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## REGGIE WASHINGTON



### ★ BIOGRAPHY

Born into a musical family in 1962 on Staten Island, New York, Reggie Washington's first musical experiences were with his older brother, the renowned drummer, jazz historian and noted radio personality Kenny "The Jazz Maniac" Washington. Initially drawn to congas and bongos, Reggie performed with his brother Kenny in talent competitions and clubs around New York, billed as "The Washington Brothers." Reggie later studied cello before switching to acoustic bass in the school orchestra and eventually coming in contact with the electric bass guitar through his brother's friend, Marcus Miller (who would later gain fame playing, producing and recording with the likes of Miles Davis, Luther Vandross, David Sanborn and Wayne Shorter). As Reggie recalls, "Marcus and Kenny would sit up and listen to records and eat food all night long, then get up in the morning and go to school. Being four years younger, I just sat in the corner and watched them the whole time. Marcus had his electric bass there and would let me fool around on it. He would also show me a few things, and I just took to it really quickly."

Reggie studied upright bass at the Henry Street Settlement with teacher Paul West, who had studied with Washington's all-time favorite jazz bassist, Sam Jones. "I love Paul Chambers, Ray Brown, Oscar Pettiford, Scott LaFaro and all those cats. But Sam Jones just had a certain thing that I especially liked. His note selection was different from everybody's."

Washington played his very first session on electric bass in 1982 (a John Purcell session with pianist Kenny Kirkland, saxophonist Joe Ford, guitarist Marvin Horn and drummer Buddy Williams). He continued to focus exclusively on the electric bass through the '80s, getting some pointers along the way from other noted electric bassists at the time such as Kim Clarke, Melvin Gibbs and Rev. Bruce Johnson. "They all poured all kinds of information into my head," says Reggie, "and it proved to be really helpful to me, then and now."

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At the urging of his brother Kenny, Reggie began re-investigating the upright bass in the late '80s while continuing to play electric bass on sessions and gigs. In 1989, he joined Steve Coleman's Five Elements and subsequently recorded more than a dozen sessions with the alto saxophonist and M-Base co-founder over the next 15 years. Another important connection during the late '80s and early '90s was with revered drummer and bandleader Chico Hamilton. As he says, "Chico is part of the fabric of musical history. He's the last of a few originals still around...him and Roy Haynes. But Chico taught me more about cultural exchange - how to conduct myself as a black man in Europe, how to conduct myself with dignity and class. And above all, he taught me to respect the bandstand, to respect the music, to respect who we are and what we're contributing and putting out into the world. Chico was the consummate pro. He always played with fire and his attitude was: "When you come to the bandstand, it's time to hit. You can be tired, you can be drunk, you can be sick, you can be jetlagged or whatever, but when you hit the bandstand you come up there and be professional."

Aside from holding down the groove for Steve Coleman's Five Elements, Reggie has also played for such notable groups as Roy Hargrove's RH Factor, Branford Marsalis's Buckshot LeFonque and Oliver Lake Steel Quartet. His extensive list of credits includes work with African drum master Babatunde Olatunje, calypso star Mighty Sparrow, jazz singer Cassandra Wilson, R&B singer D'Angelo, guitarist Jean-Paul Bourelly, pianist Uri Caine, trumpeter Lester Bowie, clarinetist Don Byron, alto saxophonist Arthur Blythe, the World Saxophone Quartet, Mike Mainieri's Steps Ahead, saxophonist Jacques Schwarz-Bart, bassist-vocalist Meshell N'degeocello and cabaret diva Ute Lemper. In 2006, he stepped out as a leader himself for the first time in his career with "A Lot of Love, LIVE!", on the Jammin'colorS label. The CD has received stellar reviews internationally & accolades from journalists & colleagues worldwide in the music business. It is being played on U.S.A. & European radio to touch a wider & more diverse audience.

Since 2005, Reggie has toured with his bands through Europe, the U.K. in the U.S.A to very receptive and appreciative audiences. Bass Player magazine presented Reggie in its August 2007 issue entitled "The Eternal Internal" by journalist Bill Milkowski. In 2008, Reggie was among the winners of the Rising Stars electric bassist category in DownBeat magazine's International Critics Poll. He was also featured in the April 2008 issue of Jazz Times magazine in an article entitled "Overdue Ovation; Groove Instincts."

