

JEFF BERLIN PANAMERICAN QUARTET

J.BERLIN(eb) Othello Molineaux(perc) P.WERTICO(dr) R. DREXLER (p)

Jeff Berlin

A flexible and powerful electric bassist, Jeff Berlin has been one of the major fusion bassists since the mid-'70s and leading his own groups since '99. He was born to parents who were both musically inclined (his father an opera singer and his mother a pianist). As a child he was considered a prodigy on violin but switched to bass guitar at 14 years old. His early bass training included time at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Jeff Berlin's career has been primarily as a sideman to more well-known musicians, but he has also released several solo albums. For a period he was in a trio with Allan Holdsworth and Tony Williams, Pat Martino, Gil Evans, Toots Thielemans, Al DiMeola, George Benson, Earl Klugh, Larry Coryell, Bob James, Dave Liebman, Herbie Mann, Ray Barretto, the Brecker Brothers and others. Jeff Berlin was a regular member of Bill Bruford's band. He moved to Florida in 1990 and has since toured with Yes, John McLaughlin, Billy Cobham, Kazumi Watanabe and other musicians from a wide variety of creative genres. In addition he started and teaches at the Players School.

Othello Molineaux

Othello Molineaux is one of the most talented pannists who has made his mark in the realm of steelband and jazz. He was born in Longdenville, Central Trinidad in 1939; attended both Fatima and Queens Royal Collage Colleges in his quest for a secondary education; and grew up in a musical family. His father played the violin and his mother taught the piano. By age 11 Othello had shifted for not only playing the piano but the steelpan. By age 15 he learnt to tune pans and had his own steelband Wonder Harps. He left Trinidad in 1967 and went to St. Thomas, as a piano player, but his love for the steelpan ruled. Over the years Othello has concentrated more on Music Theory and has performed worldwide. His worldwide accolades are many. He was written into the Japanese Jazz Encyclopaedia. He was nominated for the best band Jazz-Rock category in the Carbonell 1979 and 1981 Music Awards. He placed 10th in the International Music Poll, miscellaneous Instrument category. In 1987 he received a commendation from the Ohio House of Representatives in the USA; and in 1991 he received the Vanguard Award for Outstanding Leadership among black musicians. Othello has performed with such celebrated musicians as Herbie Hancock, Dizzie Gillespie, Monty Alexander and Peter Erskine.

Paul Wertico

Paul Wertico is an all-around drummer who built his reputation as a colorist with Pat Metheny. In the early '70s, he was a fixture of the Chicago music scene. Always active in various realms of creative music, he most notably started two cooperative bands: Earwax Control and Spontaneous Composition. In 1983, Wertico replaced Danny Gottlieb in the Pat Metheny Group. A long and fruitful collaboration, including ten recordings, seven Grammy Awards and several gold records, ensued. Wertico left the group in 2001. During his tenure with the guitarist, he nurtured several of his own projects recording with many other artists including new age music pioneer Paul Winter, "word jazz" creator Ken Nordine, rock-fusion violinist Jerry Goodman and jazz vocalist Kurt Elling. Later, he went on to form the Union Trio with pianist Laurence Hobgood and bassist Brian Torff, as well as releasing a drum duo recording with fellow percussionist Gregg Bendian. He also led various other combos, most notably the Paul Wertico Trio, a band that helped redefine fusion and includes guitarist John Moulder and bassist Eric Hochberg. Soon after leaving Metheny, Wertico joined a trio led by another prominent guitarist, Larry Coryell, and also became a member of the legendary Eastern European rock band, SBB.

Richard Drexler

Multi – Instrumentalist, composer/arranger and producer, Richard Drexler, an Illinois native, has been based in Florida since 1985. He has been working as bassist in the Kenny Drew Jr. Trio and appearing as a bassist or pianist in the jazz clubs of Central Florida. Singers he has accompanied include Mel Tormé, Tony Bennett, Diahann Carroll, Frankie Laine, Al Jarreau, Connie Francis, Dena DeRose. He has been active in studios, appearing in dozens of CDs ranging from salsa to avant garde country western, to the trash metal group Saigon Kick. He has recorded and played with colleagues as Dave Liebman, Tom Harrell, Gato Barbieri, Alex Acuna, Jerry Bergonzi, Paquito d'Rivera and many others.
