



William D. Burton

When I was 31, a friend informed me that Cat Stevens was going to be attending a private gathering in his honor at the London Bar & Grill, located in Portland, Oregon! He also informed me that I could perform my original music at that party if I so desired, so that Cat Stevens could hear my music!

When it was time for me to perform, Cat Stevens was sitting on a couch about 5 feet away from me! I started playing my songs and the first song literally fell apart! I was so embarrassed. I asked if I could to start over and Steve nodded with a smile and said, of course!

The first thing that Cat Stevens said to me after hearing my first song was, "You have something to say!"

I then told him that my friends told me that I was too old to learn how to play. He responded by telling me that I should change friends and keep the guitar! I then asked him how he got started in the music business! His hair was quite long and as he buried his face in his lap and shook his head, his hair was all over his head! He then sat up straight and said, "They hated my voice here in America! I had to go back to England and find a financial backer!"

I was amazed that an artist of his stature was so accessible and friendly to an upstart musician like myself! I have to say that that encounter encouraged me to continue my efforts to become a performing artist!

Thank you 'Steve' as his band affectionately called him! Yusef Islam, aka Cat Stevens, you may not remember me brother but I love You and appreciate you!

Magazine Excerpts

CALENDAR MAGAZINE - SF, CA.

While performing at the Palace of Fine Arts, Neo-Indigo Singer-Songwriter William D. Burton was approached, by a young man at intermission, who asked if Burton ever did any Eric Clapton? Burton's reply was, "I am a world class songwriter. When Eric does one of my songs, I'll do one of his! In admiration, the young man replied that Burton seemed to have the testicles to make it in the music business.

The young man then added that he too played in a little garage band! When Burton asked the name of the band, the young musician said Guns-N-Roses! Burton found himself talking to Axl Rose, lead singer for GNR! When I caught up with Burton at a Fillmore West performance to validate this story, I asked him if it was true that he had had the opportunity to Meet Axl Rose? Burton denied my take on the story and stated that in actuality Axl got a chance to meet him!

Monthly Planet WILLIAM D. BURTON & THE KARMIC BOOGIE BAND

William D. Burton was a local unknown until his song "Sausalito Nell" turned up on last years Q-FM Hometown Album. This song brought Burton some local solo bookings and, by his own admission, made him suddenly ambitious!

Now Burton has surfaced with his own band, specializing in all original music. First a trio, he now has a quartet which has played weekends at Otto's Stake House downtown and recently shared the bill with the Alligators at a Wednesday City Center noon event. Burton scored impressive points opening for Muddy Waters at the High Street Brewing Company!

MUDDY WATERS AT HIGH STREET BREWING COMPANY

GERMAN VILLAGE VOICE

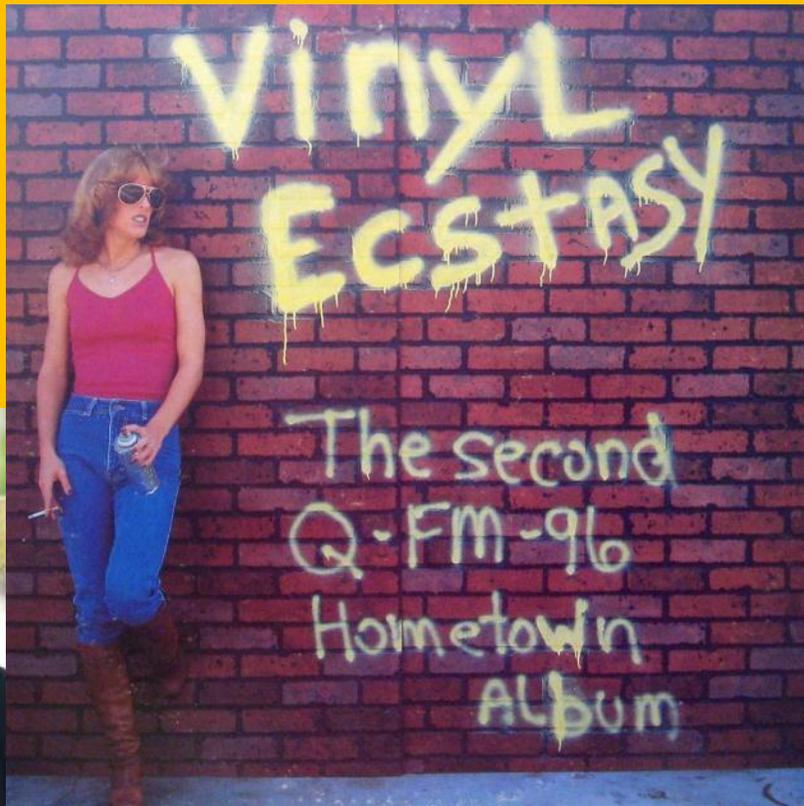
It is so unusual these days for national blues acts to come to town. The Muddy Waters appearance February 8th, at the High Street Brewing Company was a surefire proposition! Sporting two supporting acts, Ray Fuller Band and the sadly under appreciated talent of William D. Burton. Burton's friendly manner eased the mood into a jazz and blues evening! His warm ebullience added just the touch for his sometimes humorous folk blues and jazz songs, reminding one of Taj Mahal and Cleveland's John Bassette. The audience demanded an encore as they sang along enthusiastically to, "I Don't Want To Be Up Tight!