"My music represents the cutting edge of jazz today," says Reggie. "It's a healthy musical mix paying homage to our forefathers and exploring our craft by journeying down new roads to help pave the way for the future. For me, our music must evolve, and I feel I'm among the select group of musicians/artists/stylists capable and dedicated to keeping jazz and all music alive and strong."

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### ★ DISCOGRAPHY

#### AS A LEADER:

Reggie Washington – A Lot Of Love, LIVE ! (2006)

#### AS A SIDEMAN :

Malcolm Braff Trio - Inside (2011)

Yosuke Onuma - Jam Ka (2010)

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Doug Hammond - New Beginning (2009)  
Jacques Schwarz-Bart – Abyss (2008)  
Baba Sissoko- Bamako Jazz (2007)  
Reggie Washington – A Lot Of Love, Live ! (2006)  
Chris Joris & Bob Stewart- Rainbow Country (2006)  
Compilation- Milestones (2006)  
Compilation- Verve Today (2006)  
Roy Hargrove & RH Factor – Distractions (2005)  
Mike Mainieri & Steps Ahead- Vibe (2004)  
Roy Hargrove & RH Factor – Hardgroove (2003)  
Roy Hargrove & RH Factor – Strength (2003)  
Steve Coleman - On the Rising of the 64 Paths (2003)  
Ruth Naomi Floyd– Root To The Fruit (2003)  
Cassandra Wilson- Sings Standards (2002)  
Steve Coleman- Alternate Dimensions Series 1 (2002)  
Oliver Lake Steel Quartet- Dat Love (2002)  
Oz Noy – Live at the Bitter End (2002)  
John B. Arnold - Logorhythms (2002)  
Akiko- Akiko's Holiday (2002)  
Oliver Lake Steel Quartet - Have Yourself a MerryE (2001)  
Richard Leo Johnson- Language (2001)  
Uri Caine - Goldberg Variations (2000)  
Steve Coleman - The Sonic Language of Myth (1999)  
Oliver Lake Steel Quartet- Kinda Up (1999)  
Errol Parker – Remembering Billy Strayhorn (1999)  
Ronald Shannon Jackson - Beast in The Spider Monkey (1999)  
Ronnie Cuber- The Scene Is Clean (1999)  
Jean-Paul Bourelly – Boom Bop (1999)  
Steve Coleman - The Sonic Language of Myth (1999)  
Jean-Paul Bourelly – Vibe Music (1998)  
Don Byron - Nu Blaxploitations (1998)  
Andy Milne- Forward To Get Back (1998)  
Errol Parker – A Night In Tunisia (1998)  
Steve Coleman- Genesis & The Opening of the Way (1997)  
Buckshot Lefonque- Music Evolution (1996)  
Steve Coleman- Def Trance Beat (1995)  
Steve Coleman- Myth, Modes & Means (1995)  
Steve Coleman- The Way of the Cipher (1995)  
Jean-Paul Bourelly - Fade To Cacophony (1995)  
Ruth Naomi Floyd– With New Eyes (1995)  
Compilation- Volkswagen meets Jazz (1995)

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Steve Coleman- Tale of 3 Cities (1994)  
Compilation- Reaction (1994)  
Steve Coleman- Tao of Mad Phat (1993)  
Jean-Paul Bourelly – Rock the Cathartic Spirit (1993)  
Steve Coleman- Drop Kick (1992)  
M-Base Collective- Anatomy of A Groove (1992)  
Cassandra Wilson – She Who Weeps (1992)  
Steve Coleman- Black Science (1991)  
DJ Jazzy Jef & Fresh Prince- Ring My Bell (1991)  
Hi-Five- Introducing Hi-5 (1991)  
R. Kelly- Born Into the 90's (1991)  
Steve Coleman- Rhythm People (1990)  
Chico Hamilton – Euphoria (1989)  
Jean-Paul Bourelly – Trippin (1988)  
Clyne Criner- The Color of Dark (1987)  
Chico Hamilton – Arroyo (1987)  
R. S. Jackson- Live @ The Greenwich House (1986)  
R. Shannon Jackson- Live @ The Caravan  
of Dreams w/Chief Twin Seven 7 (1985)

★ **QUOTES**

“Washington's long-overdue debut, “A Lot of Love, Live!” (Jammin'Colors) highlights his distinctly different approaches to upright and electric basses while also demonstrating his melodic penchant as a soloist on both instruments”.

**Bill Milkowski – Bass Player Magazine**

“The last track on the album, an overdubbed bass extravaganza titled “Fanny's Toy” that has Washington laying down three bass tracks on top of a slamming drum sample from Questlove (Ahmir Khalib Thompson) of the Roots, is a glimpse of things to come from Washington”.

