

Airborne – Interview by Sandy Shore of Smoothjazz.com - 2011

How long has the band been playing together?

Airborne was formed in the early 1980's. Our first musical release was in 1988. The band celebrates years of recordings, jazz festivals, concerts, clubs, gigs, and the whole ups and downs of being musicians. We can honestly say that the years have been very rewarding to us. To live a life of music is a wonderful experience and a precious gift. We feel honored and blessed as we continue to perform and record and look toward the future with a smile.

Would you please share a few highlights from the years together?

We love the process of each new recording project and release. The intervention of ideas, the collaboration of musicians, creating the jazz sound that is Airborne today. Bringing life and love to each new composition. Keeping faith and watching the growth in the band's material and popularity.

Recording and producing for other artists in genres as Gospel, Jazz, and R&B.

To perform at jazz festivals, concerts, and clubs with different jazz artists and groups. To share words, thoughts, stories, and just to listen to musicians from all over the world. Music is truly an international language.

Where is the band based and how does your location factor into your music?

We are from New Haven, CT, USA. Tri-State Area - Urban based. I guess you can call us city dwellers. There is a magic in the city that absorbs many musical art forms. The sounds of the city are cool but hot. Influences of Jazz, R&B, Latin and Blues are all around you capturing your inner emotions.

We also have a deep passion for the music of the Caribbean. Both the city and the islands have influenced us greatly. Over the years Airborne has created its own trademark contemporary jazz sound of island passion and urban emotion.

You refer to yourselves as a "multi-cultural" jazz band... how come?

Our hometown of New Haven is very rich in ethnic and cultural diversity. Each member is unique and brings these diversities and backgrounds to create the jazz sound. Airborne has been praised as being a living spirit of musical brotherhood. The love of jazz is shared by many cultures.

Can you give us an idea of how deep the band's commitment is to the recording arts and education?

We do support the Arts. We are on the New England Foundation for the Arts and the CT Commission on the Arts performing arts touring rosters. We bring "A Century of Jazz" an Arts in Education program into the schools. A demonstration of a variety of jazz forms and styles, supported by a historic narration, a musical insight, a question and answer session, and an inspirational workshop.

This program instills a positive attitude and direction towards musical and social growth. The no limits approach combined with a structured musical lesson plan illustrates the value of jazz education in our society.

Jazz Education is very vital for our newer generations. Teaching thoughts of imagination, personal expression, and self discipline to help them achieve whatever goals they dream. Emotions soar high in young hearts and jazz music gently provides an enrichment and fulfillment to their wandering passion. Jazz is a true American art form.

What are you most proud of at this point in your life and career?

To have the music of Airborne known and loved throughout the World is a dream come true. We have always kept a high musical integrity to our compositions yet still instilled a coolness or groove to our sound helping us to cross over to many different formats. To be honored by the World Peace Organization for Excellence in World Music and as Humanitarians.

There has always been a message of Peace, Love, and Global Unity in the music of Airborne. We have been proclaimed by journalists as the Musical Peacemakers of Contemporary Jazz. We have always lived our lives and career trying to help and give back to the community. We can all make a difference if we just try.

That's why we set a Non- Profit Cause – Musicians – Peacemakers – Humanitarians which all donations and portion of all our CD sales go to Food for the Poor to help in the fight against Hunger.