



Bear Williams

FUN FACTS

Born October 11th in Chicago, Illinois

To Helen Williams and Allen Kimpel

First Musical Experience

Aunt Ruby paid for Piano Lessons @ Age 5

Transformative Musical Experience

Self-Taught the Bass Guitar @ Age 12

First Musical Inspiration

Superfly Soundtrack LP - Curtis Mayfield

First Musical Mentor & Supporter

George Hunter - Hirsch High School Band

Mr. Hunter is responsible for Bear's first recording session work in Chicago with Gene Chandler, Jerry Butler, Shirley Bassey and more. He also hired Bear to play bass with his 20 piece Big Band, George Hunter & The Moonlighters. Bear was just 16 at the time.

First Touring Gig

Mavis Staples & The Staple Singers

From 1978 to 1981 Bear Williams had the pleasure of backing up this Iconic, Award Winning Soul/Gospel Group from Chicago.

Musical Milestone

Hired to tour with Anita Baker - 1991 & 1994

This is the gig that really put Bear Williams on the map and on the road to his recording career in Los Angeles with a myriad of artists.

Musical Re-Invention

Founding The Bear Williams Band - 2017

After moving back home to Chicago in 2016, Bear, whose given name is Larry Kimpel, set out to reinvent himself by taking his love of the Blues to the next level. Thus, Bear Williams was born.

Creative Output

Recording and Producing The Blues & Beyond

Bear has released the CD's "Waters Of Love", "Blues Rebel" and a myriad of singles. Chicago Reader, Living Blues, Blues Blast Magazine have both praised Bear's work. TMF is Bear's newest collaboration with fellow former members of the group Maze Featuring Frankie Beverly and Award Winning Lead Vocalist, Chris Walker. TMF's first single, "Making Love To The Music" is presently #1 on the IBA music chart.

PERSONAL BITS

Bear is married to his high school sweetheart, Dee Kimpel. They have four adult children, two girls and two boys. They also have three wonderful Grandsons. Bear's hobbies are learning about Airplanes and the Science of Flight, Classic Cars, The History of world conflicts and dictatorships, and the History of Sailing Ships and Ocean Liners. Bear also loves Comedy and Action-Adventure Films.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2023 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award

2012 BET Lifetime Achievement Award

Platinum Album - Anita Baker "Compositions"

Gold Album - Anita Baker "Rhythm Of Love"

Gold Album - George Duke "Snapshot"

Gold Album - Rachele Ferrell "Self-Titled"

Gold Album - Norman Brown "After The Storm"

Gold Album - Maze Featuring Frankie Beverly
"Back To Basics"

Keys To The Cities Of: NOLA, Baton Rouge,
Cincinnati, Philadelphia, & Detroit

CONNECT WITH BEAR



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