**Jazz Times**

“The new CD, ‘A Lot Of Love, LIVE!’ by Reggie Washington is a jazz therapy for your soul. A hard-bop foundation with a funk groove that flows smoothly from start to finish.”

**Paul J. Youngman**

“Washington proves how much more effective such music can be when a bass player opts for serving the needs of the music, as opposed to overplaying. Both his time and his choice of notes are emblematic of a player who is tighter than tight with his time-honoured role and how to expand upon it.”

**Nic Jones**



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"Washington's M-Base background is more up front, especially when he's on electric bass. 'Jade 4 Giada' is an energetic piece of funk where Lake, Coltrane & Washington seem to be joined at the hip in a remarkable series of stop and starts."

**John Kelman**

"Un Jazz bouillonnant au groove intense!"

**Jean-Pierre Goffin**

"Réjoui, l'album est un beau témoignage de l'actualité et de la grande classe du bassiste."

**Jean-Marie Hacquier**

\* "Un CD moderniste, porté par un intense groove funky"

**André Joassin**

Ce CD est un 'simple' album Live (à quand un opus studio?) mais gravé dans des ambiances chaleureuses et communicatives. Mention particulière, cela va de soi, aux quatres cordes de feu du leader, dont on découvre aussi, Ô Joie, les talents du contrebassiste."

**Matthieu Devert**

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## REGGIE WASHINGTON

### ★ PROJECTS

#### › REGGIE WASHINGTON TRIO

**REGGIE WASHINGTON - Woody bass**

**JEF LEE JOHNSON - guitar**

[George Duke, McCoy Tyner, Rachelle Ferrell, D'Angelo]

**GENE LAKE - drums**

[Me'shell Ndegeocello, Steve Coleman, David Sanborn, Dave Douglas]

This is jazz therapy for your soul. A hard-bop foundation with a funk groove that flows smoothly from start to finish.

#### › « MUSIC OF THE PHRASE »

**REGGIE WASHINGTON - Woody bass**

**JEF LEE JOHNSON - guitar**

[George Duke, McCoy Tyner, Rachelle Ferrell, D'Angelo]

**PATRICK DORCEAN - drums & laptop**

[Fred Wesley, Zap Mama, Manou Gallo, Mark King]

**DJ GRAZZHOPPA - turntables & laptop**

[James Poyser, Aka Moon, Manu Katché, Marc Ribot]

Since his tenure with Branford Marsalis & Buckshot LeFonque, Reggie has desired to experiment with a DJ/mixologist in a group setting. "MoTP" re-interprets great musical "phrases" from the vast genre Reggie grew up on. Reggie brings his sensitivity, taste, knowledge and respect of all the languages in this new project.

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### > REGGIE WASHINGTON QUARTET

#### REGGIE WASHINGTON - basses

#### JACQUES SCHWARZ-BART - saxophones

[Ari Hoenig, Roy Hargrove & RH Factor, Erykah Badu, Danilo Perez]

#### MILAN MILANOVIC - piano/keyboards

[Mark Whitfield, Branford Marsalis, Greg Tardy, Stefon Harris]

#### E .J. STRICKLAND - drums

[Ravi Coltrane, Abbey Lincoln, Christian McBride, Dianne Reeves]

The quartet was formed after great success touring as a trio.

This roster of musicians breathe new life into the quartet format, giving Reggie the space to play melody & harmony as well as just bass !

### > « WASHINGTON TRIO TREE »

#### REGGIE WASHINGTON - WOODY BASS

#### JOZEF DUMOULIN - FENDER RHODES

[Magic Malik Orchestra, Octurn, Toots Thielemans, Bill Carrothers]

#### JASON « J.T. » THOMAS - DRUMS

[Marcus Miller, Roy Hargrove's RH Factor, Les McCan, Wayman Tisdale]

The sumptuous TRee... where we invite you to discover the roots, the trunk, the massive branches, the leaves, the fruit, the shadow and the light. Reggie Washington is a purist at heart, hungry with new & fresh ideas.



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## ★ TERRITORIES

Worldwide

## ENDORSEMENTS

Markbass amps, Dean Markley strings & Phifer Designs Signature basses



MY SPACE :

[www.myspace.com/reggielashington](http://www.myspace.com/reggielashington)



FAN PAGE :

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Reggie-ashington/29092408955?ref=>

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