



An Interview with Billy Wright From the October 2013 Issue of Axis Magazine

1) Having been a live and session player in Central Florida for over a decade, what are some of the things that seem to have changed the most in the Downtown and surrounding area for live music?

There are a lot more events and venues that have popped up over the years, which has allowed more room for local, national, and even international acts to perform. Also, for the up and coming or longstanding artists, the continued development of the internet, social media and the ability to stream, or download music has enhanced artists to be even more accessible. This has definitely helped get the word for what who's playing in town.

2) Your last full band release 'Sunrise' had the funk rock tones of Kravitz, Maroon 5 among others on the pop charts, where does a 'funk rock' track originate, is it in a beat, guitar or keys riff, or just someone whistling while they work?

Those sounds could probably come from any of those sources or more. I think in part it's about attitude and just a desire to write a slightly complex yet hopefully interesting tune. Listening to artist that inspire you will most likely have an impact for rock, pop, or funk elements showing up in your writing or performance.

3. Some players that you think are making great pop while staying somewhat timeless in the funk world, that truly standout right now?

I definitely have to say Lenny Kravitz is making great and timeless music. He's just fearless in his approach to taking on a tune or an album.

Gavin Degraw, while not altogether funk, does a have soulful vibe while holding down the pop/rock scene. I love his tunes.

And I think Andy Allo, is making some incredible mature music. If you haven't heard of this young artist who's worked alongside Prince, then you have homework. Look her up.

4) Locally who do you enjoy sharing the stage with? Nationally who would be your ideal tour, as an opener, and as a headliner?

There really are a lot of great acts in Orlando. I'm grateful to have shared the stage with Tiger Weather, Jonnie Morgan Band, One31, Frank Rose (Brown Study), Evan Taylor Jones, Empire Theory, The Crazy Carls, Beeps and Her Money Makers, and I can't forget my backing band, Monie, Whitey Rodriguez, Mikel Larrinaga, Raphael Rivera, who are some of Orlando's top session players.

Nationally, I would love to tour with Lenny Kravitz, or Gavin Degraw, or John Mayer, or all of them in big tour. Wow that would be amazing.

5) If you could sell your soul for one tune to call it yours, which one would it be, any tune?

So many to choose from, but I'd have to go with "I Want You Back" by the Jackson 5. It's such a fun tune. It's been performed by so many different artists. As soon as you hear the first few lines of music from it, you already know what song it is.

Oh gosh, but I could never sell my soul. If I did I wouldn't be able to enjoy that tune that I got to write!

Where and when can people see you live next, and where can they download or stream your tracks now?

I'll be doing a concert at the Social October 21 in downtown, Orlando, FL. You can visit my website www.BillyWrightLive.com to listen to a few tunes. My latest album "Sunrise" can also be downloaded on iTunes, Amazon, or CD Baby. CD Baby gives you the option of having a physical copy of the album.

I also have a new EP tentatively scheduled to release Oct 29th