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ARTIST BIO: JIMMY JOHNSON

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Grammy Award nominated guitar player and vocalist, Jimmy Johnson has carved out his own unique niche in a world renowned Chicago blues scene that is teeming with talent. A consummate bandleader, his soulful vocals and jazzy guitar licks are rendered with a tasteful passion that emphasizes the groove, placing the group sound above the individual. Jimmy's performing experience spans the globe from Europe to Japan, as well as prestigious festivals, concert halls and universities across the US and Canada.

Raised in an exceptionally musical family in the small town of Holly Springs, Mississippi, Jimmy's younger brothers became professional musicians while older brother Jimmy was still working as a welder. Mac spent many years as Magic Sam's bassist, while brother Syl Johnson, became a popular soul singer with a string of R&B hits to his credit (including the original version of "Take Me To The River"). Jimmy began singing in the local church choir, and later, sang and played guitar with several spiritual groups in Memphis and eventually Chicago.

It wasn't until the late fifties that Jimmy became a professional performer himself. In 1959 he began playing with bluesmen Magic Sam and Freddie King, and gigged with harmonica Slim Willis and others. Though his first love was the blues, there was a better living to be made as a R&B artist. Jimmy spent the next 20 years jobbing as a highly successful soul/R&B guitarist and bandleader on Chicago's south and west sides.

But Jimmy grew tired of covering everyone else's hits. He wanted to be his own man, a bluesman. In 1974 he began his "back to the blues" campaign when he signed on as rhythm guitarist with Jimmy Dawkins. He toured Japan with Dawkins and Otis Rush, appearing on Rush's live Japanese recording and two Dawkins' studio LPs, before putting together his own band.

Jimmy's approach to the blues is straight-ahead and sincere, earning him a variety of national and international awards. In 1978, Johnson's name first garnered national attention, as well as a Grammy nomination, when Alligator included four of his tracks on *Living Chicago Blues, Vol 1*. These cuts, and the soon-to-follow records on the Delmark label (*Johnson's Whacks* in 1979 and *North/South* in 1982), established Johnson as a witty and prolific songwriter combining elements of soul, R&B, jazz, and gospel into a blues style all his own. His first W.C. Handy Award (presented by the International Blues Foundation) for Best Contemporary Foreign Blues LP of the Year came by way of his 1985 album on the Red Lightnin' label. *I'm A Jockey* (1995), his first world wide release on Verve/Polygram, garnered yet another Handy Award for Comeback Album of the Year. This followed his critically acclaimed album *Bar Room Preacher* (1985), on Alligator Records where Village Voice called his original compositions "as thoughtful and every bit as striking as Robert Cray's." Jimmy's latest world-wide release *Every Road Ends Somewhere* (1999), is available on Ruf Records.

Whether preaching the blues from festival and concert hall stages, or packing the dance floor at colleges and clubs, Jimmy has the special ability to please any audience, uninitiated and die-hard blues lovers alike.

CAREER RELEASES

1977	Jimmy Johnson & Luther Johnson	MCM
1978	Tobacco Road [live]	MCM
1979	Johnson's Whacks	Delmark
1982	North/South	Delmark
1985	Bar Room Preacher	Alligator
1995	I'm a Jockey	Verve
1999	Every Road Ends Somewhere	Ruf
2000	Pepper's Hangout	Delmark (originally recorded 1977)
2002	Two Johnson's Better Than One	Evidence (w/ Syl Johnson)
2007	Living the Life	Blueshadow

APPEARS ON

1927	Stars of the Apollo	Stars of the Apollo	Orchestra
1969	Rush, Otis	Mourning in the Morning	Guitar
1970	Taylor, Ted	You Can Dig It	Producer
1971	Harpo, Slim	Trigger Finger	Guitar
1977	Guy, Buddy	Live in Montreux	Guitar, Vocals
1978	Benton, Buster	Spider in My Stew	Guitar
1978	Rush, Otis	So Many Roads	Guitar
1978	Living Chicago Blues	Living Chicago Blues-Vol.1	Guitar, Vocals
1979	Benton, Buster	Blues Buster	Guitar
1981	Clearwater, Eddy	Two Times Nine	Guitar
1984	Arnold, Billy Boy	Ten Million Dollars	Guitar
1986	Hill, Z.Z.	Greatest Hits	Guitar
1986	Genuine Houserockin' Music	Genuine Houserockin' Music-Vol. 1	Guitar, Vocals
1986	Hyman, Dick	Gulf Coast Blues	Composer
1987	New Bluebloods	New Bluebloods	Guitar
1988	Genuine Houserockin' Music	Genuine Houserockin' Music-Vol. 3	Guitar, Vocals
1991	Little Milton	Reality	Guitar
1991	Odom, Andrew	Going to California	Guitar
1992	Parker, Junior	Junior's Blues/The Duke Recordings	Sax (Tenor)
1992	Little Milton	Strugglin' Lady	Guitar
1993	40th Anniversary Blues	40th Anniversary Blues	Guitar, Vocals
1994	Penn, Dan	Do Right Man	Guitar (Electric)
1996	Mean Old World: The Blues fr...	Mean Old World: The Blues from 1940	Guitar, Vocals
1998	Little Milton	For Real	Guitar