Subject: Funkiest guitar player ever?
Posted by Bill L on Sun, 13 Jul 2008 14:20:34 GMT
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Many of us may not think of Wes Montgomery as a "funky" player, but
listening to a bunch of his tracks today, I realized he was perhaps the
funkiest cat that ever strummed a guitar. His thumb-only (no pick) right
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gave him some chops that I have never heard anyone equal in the
strumming area.

For those who don't know much about Wes, I highly recommend giving him a
long listen. He was a truly unique and innovative player who's potential
appeal is much wider than the typical jazz artist.

If you can find it there's a live cut of "Tequila" (one of his "hits")
that scared me so much I dropped the tune from my solo repertoire.

Subject: Re: Funkiest guitar player ever?
Posted by Gantt Kushner on Sun, 13 Jul 2008 14:43:25 GMT
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Most jazz guitar players/students/fans know all about Wes but the average
music fan might not realize just how deep and broad his musical experience
was. He was The Man! That said, I'm convinced that George Benson is still
one of the greatest living jazz guitar players. He can still do it all!

Gantt

Bill L <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote:
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Subject: Re: Funkiest guitar player ever?
Posted by TCB on Sun, 13 Jul 2008 15:26:41 GMT
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Wes was something else, for sure. On the jazz geetar front my faves are still Charlie Christian, Freddie Green (funky before the term existed), and Grant Green (no relation).

Also, another 'thumb only' guy is my fave blues player, Albert King. If I ever get serious about blues/jazz playing again I'll probably do the thumb thing. I'm OK at it now but not nearly as good as I am with a pick. And the thumb doesn't work with a power pop band.

TCB

Bill L <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote:
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Subject: Re: Funkiest guitar player ever?
Posted by steve the artguy on Mon, 14 Jul 2008 02:18:35 GMT
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Bill-

all you say is true. It all depends on what you mean by funk. Or rather "funk."

When I first read the subject line, the name that came to mind was Johnny Guitar Watson. That guy just oozed funk.

I'd also have to add anyone who James Brown hired. That's got to count for something.

If you twist the term "funk" far enough, you'd have to include Django, just
for his sheer uniqueosity. Well, maybe you wouldn't have to, but I might.

Just for sheer cussedness, I'd include Monk. Thelonius, not Wes's brother.
Sure, TM was a piano player, but if Wes is funky, so was Thelonius.

Nowadays, I'd say it's Charlie Hunter. But what do I know?

Funk. What a concept. Originally it meant "smelly."

-steve the couldn'tbementionedinthesamepostwiththeseguys guitar player

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Subject: Re: Funkiest guitar player ever?
Posted by TCB on Mon, 14 Jul 2008 04:43:48 GMT
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If we're getting away from jazz guys, we also need to include Leo Nocentelli,
Catfish Collins, Nile Rodgers, Eddie Hazel, and Steve Cropper in the mix.

TCB

"steve the artguy" <artguy@somethingorother.net> wrote:
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Subject: Re: Funkiest guitar player ever?
Posted by steve the artguy on Mon, 14 Jul 2008 18:34:45 GMT
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"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

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>If we're getting away from jazz guys, we also need to include Leo Nocentelli,
>Catfish Collins, Nile Rodgers, Eddie Hazel, and Steve Cropper in the mix.
>
>
>TCB

now I just have to find out who two of those guys are...

-steve the not-all-knowing

Subject: Re: Funkiest guitar player ever?
Posted by Ed on Tue, 15 Jul 2008 15:28:41 GMT
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Funk = Smelly? Then that would have to be that guy on YouTube that is playing his acoustic with his feet! Absolutely FUNKY!!! I watch that and I am not sure to pity the guy, or praise him! Throw a few dollar bills at the monitor when he completes the song... lol.

"steve the artguy" <artguy@somethingorother.net> wrote:
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>
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Subject: Re: Funkiest guitar player ever?
Posted by TCB on Wed, 16 Jul 2008 18:57:52 GMT
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"steve the artguy" <artguy@somethingorother.net> wrote:
>
>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:
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>-steve the not-all-knowing

Leo = Meters
Catfish = JB band
Eddie = early Funkadelic

Leo still blows my mind with what he does, and it's not like he's a kid anymore.

TCB

Subject: Re: Funkiest guitar player ever?
Posted by steve the artguy on Fri, 18 Jul 2008 05:23:33 GMT
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"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:
>
>"steve the artguy" <artguy@somethingorother.net> wrote:
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>>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:
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>
>Leo still blows my mind with what he does, and it's not like he's a kid
anymore.
>
>

I am feeling educated. I've heard those guys forever and just never knew
who they were.

Thanks, Thad.

-steve
>TCB
>