JUST CAN'T BEAT THE BLUES THE OHIO STATE LANTERN

The two acts before Muddy Waters on Sunday showed his influence though their styles differed significantly. The William D. Burton Trio, featuring vocals, acoustic guitar, bass & congas played ten songs! The crowd sang along enthusiastically to the chorus of 'I Don't Want To Be Uptight'!

Sound Tracks Magazine Living Single Magazine

Vinyl Ecstasy, the second recorded collection of local talent produced by WLVQ-FM, is a testament of the incredible talent of the local music scene! While there was plenty of electrified rock & roll, there is also a fine sampling of new, very original material. William D. Burton's "Sausalito nell", Sally Fingerett's "Guilty", and Two Suited's "Must Have Been The Light," were all well produced!



COLUMBUS SPOTLIGHT MAGAZINE

From up in Cleveland, the ASCAP man placed a call to Oldfields'. "I understand that you have a live band playing there!" The management had no reason to deny it. "Then you owe me \$200." he declared. But, the manager was not taken aback. "William D. Burton's song list is all original! The ASCAP man was no fool. "That's not possible, he replied!" There aren't any bands around Columbus doing all original material." He obviously had not hear William D. Burton and The Most Valuable Players!

I chanced to hear Burton and the MVPs' quite by accident, not knowing that they were going to be featured at Kites For Peace, a kick-off event for the "Hands Across America" campaign, held at the Methodist Theological Seminary. Under a blue and white marbled sky with dozens of gaily colored kites darting and whirling in the air, the band provided a perfect jazzy bluesy backdrop for the days events.

Burton thinks of his music as being akin to what reggae would have been like if it had originated

in the United States. This very original lyricist has a conversational, almost rap-like style which was well suited for his talk-sung vocals. Anyone who has heard the Q-FM-96 Hometown Album of a few years back, knows that Burton crams a lot of ideas and words into a few bars of music!

COLUMBUS SPOTLIGHT MAGAZINE -Q-FM-96 Hometown Album

Sequel Better Than The Premiere? In my not so humble opinion (there goes that word again) it beats the first one hands down!

Vinyl Ecstasy, QFM'96's second effort to bring local talent to the airwaves and wax tracks, exceeds all possible expectations in out rocking its' predecessor. Ecstasy gives us eleven tracks from some of our favorite acts.

Best cuts, Sally Fingerettes' excellent, "Guilty" and William D. Burtons "Sausalito Nell." Burton's wit and writing skills are overwhelming while Fingerettes voice shines through like never before!

William D. Burton ~ Motivational Minstrel

By Greg Petty

We never cease to marvel at the store of interesting personalities we run across in the course of publishing Boom! Magazine. We have profiled politicians, scientists, entrepreneurs, business executives, community activists and musicians amongst others. The Triangle is a treasure trove of people doing great things with their lives. This month's profile of William Burton highlights an individual who combines both community activism and music. We caught one of his performances earlier this year. The performance was lively, humorous and enlightening. The soul of the man shone through and our interest to learn more about him was peaked.

William Burton was born in Los Angeles, CA into a military family that took him to France, Germany and all over the US. While he got to experience other cultures in his youth, he became involved in the wrong culture during his early adulthood, eventually spending time in prison. It was a turning point in his life, but instead of turning his back on that whole period of his life, he is now actively involved in helping ex-offenders in our community remake their lives. We'll get to that story a little later.

At an early age music strongly attracted him, and like many of us, he had piano lessons when he was young but did not stick with it. By the time he was 30, however, he began to take the steps to get the music and the lyrics that were in his head out of his head. He was listening to all kinds of music from Joni Mitchell to John Coltrane and blues legends such as Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker. He knew his music education had to begin somewhere. So while working as a machinist during the day and waiting tables at night to support his family, he was finally able to save enough to purchase a guitar.

Burton relates, "I took lessons, but the teachers were going too fast and it became very confusing, so I started teaching

myself to play guitar. About a year and a half later Cat Stevens came to town, you know he played for 20,000 people at a time, and a friend of mine called me up and says 'Do you want to play for Cat Stevens?' I thought he was jerking my chain. He said, 'No he's a friend of mine and we are having a private surprise party for him at a bar & grill and we want you to play the music.' I went and did it." It was an important event in his life as it boosted his self-esteem. It also had the practical benefit of being introduced to Cat Stevens's record management team. Burton told us, "Cat Stevens said two things to me, 'If your friends tell you you are too old to play guitar, find yourself some new friends.' The second was, 'You have something to say.' That loomed very large for me—it was huge."



