

NOW WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti

A chat with Tony Burlingame of The McCartney Project

It is time for some road trips as summer officially approaches. If you are a Beatles fan, Paul McCartney fan, or just love music, then you will want to check out The McCartney Project. Tony Burlingame pays tribute to Paul McCartney by entertaining thousands of fans every year. Three shows are coming up in the Cleveland area. The McCartney Project will be playing: Friday, June 21 at the Saint Ambrose Summer Festival in Brunswick, Wednesday, July 5 in Berea Live at Coe Lake and another NEO appearance is scheduled for July 20th the venue to be announced soon.

Tony takes some time to discuss how the long and winding road lead him to the door where he finds himself enjoying the connections between the music and the fans. "While I was growing up I had two older brothers who influenced my taste in music. It was a range between James Taylor, Elton John, Jimi Hendrix and Iron Butterfly," he remembers. "As I got older I remember rebelling against the disco craze. I used to go in bookstores and read music magazines such as Melody Maker. The music I was into was more of the punk rock nature like Blondie, The Pretenders and The Cars. Listening to The Knack was also one of my favorites. "Get The Knack" is still one of my favorite albums. For me, this was real music whereas I felt the disco era was more processed music."

He continues, "Being interested in music is different than wanting to be in a band. The interest in music comes first. My family is musically oriented. My grandmother played the organ and could sing opera. Her father played the violin. I now have my great grandfather's violin. My great uncle played the accordion and organ. He was a touring musician and actually played for the Queen of England.



Tony at sound check



Photos by Lori Taggart

Tony Burlingame as Paul McCartney

My father was a singing drummer in the mid-1950s but gave it up to start a family. My dad was influenced by Nat King Cole, Johnny Mathis and the Doo Wop groups such as The Flamingos. We had a stereo and played the AM stations all the time."

"I remember as a kid walking down East Broad Street in Columbus and I wandered into a restaurant called, The Ground Round. There was a trio playing. The name of the band was Pay Dirt. I had never seen live music until that day. It finally occurred to me that I could do that for a living. I was nine years old at the time but that memory stayed," he recalls.

"When I got older I had started a band called, Back Beat with a few friends who liked The Beatles. I played "Paul" and we wore the Beatle attire. We played some festivals and car shows. It was enough experience to see what it was like. A few years later, I received a call from The British Invasion band. I joined around

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1999 and have been with them ever since in addition to doing The McCartney Project. I actually have played in several Beatles tribute bands. It is quite the industry in California where I honed my “Paul” skills a bit more and fine-tuned my performances,” said Tony. “I was contacted by a gentleman named John Scherer who manages a company called Music Legends Live. He asked me if I wanted to do some shows where I would just be Paul. That is how The McCartney Project started. I have been doing this since 2013.”

“We are still being exposed to Beatle inspired movies, projects and perfor-

mances that add to their legacy and attract new generations of fans. I am always reminded every time I play of how grateful I am to be able to do this work. I pick up my guitar, drive to a show and set up my gear. I am earning a living doing what I love but I have to remember it’s not even about me. I often talk to people after shows that share what a certain Beatles song has meant to them or what was going on in their life. We are all going through something and music is the healing tool. It brings people together and as long as they enjoy it I will keep coming back.”

www.TheMcCartneyProject.com

Carlos Jones collaborates on Positive Vibrations Coffee, Reggae on The Water Cruise, Reggae Sundays at The Music Box and new album

Deep C Entertainment, the management team for Cleveland reggae icon Carlos Jones, announced that they have signed a new production, licensing and distribution agreement with the Cleveland Coffee Company for Jones’ private label coffee –the “Positive Vibrations” line. Jones, who originally launched his private label coffee in 2011, stated that he felt that Cleveland Coffee “provided a better fit with more support” than his previous roaster. Jones also said, “What is really important to me is that the quality is of the highest standard. I’ve spent some time at their warehouse and have been impressed with the quality of their operation. I’ve been familiar with Cleveland Coffee for quite a while, so having them put together my signature blend is really a dream come true.”

Their retail footprint includes distribution to Heinen’s and Dave’s Supermarkets to name a couple. Positive Vibrations coffee is also available for schools and non-profits to sell as a fundraiser for their organizations. Jones spent time with staff from Cleveland Coffee, developing a custom blend and a new look for the packaging. In addition, this new deal will have a charitable component involved with a portion of the proceeds going to a charity of Jones’ choosing. This year, that charity will be The Alive Inside Foundation, an organization that uses music to connect with Alzheimer’s patients by providing the music of their youth to them on pre-programmed headphones.

Carlos Jones & the PLUS Band performed for the first benefit concert put on by the group –Rock Against Dementia at Brothers Lounge in 2017. From Wayne Mesker, head of the Cleveland Chapter of Alive Inside, “On behalf of myself and the entire Alive Inside organization, I would like to extend our respect and express our sincere gratitude to Carlos Jones for his continuing support of our efforts to improve the quality of life for those living with dementia, using music as a means of connection.”

Carlos Jones & the PLUS Band also announced that they will be performing for the first annual REGGAE ON THE WATER cruise on the Goodtime III, on Tuesday, June 18th. Tickets are available

at www.eventbrite.com and are \$35/advance or \$40/day of show. There is also a custom tee shirt option at the ticketing site for a special event tee shirt (an additional \$18). Food and beverages are available on the Goodtime III as well.

Jones also announced that the group has started recording a new album to be released this fall, titled “A New Day”. The group will be launching a Kickstarter campaign on July 1st to help fund the project. More details will be available closer to the launch date.

DEEP C ENTERTAINMENT (DCE) is a Cleveland-based Artist Management Company that represents Cleveland reggae icon, Carlos Jones as well as the James Emmett Band. DCE is a division of Cross Track Music, Inc., a full-service provider of artist services, including management, promotions, distribution (Little Fish Records), bookings, publishing, foreign licensing, mobile marketing (through its Music America subsidiary), and video production.

Music Box Kicks Off Reggae Sundays with Carlos Jones & P.L.U.S.

In partnership with Great Lakes Brewing Company, Music Box is excited to announce the return of our FREE Reggae Sunday Happy Hour! Beginning June 9th with Cleveland’s favorite Carlos Jones & P.L.U.S, Reggae Sundays will feature many of the top reggae bands in the area like Ark Band, Umojah Nation,

Dave Smeltz, and more! This is a FREE indoor/outdoor concert series that will take place rain or shine. Doors open at 3pm with live music from 4-7pm. Music Box will also be offering weekly food and drink specials exclusive to the series.

- Sun., June 9 – Carlos Jones & P.L.U.S.
- Sun., June 16 – The Ark Band
- Sun., June 23 – Jah Messengers
- Sun., June 30 – Umojah Nation
- Sun., July 7 – Sun Shade & Ms BBC
- Sun., July 14 – Outlaws I&I
- Sun., July 21 – One World Tribe
- Sun., July 28 – Carlos Jones & P.L.U.S.
- Sun., Aug. 4 – Dave Smeltz
- Sun, Aug. 11 – Ras Khalifa
- Sun, Aug. 18 – Outlaws I&I
- Sun, Aug 25 – Jah Messengers
- Sun, Sept 1- Carlos Jones & P.L.U.S.



KID MITCHELL & TED ALEXANDER