

Al Jarreau

Alwin Lopez "Al" Jarreau (March 12, 1940 – February 12, 2017) was an American jazz singer. [1] He won seven Grammy Awards and was nominated for over a dozen more. He is perhaps best known for his 1981 album *Breakin' Away*, for having sung the theme song of the late-1980s television series *Moonlighting*, and as a performer in the 1985 charity song "We Are the World".

1 Background

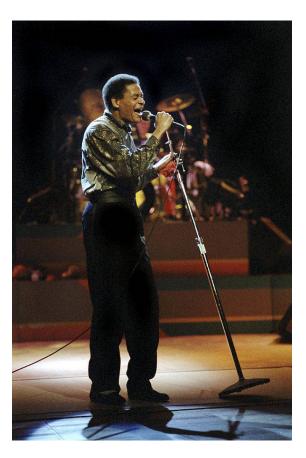


Al Jarreau during a concert in Düsseldorf in January 1981

Jarreau was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the fifth of six children. His website refers to Reservoir Avenue, the name of the street where he lived. His father was a Seventh-day Adventist Church minister and singer, and his mother was a church pianist. He and his family sang together in church concerts and in benefits, and he and his mother performed at PTA meetings.^[2]

He was student council president and Badger Boys State delegate for Lincoln High School. At Boys State, he was elected governor. He went on to attend Ripon College, where he also sang with a group called the Indigos. Jarreau graduated in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology. He went on to earn a master's degree in vocational rehabilitation from the University of Iowa, worked as a rehabilitation counselor in San Francisco, and moonlighted with a jazz trio headed by George Duke.

In 1967, he joined forces with acoustic guitarist Julio Martinez. [1] The duo became the star attraction at a small Sausalito night club called Gatsby's. This success contributed to Jarreau's decision to make professional singing his life and full-time career.



Al Jarreau during a concert at ICC Berlin in 1986

2 Going full-time

In 1968, Jarreau made jazz his primary occupation. In 1969, Jarreau and Martinez headed south, where Jarreau appeared at such Los Angeles hot spots as Dino's, The Troubadour, and Bitter End West. Television exposure came from Johnny Carson, Mike Douglas, Merv Griffin, Dinah Shore, and David Frost. He expanded his night-club appearances performing at The Improv between the acts of such rising-star comics as Bette Midler, Jimmie Walker, and John Belushi. During this period, he became involved with the United Church of Religious Science and the Church of Scientology, but he later dissociated from Scientology. Also, roughly at the same time, he began writing his own lyrics, finding that his Christian spirituality began to influence his work. [2]

In 1975, Jarreau was working with pianist Tom Canning when he was spotted by Warner Bros. Records. On Valentine's Day 1976 he sang on the 13th episode

2 GOING FULL-TIME



Al Jarreau at book drive event held at the Department of Education on August 25, 2004.



Al Jarreau in Wrocław, Poland; June 25, 2006

of NBC's new *Saturday Night Live* hosted, that week by Peter Boyle. Soon thereafter he released his critically acclaimed debut album, *We Got By*, which catapulted him to international fame and garnered him an Echo Award (the German equivalent of the Grammy's in the United States). A second Echo Award would follow with the release of his second album, *Glow*.

In 1978, Al won his first U.S. Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Performance for his album, *Look To The Rainbow*.



Al Jarreau headlining "Jazz in Kiev 2008" festival

One of Jarreau's most commercially successful albums is Breakin' Away (1981), which includes the hit song "We're in This Love Together". He won the 1982 Grammy Award for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance for Breakin' Away. In 1984, his single "After All" reached 69 on the US Hot 100 chart and number 26 on the R&B chart. It was especially popular in the Philippines. His last big hit was the Grammy-nominated theme to the 1980s American television show *Moonlighting*, for which he wrote the lyrics. Among other things, he was well known for his extensive use of scat singing, and vocal percussion. He was also a featured vocalist on USA for Africa's "We Are the World" in which he sang the line, "...and so we all must lend a helping hand." Another charitable media event, HBO's Comic Relief, featured Al in a duet with Natalie Cole singing the song "Mr. President", written by Joe Sterling, Mike Loveless and Ray Reach.

