



In formulating ideas for this project, I thought about what keeps me coming back to certain artists and recordings. I concluded it has little to do with technical virtuosity, but more to do with what stimulates my emotional sensibilities. Experiencing the soulful singing of artists such as Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin and many of the artists on the Motown imprint helped to shape an aural blueprint for me as a performing artist. The innovative funk of James Brown with groove master Clyde Stubblefield was also hugely influential and much inspiration came from session drumming masters Al Jackson, Jr., Benny "Papa Zita" Benjamin and Uriel Jones. The soul stirring gospel sounds of the Reverend James Cleveland and Mahalia Jackson rang out jubilantly in my home...paralleling the psychedelic soul/rock/funk of Sly Stone and the Funkadelic and the rock and blues of Jimi Hendrix, Cream, Led Zeppelin, Muddy Waters and later the swing and sophistication of Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Tony Williams. These artists and many more over time helped to shape my musical foundation, which is passionately rooted in soul, rock, funk and jazz.

I remember my first experience as a teenager coming into the 70's playing with other musicians. The conversations usually started with how the feel of the music would be defined. Bringing some soul to the groove was the most important element. We lived for the interplay of the band concept which is missing in much of soul music today. Together, there was a unified musical mindset along with a very warm, special camaraderie. For this project it was important for me to use musicians that lived this history and understood the conceptual intentions. How do you get there if you've never lived it? When we believe what we play, those listening will believe what they hear. The Americana term references American roots music...folk, bluegrass, blues, R&B, soul, jazz, rock, gospel and country...all based on the American groove concept. The North American Continent is where these styles emanated from and exploded onto the world's cultural landscape and brought the soul of the American groove to the masses around the globe. The Americana Groove Project's variety reflects the soulful perspectives, passion and group synergy that surround the American groove sensibility.

Jae Sinnett

## Americana Groove Project Members

Jae Sinnett....Drums, Lead Vocals & Keyboard

Terry Burrell....Bass

Weldon Hill....Hammond Organ

Jay Rakes....Guitar

## Special Guests

Justin Kauflin....Keyboard & Piano

Jennifer Gammill....Background Vocal on "Burnin Berman"

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