

John Scofield – The John Scofield Quartet Plays Live (1991)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 18 October 2009 20:07 - Last Updated Wednesday, 24 December 2014 14:56

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1. *Stranger To The Light* 2. *Meant To Be* 3. *Chariots* John Scofield - guitar Joe Lovano - saxophone Marc Johnson - bass Bill Stewart - drums

John Scofield is certainly no stranger to funk. In the early 1980s he recorded and toured with the pioneer of funky jazz-rock fusion, Miles Davis, appearing on the albums *Star People*, *Decoy*, and *You're Under Arrest*. And he was happy to hear deep, churning grooves come back into popular music at the close of the 20th century. "I've always been into funk," says the 48-year-old Scofield, "and right now the James Brown, Sly Stone, Miles Davis Bitches Brew tradition of the late '60s and early '70s is so alive in young bands like Deep Banana Blackout. At this particular time in history, there's no big generation gap, for me anyway."

An Ohio native, John Scofield was raised in Connecticut and attended Berklee College of Music in Boston in the early 70's until his quick move into the public eye with the Cobham/Duke Band. Scofield toured and recorded with his own groups as well as a wide variety of bandleaders including Mingus, Mulligan, Burton, and McShann, among others. The '80s was a period of high visibility and high volume. It was about playing huge concert halls all over the world with Miles Davis for three years, then stepping out with his own funk-powered fusion band. It was a time of tapping into the Electric Outlet (1986), cranking up the volume and playing loud jazz. At the outset of the '90s, Scofield jumped to the Blue Note label and debuted with his brilliant classic, *Time On My Hands*. After five albums on Blue Note, John wanted a change and moved to Verve Records, debuting on that label with the timeless and highly praised, *Quiet*.

Scofield brought together the elements of funk, groove, and jazz with *Bump*, his third album for the Verve label. The album is a natural progression from his acclaimed 1998 collaboration with Medeski, Martin and Wood, *A GoGo*. "I wanted to do a record of my tunes in the groove area, rather than straight-ahead jazz," confirms Scofield, "I wanted even more of a funk feel than I've

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gotten before."

Now, Scofield moves with ease back to the jazz side of his artistic talent. John Scofield's Works for Me features an all star line-up of Brad hemldau (piano), Kenny Garrett (sax), Christian McBride (bass) and Billy Higgins (drums). Equally at home in both genres - funk and straight-ahead, Scofield names his touring unit for the current release "John Scofield Real Jazz Project." ---mymusicbase.ru

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