Jarreau took an extended break from recording in the 1990s. As he explained in an interview with *Jazz Review*: "I was still touring, in fact, I toured more than I ever had in the past, so I kept in touch with my audience. I got my symphony program under way, which included my music and that of other people too, and I performed on the Broadway production of *Grease*. I was busier than ever! For the most part, I was doing what I have always done ... perform live. I was shopping for a record deal and was letting people know that there is a new album coming. I was just waiting for the right label (Verve), but I toured more than ever." [4]

In 2003, Jarreau and conductor Larry Baird collaborated on symphony shows around the United States, with Baird arranging additional orchestral material for Jarreau's shows.

Jarreau toured and performed with Joe Sample, Chick Corea, Kathleen Battle, Miles Davis, David Sanborn, [5] Rick Braun, and George Benson. He also performed the role of the Teen Angel in a 1996 Broadway production of *Grease*. On March 6, 2001, he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, at 7083 Hollywood Boulevard on the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and La Brea Avenue.

In 2006, Jarreau appeared in a duet with *American Idol* finalist Paris Bennett during the Season 5 finale and on *Celebrity Duets* singing with actor Cheech Marin.

In 2010, Jarreau was a guest on the new Eumir Deodato album, with the song "Double Face" written by **Nicolosi/Deodato/Al Jarreau**. The song was produced by the Italian company **Nicolosi Productions**.

On February 16, 2012, he was invited to the famous Italian Festival di Sanremo to sing with the Italian group Matia Bazar.

On February 8, 2017, after being hospitalized for exhaustion, Jarreau cancelled his remaining 2017 tour dates and retired from touring.^[6]

3 Personal life

Jarreau was married twice. His first marriage, to Phyllis Hall, lasted from 1964 to 1968. His second wife was model Susan Elaine Player, whom he married in 1977. Jarreau and Player had one son together, Ryan.

It was reported on July 23, 2010, that Jarreau was critically ill at a hospital in France, while in the area to perform a concert at nearby Barcelonnette, and was being treated for respiratory problems and cardiac arrhythmias.^[7] He was taken to the intensive-care unit at Gap late on July 22, 2010.^[8] Jarreau was conscious, in a stable condition and in the cardiology unit of La Timone hospital in Marseille, the Marseille Hospital Authority said. He was expected to remain there for about a week for tests.^[9] In June 2012, Jarreau was diagnosed with pneumonia, which caused him to cancel several concerts in France.^[10] Jarreau made a full recovery and continued to tour extensively until February 2017.^[11][12]

In 2009 children's author Carmen Rubin published the story *Ashti Meets Birdman Al*, inspired by Jarreau's music. He wrote the foreword for the book and read from it across the world. Al and Carmen worked together to promote literacy and the importance of keeping music alive in children.

4 Death

After having been hospitalized for exhaustion in Los Angeles, Jarreau died on February 12, 2017, at the age of 76. [13][14]

5 Discography

5.1 Albums

• 1975: We Got By (Reprise) US# 209

- 1976: *Glow* (Reprise) US# 132, R&B No. 30, Jazz# 9
- 1978: *All Fly Home* (Warner Bros.) US# 78, R&B# 27, Jazz# 2
- 1980: *This Time* (Warner Bros.) US# 27, R&B# 6, Jazz# 1
- 1981: *Breakin' Away* (Warner Bros.) US# 9, R&B# 1, Jazz# 1, UK# 60
- 1983: *Jarreau* (Warner Bros.) US# 13, R&B# 4, Jazz# 1, UK# 39
- 1984: High Crime (Warner Bros.) US# 49, R&B# 12, Jazz# 2, UK# 81
- 1986: *L Is for Lover* (Warner Bros.) US# 81, R&B# 30, Jazz# 9, UK# 45
- 1988: Heart's Horizon (Reprise) US# 75, R&B# 10, Jazz# 1
- 1992: Heaven and Earth (Warner Bros.) US# 105, R&B# 30, Jazz# 2
- 2000: Tomorrow Today (Verve) US# 137, R&B# 43, Jazz# 1
- 2002: All I Got (Verve) US# 137, R&B# 43, Jazz# 3
- 2004: Accentuate the Positive (Verve) Jazz# 6
- 2006: Givin' It Up (with George Benson) (Concord)
 US# 58, R&B# 14, Jazz# 1
- 2008: *Christmas* (Rhino) Jazz# 5^[15]
- 2014: My Old Friend: Celebrating George Duke (Concord)^[16]

