



GEORG LEITNER PRODUCTIONS GmbH
PRESENTS

The Earth Wind & Fire
Experience
featuring
The Al McKay Allstars

14th August 2010 – Vintage At Goodwood Festival

Ticket hotline: 01243 755 055 (10am – 4pm, Monday – Friday)

Online bookings:

<http://ticketing.goodwood.com/GoodwoodTicketing/Admissions.aspx?webid=3>

Five Time Grammy Award Winner & Founding Member Of Earth Wind & Fire Brings His Delicious Live Show To The UK

The Earth Wind & Fire Experience featuring The Al McKay Allstars will headline the main stage at the new **Vintage At Goodwood Festival**, set against the stunning backdrop of the Goodwood Estate, West Sussex, on **Saturday 14th August**.

Earth Wind & Fire has touched the hearts of two generations with its incredible music. Between 1973 & 1981 **Al McKay** was an instrumental force behind the music of **Earth Wind & Fire**. He worked together with **Maurice White** in establishing the sound that would catapult the group to stardom. **Al McKay** was not only musical director of the band but he was also the co-composer of many of the band's hits including '**September**' & '**Sing a Song**'.

With his **Allstars** band, **Al McKay** continues the musical legacy of **Earth Wind & Fire** like no other act in the world!

The current **Allstars** band consists of - **Al McKay** on guitar, **Aaron Haggerty** on drums, **Michael Harris & Michael Hunter** on trumpet, **David Leach** on percussion, **Freddie Flewelen**



on bass, **Ben Dowling** on keyboards, **Ed Wynne** on sax, **Justin Kelly** on trombone, **Dean Gant** on keyboards and vocal chores being handled by **Tim Owens**, **Claude Woods** and **DeVere Duckett**.

The Al McKay Allstars band has performed at all the major jazz festivals across the world including the famous **Java Jazz** in Jakarta, **Umbria Jazz Festival** in Italy and the prestigious **Montreux Jazz Festival** in Switzerland and now they bring their live show to the UK.

With **The Earth Wind & Fire Experience** featuring **The Al McKay Allstars** the audience gets one of the best live shows around, performed by top musicians and led by the man who created the sound – **Al McKay**. It's an experience you do not want to miss!

Al McKay Biography

Al McKay is a World famous guitarist and multi-platinum songwriter, a veteran session player, sideman and in-demand instrumentalist, both on stage and in the studio; A bandleader of international renown.

That legend began early for **Al McKay**. Born in the musical melting pot of New Orleans, both his mother and father were accomplished artists in their own right. But it was his uncle who introduced the five year-old **Al** to his first guitar and, after seeing **Elvis Presley** in *Loving You*, the fledgling musician's career path was set. With influences that ranged from **Freddie King** to **Duane Eddy**; **The Everly Brothers** to **James Brown**, **Al** took his talent and ambition with him when he relocated to Southern California to live with an aunt after his mother became ill.

Continuing to polish his guitar chops, **Al** landed his first professional gig at the tender age of eighteen, not long after his high school graduation. A mutual friend had invited him to meet R&B kingpin **Ike Turner**, and when **Al** pointed out a mistake **Turner** was making while rehearsing a version of **The Temptations'** *"Losing You,"* with his band, he was offered a job on the spot as guitarist for the **Ike & Tina Turner Revue**.

A musical education second to none, **Al's** tenure with the **Revue** lasted a year and a half, after which time he returned to his L.A. home base where he immediately garnered a reputation as a versatile session player, working on stage and in the studio with an diverse array of jazz, pop and R&B artists and eventually landing a short stint with funk progenitors, **Charles Wright** and **the Watts 103rd St. Band**.

Through his connections on the burgeoning L.A. music scene, **Al** was subsequently introduced to the late great **Sammy Davis Jr.** who also hired him on the spot after hearing him work out on the latest development for guitar special effects, the wah-wah pedal. Constant touring, Las Vegas engagements and the occasional studio session, all as part of **Sammy's** backing band further honed **Al's** impressive abilities and when he finally moved on, there was no shortage of



offers to keep the hot young guitarist on the A-list. Everyone from **Andy Williams** and **Pearl Bailey** to **The Sylvers** and **Isaac Hayes** made use of his distinctive sound.

It was then that **AI** was approached by a freshly minted band out of Chicago with a whole new music approach, who called themselves **Earth, Wind & Fire**. The rest, as they say, is history. From 1973, when he first joined the group, up until 1981 when he left to take a well-deserved break from the hectic world of major musical stardom, **AI** was responsible not only for a lion's share of the group's instantly recognizable sound, but was also writer and co-writer on some of their most enduring hits. Along with founder **Maurice White**, **McKay** penned such **EW&F** perennials as "**September**" and "**Sing a Song**," which both became chart-topping signature tracks for the group. But it wasn't only within the band that **AI's** songwriting shined. As co-writer of **The Emotions's** smash hit "**The Best Of My Love**," he contributed one of the most enduring songs of the era, raising the bar on the art of pop craftsmanship in the process. His production skills were unveiled when he produced a track for the **Emotions** entitled **Boogie Wonderland**. **Maurice White** heard the track and immediately took it for the band and the rest was history.

After eight years, seven albums, uncounted thousands of tour miles and a virtually unequalled stack of hit records, **AI** left **Earth, Wind & Fire**. While he continued to keep his hand in music through various production and writing projects, his primary focus was on raising his young son. As a single parent, **AI** turned aside from the demands of a busy career and for several years kept a low profile to put the emphasis on his personal life.

When he re-emerged, in the early 90's, it was with a different direction and whole new energy. Since live performing and having the chance to connect directly with his audience has always been the single most satisfying aspect of **AI's** multi-faceted career, it's no surprise that his comeback would entail gathering the best and brightest musicians to create an unparalleled concert experience. As the front man for what became first known as **The L.A. Allstars** and then **The AI McKay Allstars**, he fashioned a large and revolving cast of superior supporting players to fully explore new musical territory, even as they helped to celebrate **AI's** incredible history with performance highlights from his years with **Earth, Wind & Fire**.

A major attraction throughout Asia, **The Allstars** have become a premier international concert draw among diehard fans of **AI** and his music, as well as a whole new generation only now discovering this singularly talented artist with a sound that belongs to no one else.

Essential Weblinks

AI McKay (Official website): <http://www.almckay.com/>
AI McKay (My Space): <http://www.myspace.com/almckay>

For more information, please contact:
Tracy Gosling - Unique PR Ltd
Email: tracy@unique-pr.co.uk / Tel: 07779 109 540