

Smooth Jazz HUSTLE

Contemporary Jazz Artist, Composer and Producer Tony Whitfield

"I cannot remember a day from the time I was a child when I did not think about music," says Tony Whitfield. Growing up in the small town of Opelika, Alabama, Tony says he was inspired by artists such as Grammy Award-winning Al Jarreau and jazz legend Ramsey Lewis.

"I grooved on such artists as Verdine White of Earth, Wind and Fire, Kim Stone of The Rippingtons, Nathan East of Fourplay, and Stanley Clarke," said Tony.

Today making his home in the Washington, D.C. area, Tony Whitfield is best known to jazz music fans worldwide for his most recent CD album, *Pleasure Sensitive 2*, which was voted #2 on Smoothjazz.com's First Annual Smoothie Award Winners Top 10 Indies List in 2005. Whitfield is also president and CEO of his own recording label, OASA Records.

Whitfield's latest endeavor is an effort to sell an original recording of a song by Van McCoy and Aretha Franklin. The song, "I Was Made for You, You Were Made For Me," is a duet that was recorded on Atlantic Records in 1979 and released on the Queen of Soul's "LA Diva" album. Whitfield wants to sell an original taping of the initial rehearsal made by McCoy on a Memorex MRX3 Oxide tape and transferred to audio CD.

This "never-before-heard" live footage of the duet with Aretha Franklin and with the late Van McCoy playing the Fender Rhodes Keyboards "was produced and performed at Van McCoy's mansion in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey prior to his demise in 1979," according to Whitfield. McCoy, best known for his 1975 Grammy Award-winning single "The Hustle," tragical-

ly died of a heart attack at age 39.

"This unique body of work is authentic and right from McCoy's hands," says Whitfield, who is accepting silent bids on the tapes and CD at www.fieldrecord-soundbite.com.

Tony has earned a degree in business, which allows him to efficiently combine the creative arts process with the marketing and management side of music.

His *Pleasure Sensitive 2* embraces a variety of artistic stylings and musical compositions, with everything from edgy smooth jazz to soul to R&B and even a captivating solo showcasing his talents on the five string bass guitar.



The CD starts off with a bass-driven version of "The Hustle" (by Van McCoy) called the "New York Hustle," which Tony says was written as a tribute to the victims of 9/11. Later on in the album, the song is reprised in a Spanish rap version of the tune that features the Jerry Hey Horn Section with Jerry on first

trumpet. Other top-notch musical guests on the CD include Hiram Bullock, Saul Miller, Gary Grant and Onaje Allan Gumbs.

Tony says he is always looking for new talent to sign to his record label. His knowledge of the business has given him the vision to promote major jazz shows on a national level, and Tony welcomes new challenges.

"I speak through my music," remarks Whitfield. "I want to create music that is meant to last," he says.

For more information, please visit www.tonywhitfieldjazz.com. 