William has also been the recipient of serendipitous rewards and encounters that would advance his musical career. While playing in the parking lot of the Oakland Coliseum before a Grateful Dead concert one of Bill Graham's men heard him. That encounter led to him being hired by Graham to open a show at the Fillmore West for Stephen



Stills. Graham kept him on to play in the cocktail lounge on a regular basis. Burton has also been the opening act for both Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker.

Ultimately another important career was in store for him. In order to make himself a better person, he invested in years of Landmark, EST and the Science of Being Rich-The Science of Being Free training. Over the years he has shared his story, motivational messages and the redemptive power of God on community and university stages with the likes of Deepak Chopra, Dr. Wayne Dyer and Jack Canfield, author of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.

William currently puts his past, and all his religious and secular training, to good use by being the Director of Adult Case Management for Community Success Initiative. The program assists ex-offenders to re-adjust to life outside of prison with the goal of enhancing life skills, thus reducing the number of individuals who are sent back to prison. The program also provides personal development and leadership skills, youth development and entrepreneurial training. Burton tells us, "I became a consultant in the Justice system [in California] working with both the inmates and the staff... My job now [in North Carolina] is to help people see the light and stay out of the system... The first thing [we teach them] is personal responsibility and self-esteem. Nobody owes you anything. You need to prove to your family and society

that you are now different. Not so much you have to fix something that's broke, but that you have the power to do anything. My boss got out of Central Prison eight years ago and he said, 'I decided that I had been in prison, but I wasn't going to let prison get into me.'"

The fat politician can't stoop solo

Has his shoes tied together in a karmic bow

And they all pray together as we all know

As they reap just what they sow

We live in daily friction of cosmic contradiction

And all of our afflictions are emotional addictions

In daily superstition of self-imposed restrictions

So physician heal thyself

Lyrics to "Thoughts" by William Burton

Upcoming performances by William Burton: Friday, October 14, 7-9pm at Stars Theater & Arts Center, 123 E. Vance St., Fuquay-Varina; Friday, October 28, 7:30-9:30 pm at Clare Hall, St. Francis of Assisi, 11401 Leesville Rd., Raleigh; or October 29, 6:30-8:30pm at BNC, 649 Walnut St., Cary (see page 38). Tickets can be purchased at sacrifice-dance.eventbrite.com. To find out more about the Community Success Initiative visit communitysuccess.org.

William D. Burton & The Bio Rhythm and Blues Messengers



The Big Easy
Presents
Live Blues & Jazz
Wednesdays 9:00 pm - 12:00 am in Raleigh
Thursdays 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm in Cary



with
The Legendary
William D. Burton and
The Bio Rhythm and Blues
Messengers

No Cover Charge!

Recent Performances

Assisi Café, Raleigh

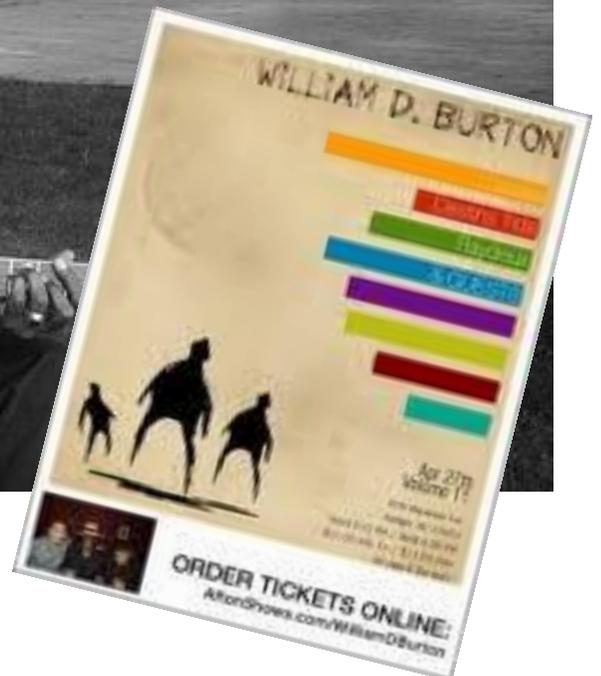
Irregardless Café, Raleigh

Big Easy, Raleigh

Big Easy, Cary

NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh

Volume 11, Raleigh



Contact



Booking & PR Contact:
Diogenes Ruiz
919-412-8224
diogenesruiz@live.com

William D Burton
919-412-6872
knowersark1@yahoo.com

Website
www.williamdburton.com