

IN CONCERT

'What took you so long to get here?'



Garrett Dutton III, aka G. Love

G. Love & Special Sauce look to bring a fun show this Friday

By Emily Cary
Special to The Examiner

G. Love & Special Sauce serve up a banquet of hip-hop cuisine seasoned with blues and R&B. The appetizers are the John Butler Trio from Australia and surfer/guitarist Tristan Prettyman.

G. Love is the musical persona of Garrett Dutton III. Raised a few blocks from Philadelphia's Independence Hall, he attended his first Rolling Stones show in utero, saw the Blues Brothers at age 8 and rocker George Thorogood at 12, then sampled the city's rich menu of hip-hop artists from Schooly D to street performers. They and many others influenced his unique style.

The seeds of his stage name and the Quaker philosophy of love and peace running through his music were sown at Germantown Friends School in the City of Brotherly Love. The initial G. stands for Good, and Love is self-explanatory. Several songs of hope on his latest CD, "Superhero Brother," are dedicated to the children he met in the Pave-las, the slums of Rio de Janeiro,

IF YOU GO:

G. Love & Special Sauce with John Butler Trio and Tristan Prettyman
» When: 7 p.m. Friday
» Venue: Wolf Trap Filene Center
» Tickets: \$34 in-house, \$30 lawn
» More info: 877-965-3872; wolfitrap.org

during his recent tour of Brazil. "While Brazil is an amazing country, I was shocked at how such a wealthy country could allow this extreme and blatant poverty to exist in its biggest cities," he says. "We went into the Pave-las and played for the children at a surf camp/community center and had a great day with them. I wanted to write them a song, so I wrote 'Peace, Love and Happiness.' I've been playing it ever since."

After dropping out of Skidmore College, G. Love moved to Boston and worked as a fundraiser for Peace Action while establishing himself as a musician.

"At Peace Action, I lobbied against the nuclear weapons testing," he says. "We also worked on a process called economic conversion, which is essentially shifting the very large defense budget — \$56 billion in 1992 — toward humanitarian and education programs."

Gigs with the house band at The

Plough and Stars in Cambridge, Mass., led to the formation of Special Sauce — with thanks to the Big Mac chant — and the self-titled album that nearly went gold. Eight albums later, the band attracts standing room only concerts worldwide and G. Love continues to concoct songs that satisfy his love of food and fun with yummy titles like "Hot Cooking," "Lemonade," "Milk and Cereal" and "Sweet Sugar Mama."

He explains the origin of "Cold Beverages" thusly: "When I was in Brighton, Massachusetts, waiting for the brakes on my '63 Dodge Dart to get fixed and looking through this old musician's rag that my friend Washtub Robbie had passed on to me, I saw the words 'cold beverages' and thought, 'Now that's funny.' Aloud I said, 'I like cold beverages, yeah,' then I said it again, wrote down the rap in 15 minutes, got back in my car and that was that. Food, love and music. What else do you need?"

When their U.S. tour winds up in September, G. Love & Special Sauce head for a tour of Japan followed by a brief rest, writing new tunes, cutting another record and then back on the road.

On the brink of their first show at Wolf Trap, he says, "I want the audience to have the time of their lives and be like, 'Damn, G., what took you so long to get here?'"

All-star bass trio SMV hits Wolf Trap in Thunder Tour

By Emily Cary
Special to The Examiner

When Grammy Award-winning bassists Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller and Victor Wooten jammed for fun on stage at the Bass Player Live! concert in New York two years ago, it was the start of something big.

"The one song we played together worked so well, we wanted to do it again," Wooten says. "Even though our schedules made it a little difficult, we had fun putting 'Thunder' together."

The release of "Thunder," a remarkable collection of 13 toe-tapping, mix-and-match collaborations between the three "Maestros de las Frecuencias Bajas," launches the SMV 15-day whirlwind tour to major American venues, including Wolf Trap and the Hollywood Bowl, before heading to Asia and Europe.

All three have enjoyed remarkable careers and multiple honors as virtuoso solo artists, band members/leaders, producers, innovators and composers in jazz, R&B, pop, funk, fusion and classical idioms. Their noted colleagues include Miles Davis, George Duke, Stan Getz, Béla Fleck and Chick Corea, who is guest pianist on the CD's "Mongoose Walk," which features all three bassists.

Wooten, once a resident of Hampton, Va., was drawn to Nashville, Tenn., in 1987 by Fleck, Sam Bush



COURTESY PHOTO

Bassist Marcus Miller is set to play Saturday at Wolf Trap.

and other area musicians. The three-time winner of Bass Player Magazine's "Bass Player of the Year," he is admired for his double-thumbing, two-handed tapping and open-hammer-pluck techniques. His recording, "A Show of Hands," propelled the bass to the forefront as a solo instrument.

"I've always played songs, but I wanted to do a whole record to see if others would listen to the bass for a half-hour," he says. "The response pleased me."

Wooten's boundary-breaking theories about developing musical

"We've always looked at music as a language, but we teach it exactly opposite from the way we learn English."

— Bassist Victor Wooten

talent are explained in his book, "The Music Lesson: A Spiritual Search for Growth Through Music." The youngest of musical children — his brothers taught him to play bass at the age of 2 — he called on his own training and the lessons of naturalist Tom Brown Jr. to develop the program available to youngsters attending his Bass Nature Camp.

"We've always looked at music as a language, but we teach it exactly opposite from the way we learn English," he says. "Nobody tells babies how to speak. They listen to the words their parents say and pay attention to when voices are raised or lowered. Only after they learn to speak English are they are told, 'Here are the rules.'"

"Children are taught music backwards. They learn the scales first, then the rules. My brothers realized they'd have a complete band if they had a bass player, so they sat me down in the front yard of our home in Hawaii and gave me a tiny instrument. I quickly learned everything about music except the notes. If we expose children to music and allow them to freely participate, they'll learn much faster."

IF YOU GO:

SMV (superstar bassists Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller and Victor Wooten) on *The Thunder Tour*
» When: 8 p.m. Saturday
» Venue: Wolf Trap Filene Center
» Tickets: \$40 in-house, \$22 lawn
» More info: 877-865-3872, wolfitrap.org

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