

BARON BROWNE

Biography

Born and raised in Georgia, USA, **Baron Browne** gravitated to music at a very early age, learning to play his uncle's drumset at 7 years old. As a teenager he dabbled in piano lessons and at age 12 played guitar for a year before realizing that bass guitar was to be his instrument. At age 18, Baron was launched into the professional music scene right out of high school, moving to Boston and studying at the Berklee School of Music. After studying at the prestigious school for a year, he began working full time in Boston with artists such as **Kevin Eubanks, Tiger Okoshi, Mike Stern, Bill Frisell** and **Dean Brown**.

In 1983, Baron received a call from jazz-fusion violinist **Jean-Luc Ponty**. After touring for three years and recording three albums with Ponty, **Billy Cobham** came calling. Baron traveled extensively throughout Europe and the U.S. with the legendary drummer. After three years and two albums with Cobham, Baron returned to the Ponty band for more work.

In 1992, Baron joined the group **Steps Ahead** featuring **Mike Manieri** and "Saturday Night Live" saxophonist **Alex Foster**. One year later he was invited by renowned jazz vibraphonist **Gary Burton** to join him for tours of Japan, Europe and the U.S. Baron's versatility with playing all styles of music allowed him to also perform with R&B and Pop artists such as **Brian McKnight, Tom Jones** and **Exposé**.

In 1996, Ponty called on Baron once again to record his first live album in over 20 years ("Live at Chene Park"). The album received rave reviews from jazz critics.

In 1997, Baron's talents were secured by renowned Journey drummer **Steve Smith** for a European tour with his group **Vital Information**. The sought-after bassist has made several television appearances, including "The Pat Sajak Show" on CBS and "Ohne Filter" in Germany.

Baron can also be heard on many albums by jazz recording artist **Walter Beasley**. Walter's album "For Your Pleasure" reached the number one spot on the Billboard contemporary jazz chart. Because of Baron's musical experience, Walter also made Baron musical director of his touring band.

In 1999 Baron went on an extensive tour of Europe, the U.S., Australia and New Zealand with Steve Smith and Vital Information to help promote their CD entitled "Where We Come From." A double live CD

called "Live Around The World" documenting the band on that tour was released Sept. 2000. 2001 saw Vital Information performing at the NAMM show and on tour in Beijing, China. In the year 2002 Baron continued to tour in Europe with Vital Information to promote the CD "Show 'Em Where You Live." He was also included in the writing and producing of this album.

Steve Smith professes that Baron is his favorite bass player, using him for his drummer tribute band Steve Smith's Jazz Legacy, with Mark Soskin (Sonny Rollins), Walt Weiskopf (Steely Dan) and Andy Fusco (Buddy Rich). They previously released two live recordings "Very Live at Ronnie Scotts' Set 1 and Set 2" as Buddy's Buddies.

2004 saw Baron continuing to write and perform with Vital Information as a full-fledged member. Their CD "Come On In" received rave reviews from jazz critics around the world.

In 2005 Baron toured the USA, Europe and Russia with Vital Information. They performed for the third time at the NAMM show. They also played at the Jarasum Jazz Festival, South Korea. Baron recorded a CD with the Opera virtuoso Andrea Bocelli.

Vital Information toured Russia and Mexico this in 2007. They also released another CD at the end of that year entitled "Vitalization".

Baron has been touring with Steve Smith and Vital Information over the last few years, as well as giving several master-classes including the Drum Fantasy Camp. Recently Baron has also been playing with old friend Jean-Luc Ponty.

As an artist, Baron Browne continues to be a major force in the music industry. He has expanded his range to include producing and arranging for other artists as well as his own projects, this includes a new project with Vinny Valentino and Joel Rosenblatt (Spyro Gyra) which will be released early in 2011.

Discography

Tiger Okoshi, **Muddcake** (JVC)
Frank Quintero, **Frank Quintero** (CBS Venezuela)
Kevin Eubanks, **Sundance** (GRP)
Jean-Luc Ponty, **Fables** (Atlantic)
Jean-Luc Ponty, **The Gift of Time** (Atlantic)
Jean-Luc Ponty, **Storytelling** (Atlantic)
Jean-Luc Ponty, **Live at Chene Park** (Atlantic)
Billy Cobham, **Warning** (GRP)
Billy Cobham, **Power Play** (GRP)
Mark O'Conner, **Heroes** (CBS)
Walter Beasley, **Tonight We Love** (Shenachie) (also listed as Arranger)
Walter Beasley, **For Your Pleasure** (Shenachie) (also listed as Producer)
Gabriela Anders, **Wanting** (CBS)
Walter Beasley, **Won't You Let Me Love You** (Shenachie)
Walter Beasley, **Rendezvous** (Shenachie) (also listed as Producer)
Walter Beasley, **Go With The Flow** (Shenachie)
Vital Information, **Live Around The World** (Intuition)
Aydin Esen, **Timescape** (BMG)
Vital Information, **Show 'Em Where You Live** (Tone Center)
Steve Smith and Buddy's Buddies, **Very Live At Ronnie Scott's - Set One** (Tone Center)
Steve Smith and Buddy's Buddies, **Very Live At Ronnie Scott's - Set Two** (Tone Center)
Steve Smith and Vital Information, **Come On In** (Tone Center)
Andrea Bocelli, **Andrea** (Sugar)
Steve Smith and Vital Information, **Vitalization**

Performance Credits

Baron has toured and performed with Angela Bofill, Stanley Clarke, Tom Browne, Billy Cobham, Kevin Eubanks, Lonnie Liston Smith, Noel Pointer, Freddie Hubbard, Tiger Okoshi, Kenny G, Jean-Luc Ponty, Dave Valentine, Stanley Turrentine, Gary Burton, Mike Manieri and Steps Ahead, Larry Coryell, Randy Brecker, Al Dimeola, Exposé, Tom Jones, Brian McKnight, Walter Beasley, and Aydin Esen, Tommy Campbell and Andrea Bocelli.