveted by Buddy Guy, John Mayer and others.

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THE STATE OF SOUND

A WORLD OF
MUSIC FROM
ILLINOIS

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