

STANTON MOORE

Biography

Born and raised in New Orleans (and living there still, when he's not on the road), Stanton Moore is very much a product of geography, culture and creative networking. He grew up in the thriving music scene of his hometown that included Professor Longhair, Doctor John, the Meters and countless other Big Easy mainstays.

In the early '90s, Moore hooked up with guitarist Jeff Raines, bassist Robert Mercurio and keyboardist Rich Vogel and saxophonist Ben Ellman to form the New Orleans-based "steam-roller" funk band known as Galactic. After receiving his bachelor's degree in music and business from Loyola University, Moore and the band made their first record (the widely acclaimed *Coolin' Off*) and hit the road to do nearly 200 gigs a year for the first ten years of Galactic's existence. The band has since released five more albums since *Coolin' Off*, and continues to amass a worldwide audience via recording and touring globally.

Aided by eight-string guitar virtuoso Charlie Hunter and saxophonist Skerik (Les Claypool, John Scofield, Roger Waters), Moore launched his solo career in the late '90s with the *All Kooked Out!*, an album recorded in New Orleans just after Mardi Gras in 1998 and released later that year. In addition to the Moore-Hunter-Skerik core, *All Kooked Out!* also featured a handful of New Orleans horn players, including Brent Rose, Brian Seeger, Matt Perrine, Ben Ellman, and former Sun Ra trumpeter Michael Ray. Moore extended the solo discography with the 2001 release of *Flyin' the Koop* (Verve/Blue Thumb).

In the midst of Moore's *All Kooked Out!* sessions, yet another concept was taking shape. Outtakes from the session turned into the first Garage a Trois release, *Mysteryfunk* (1999). In 2000, the trio was augmented by percussionist Mike Dillon (Les Claypool, Ani DeFranco) and has since released two more albums – *Emphasizer* in 2003 and *Outre Mer* (on Telarc) in 2005 – both with Moore behind the drum kit.

Moore continued his Telarc affiliation with the September 2006 release of *III*, his third solo recording. Boasting a trademark sound that *Modern Drummer* has called "infectious, jazz-meets-Bonham, nouveau second-line," *III* featured organist Robert Walter (Greyboy Allstars, The Head Hunters), guitarist Will Bernard (T.J. Kirk, Doctor Lonnie Smith), along with a few special guests: Skerik and trombonist Mark Mullins (Galactic, Bonerama, Harry Connick, Jr., Better Than Ezra). The album was recorded at the legendary Preservation Hall in New Orleans.

Emphasis (on parenthesis), the followup to *III*, is due in stores in April 2008. The album includes the scaled back session crew of Moore, Robert Walter and Will Bernard. "When it came time to do another record," says Moore, "I had already known for a while that I wanted to build on the momentum of this band – three musicians who were becoming a unit unto themselves – and I wanted to get a little more adventurous with the music itself."

Moore has also been keeping busy with numerous side projects, including new albums with Galactic and Garage a Trois. He's also working on his second book/DVD project, *Groove Alchemy*, an instructional package focusing on groove drumming (*Groove Alchemy* is the followup to a similar instructional package in 2005 that focused on New Orleans drumming styles).

He stays very involved in education, constantly teaching private lessons in New Orleans and on the road. He was a contributing writer for *Drum!* magazine and is currently a regular writer for *Modern Drummer*, which featured him on their April 2004 cover. Showing a rare versatility, he appeared (within the same year) on Heavy Metal Grammy nominees Corrosion of Conformity's *In the Arms of God*, Irma Thomas' *After the Rain* and Robert Walter's *Super Heavy Organ*. In 2005, he launched a signature line of cymbals with Bosphorus Cymbals and a signature drum stick with the Vic Firth stick company.

Despite some severe property damage and other personal setbacks in the aftermath of Katrina, Moore was quick to lend a hand to other drummers in New Orleans by donating cymbals and other gear to musicians whose equipment was damaged by the storm. He has also played a number of benefit concerts in the past year to help raise money for Katrina victims. He recently spearheaded the Tipitina's Music Workshop to work with young and developing musicians in the New Orleans area. The workshop will focus on the preservation of New Orleans music and culture and will host a rotating cast of well known local and national musicians to work with the attendees. He continues to play dates throughout the Big Easy as well as globally with an ever-evolving cast of musicians: John Scofield; Karl Denson; George Porter, Jr., and Leo Nocentelli (of the Meters); Charlie Hunter; Warren Haynes; John Medeski and John Wood (of Medeski, Martin and Wood); Donald Harrison Jr.; Robert Walter; the New Orleans Klezmer All-Stars; the Preservation Hall Jazz Band; Corrosion of Conformity; and Irma Thomas to name a few.

###