

CHUCK BROWN

“Decades before Juvenile told girls to Back That Azz Up, Chuck Brown was making them do it in DC clubs with his own infectious sound” -Soren Baker, Vibe

Affectionately known as the Godfather of Go Go, Chuck Brown created the Go Go sound. He combined Latin beats, African call and response chants and American Jazz, throwing in a touch of soul with a continuous drumbeat. This nonstop dance music is and has been a trademark of original creative music from the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., and has gained Chuck Brown worldwide fans.

Chuck Brown began his musical career in the early 60's. His first stage experience was with Jerry Butler and the Earls of Rhythm. Then in 1965, he joined Los Latinos, whose syncopated backbeat enthralled him. This experience gave Chuck the confidence to get out on his own, incorporating all these styles into his band and introducing a sound unlike anything available at that time. "I got sick and tired of watching people sitting around," Chuck says "Disco was too fast-people didn't want to get all sweaty, and they just sat down. So we cut the beat in half." Chuck called this new sound Go Go, "because it never stops."

Chuck Brown exploded onto the scene in 1971 with his first hit "We The People." This was followed by the gold album "Bustin' Loose" and the #1 hit single of the same name on MCA/Source Records. In the mid-80's, the face of Go Go was changed forever with the Future Records release of "Go Go Swing." With this release, Chuck Brown broke new ground, and captured the hearts of music lovers young and old, near and far, black and white. "Go Go Swing" was released around the world, leading to a large international following and numerous international concert tours. A string of hit records followed, producing the now Go Go classics "Be Bumpin' Fresh," "Run Joe," "Day-O," "Back It On Up," "We Need Some Money," and "2001 (That'll Work)." Five live CDs came next, including "This Is A Journey... Into Time Live!" released in 1992 in the US and 1993 in Europe, followed by another tour of Europe and Japan.

Chuck Brown's 1993 release, "The Other Side," is a collaboration with the incredibly talented late vocalist Eva Cassidy (in March 2001 she had the #1 album in the UK). While this project may seem like a radical departure from Chuck's up tempo Go Go creations, "The Other Side" showcases Chuck's roots, influences and talents that influenced his unique signature on the Go Go scene. "Hah Man" was released in 1994, combining Chuck's Jazz and Blues roots with his Go Go rhythms. A duet of "Blues In The Night" was included in the 1997 release of Eva Cassidy's "Eva By Heart." In 1998 Chuck released a Jazz/Blues project entitled "Timeless," building on his acclaimed work with Cassidy and bringing Chuck into his own as a master in the exploration of his roots.

Chuck's "Greatest Hits" was released in 1998, a collection of his best, spanning his incredible career from "Bustin' Loose" to the present. Chuck released "The Spirit Of Christmas" in 1999, which contains his renditions of Christmas favorites (including his hit version of "Merry Christmas Baby") as well as 2 duets with Eva Cassidy. In 2001, Chuck gained national exposure though his association with Eva, when feature pieces on 20/20 and Nightline covered the posthumous resurgence of Eva Cassidy's music in England and America. "Your Game... Live at the 9:30 Club, Washington, D.C." was released in May 2001 to rave reviews and voted as one of the top 10 albums of 2001 by Billboard R&B Editor Gail Mitchell, Rapper Chuck D and others. DC's #1 radio station WPGC began a movement to induct Chuck into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame with a hugely successful petition drive. Chuck's hit "Bustin' Loose" also regained national attention again, thanks to it's use in the smash Nelly single "Hot In Herre."

The power and energy of a Brown performance became available to the public for the first time on DVD and companion CD in 2002. Entitled "Put Your Hands Up! The Tribute Concert To Chuck Brown" the concert features performances by Chuck, EU, Back Yard, 911, and guests Little Benny, Maiesha, Whiteboy, Go-Go Mickey, Big Tony and others. Directed by MTV director/producer J. Kevin Swain (2 Pac, Erykah Badu, Outkast, etc.). The 2 DVD set is mixed in 5.1 surround sound and recorded on Chuck's home turf at the 9:30 Club, allowing viewers to experience the unique excitement of a Chuck Brown concert in DC. Included on the DVD is the short documentary "From The Belly Of The Drum" featuring interviews with industry notables like former Def Jam President Kevin Liles, BET's Stephen Hill, Warner Bros. recording artist Meshell Ndegeocello and Island Records founder Chris Blackwell.

A new remastered Best Of Chuck Brown double CD was released in April 2005 including previously unavailable tracks like "Blow Your Whistle," "We The People," "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus," and more! Included in this package is his signature #1 hit "Bustin' Loose," recently chosen as the 7th inning stretch song for the Washington Nationals. Chuck is in the studio working on a new project with renown producer Chuckie Thompson slated for a late 2005 release.

“Everywhere else, Hip Hop rules. But the sound of DC is Go Go, for one reason. His name is Chuck Brown.”

-Jeff Chang, Author "Can't Stop, Won't Stop, A History Of The Hip-Hop Generation"

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