

Who is Victor Lemonte Wooten?

He is an innovator, composer, arranger, producer, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist. He is a skilled naturalist and teacher, a published author, a magician, husband and father of four, and a five-time Grammy award winner. But those gifts only begin to tell the tale of this Tennessee titan.

Victor, known for his solo recordings and tours, and as a member of the Grammy-winning supergroup, Béla Fleck & The Flecktones, has won most every major award given to a bass guitarist. He was voted Bassist of the year by Bass Player Magazine three times and is the only person to have won the award more than once.

The youngest sibling of the five amazing Wooten brothers (Regi, Roy, Rudy and Joseph), Victor began playing music very early in life. Growing up in a military family in which his older brothers all played and sang, Victor began his musical journey under the tutelage of his oldest brother Regi. Realizing that the family band would be complete if they had a bass player, ten-year-old Regi began showing two-year-old Victor how to play. By the time he was 3, Victor was performing neighborhood concerts with his brothers in the front yard of their home in Hawaii. At age six, he was touring with his brothers as the opening band for soul legend Curtis Mayfield. After living in Sacramento, CA a few years, the family moved east where the Wooten Brothers continued to hone their skills playing countless clubs and concerts along the east coast.

Victor was influenced by bass mentors, Stanley Clarke, Larry Graham and Bootsy Collins, but sites his brothers and parents as his main influences. "In music and in life, my parents and brothers were the foundation. They prepared me for life by giving and teaching me love and honesty. They also taught me to keep my mind open and learn to adapt to life's ever-changing circumstances. Their guidance has helped me stay grounded today." By the early '80s, now living in Newport News, Virginia, the brothers became mainstays at Busch Gardens theme park in nearby Williamsburg.

Victor was hired as a bluegrass fiddler after older brother, Roy, convinced Busch Gardens' administrators that Victor could play. "I remember getting a phone call from Roy. He told me that he'd gotten me a job playing fiddle. I'd never played fiddle in my life. Roy asked me if I thought that I could learn to do it. I said, 'yeah.' So, I borrowed a violin from my high school and learned a few fiddle tunes. The people at Busch never knew. I worked there in the country show for many years."

It was while working in the theme park that Victor and his brothers made connections with musicians in Nashville and New York. In 1988 Victor moved to Nashville, where he worked with singer Jonell Mosser and met New Grass Revival banjo ace Béla Fleck. Later that same year, Fleck enlisted Vic, his brother Roy (a.k.a. Future Man) and harmonica-playing keyboardist Howard Levy to perform with him marking the birth of Flecktones. After three highly successful albums, Levy departed in 1993. The band's new trio format enabled Victor to develop and display a staggering array of fingerboard skills that turned him into a bass hero of epic proportions and helped earn the band their first Grammy. With the Flecktones in full flight, Victor set his sights on a solo career, first forming Bass Extremes with fellow low-end lord Steve Bailey (leading to an instructional book/CD and two CDs, to date), and finally releasing his critically-acclaimed and ground-breaking solo debut, *A Show of Hands*, on Compass Records in 1996 (voted one of the most important bass recordings of all time). Soon after, Victor took his solo show on the road with drummer J.D. Blair. Momentum and accolades built with successive tours and the release of *What Did He Say?* in 1997, the Grammy-nominated *Yin-Yang* in 1999, and the double CD, *Live In America* in 2001.

Victor's uncanny skills and growing popularity lead to recordings and performances with artists such as Branford Marsalis, Mike Stern, Bruce Hornsby, Chick Corea, Dave Matthews, Prince, Keb Mo, Gov't Mule, Susan Tedeschi, Vital Tech Tones (with Scott Henderson and Steve Smith), the Jaco Pastorius *Word Of Mouth* Big Band, and the soundtrack of the Disney film *Country Bears*.

In 2005 Victor revisited his solo side with the release of *Soul Circus* (Vanguard Records). A three-ring affair, the disc boasts such guests as the Wooten brothers, Bootsy Collins, Arrested Development rapper/vocalist Speech, Howard Levy, Dennis Chambers, Sandra Williams, J.D. Blair, Derico Watson, fellow Flecktone Jeff Coffin, and a who's-who of bassists, including Steve Bailey, Oteil Burbridge, Will Lee, Rhonda Smith, Christian McBride, T.M. Stevens, Bill Dickens, and Gary Grainger.

Palmystery (Heads Up Records), Victor's latest solo work, showcases a wide array of playing and writing skills with songs like Left, Right, and Center (featuring three drummers all playing together), Miss U (featuring The Lee Boys), Us 2 (featuring Victor on slide bass along with blues man Keb Mo), and the thought provoking I Saw God which boldly states "He look like me – She look like you." (Featured in the movie The Moses Code)

Victor also spearheaded the idea for the super group SMV (Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller, Victor Wooten). Their new release, Thunder (Heads Up Records), as well as the Thunder tour has quickly become a must-have, must-see product for people all around the world.

Victor Wooten's Bass/Nature Camp, now in it's tenth year, has helped hundreds of musicians of all ages from all corners of the world. The camp's recent move to it's own location Wooten Woods will provide even more opportunities for Wooten and his staff to share their lifelong experiences with others.

Continuing to grow as a person, artist, and teacher, Victor Wooten is always willing to share his gifts with all who desire to learn. Offering CDs, DVDs, lectures, workshops, and camps, as well as his groundbreaking novel The Music Lesson (Berklee Publishing – a division of the Penguin Group) Victor Lemonte Wooten is guaranteed to remain a positive force in the music industry.

###

Contact:

Danette Albetta, Personal Manager
Barrett Music Management
E-Mail: BBBFB@aol.com

718-966-4723 - Office
718 966-4724 - Fax

www.VictorWooten.com