5.2 Live albums

- 1977: *Look to the Rainbow* (Warner Bros.) US# 49, R&B# 19, Jazz# 5
- 1984: *In London* (Warner Bros.) US# 125, R&B# 55, Jazz# 10. Sometimes titled *Live in London*.
- 1994: Tenderness (Warner Bros.) US# 114, R&B# 25, Jazz# 2. Recorded live in a studio in front of an invited audience.
- 2012: Al Jarreau and The Metropole Orkest: LIVE (Concord)
- 2011: Al Jarreau And The George Duke Trio: Live At The Half/Note 1965, Volume 1 (BPM Records) Originally offered exclusively at georgeduke.com.

4 5 DISCOGRAPHY

5.3 Compilations

- 1996: Best Of Al Jarreau (Warner Bros.) Jazz No. 8
- 2008: Love Songs (Rhino)
- 2009: An Excellent Adventure: The Very Best Of Al Jarreau (Rhino)^[18] (This compilation holds one previously unreleased track: "Excellent Adventure")

5.3.1 Early material recorded before 1974

After Jarreau's breakthrough in 1975 an almost uncountable number of compilations of earlier recordings from 1965 to 1973 have emerged, including some or all of the following songs:

Songs by various composers

- "My Favorite Things" (5:02, Hammerstein, Rodgers)
- "Stockholm Sweetnin" (5:50, Jones)
- "A Sleepin' Bee" (5:52, Arlen, Capote)
- "The Masquerade Is Over" (6:34, Magidson, Wrubel)
- "Sophisticated Lady" (4:14, Ellington, Mills, Parish)
- "Joey, Joey, Joey" (3:42, Loesser)

5.4 Singles

- 1976: "Rainbow in Your Eyes" R&B No. 92
- 1977: "Take Five" R&B No. 91
- 1978: "Thinkin' About It Too" R&B No. 55
- 1980: "Distracted" R&B No. 61
- 1980: "Gimme What You Got" R&B No. 63
- 1980: "Never Givin' Up" R&B No. 26
- 1981: "We're in This Love Together" US No. 15, R&B No. 6, UK No. 55
- 1982: "Breakin' Away" US No. 43, R&B No. 25
- 1982: "Teach Me Tonight" US No. 70, R&B No. 51
- 1982: "Your Precious Love", duet with Randy Crawford R&B No. 16
- 1982: "Roof Garden" NL No. 2

- 1983: "Boogie Down" US No. 77, R&B No. 9, UK No. 63, NL No. 14
- 1983: "Mornin'" US No. 21, R&B No. 6, UK No. 28, NL No. 16
- 1983: "Trouble in Paradise" US No. 63, R&B No. 66, UK No. 36
- 1984: "After All" US No. 69, R&B No. 26
- 1985: "Raging Waters" R&B No. 42
- 1986: "L Is for Lover" R&B No. 42
- 1986: "Tell Me What I Gotta Do" R&B No. 37
- 1986: "The Music of Goodbye" (from *Out Of Africa*), duet with Melissa Manchester AC No. 16
- 1987: "Moonlighting (theme)" (from *Moonlighting*)
 US No. 23, R&B No. 32, UK No. 8, AC#1
- 1988: "So Good" R&B No. 2
- 1989: "All of My Love" R&B No. 69
- 1989: "All or Nothing at All" R&B No. 59
- 1992: "Blue Angel" R&B No. 74
- 1992: "It's Not Hard to Love You" R&B No. 36
- 2001: "In My Music" (with Phife Dawg)^[15]

5.5 Soundtrack inclusions

- 1982: "Girls Know How", in the film *Night Shift* (Warner Bros)
- 1984: "Moonlighting (theme)" and "Since I Fell for You", in the television show *Moonlighting* (Universal)
- 1984: "Boogie Down", in the film *Breakin'* (Warner Bros)
- 1986: "The Music of Goodbye", duet with Melissa Manchester, in the film *Out of Africa* (MCA Records)
- 1989: "Never Explain Love", in the film *Do the Right Thing* (Motown)
- 1992: "Blue Skies", in the film *Glengarry Glen Ross* (New Line Cinema)
- 1984: "Million Dollar Baby", in the film *City Heat* (Warner Bros)

5.6 Guest appearances

- 1978: "Hot News Blues" from *Secret Agent/*Chick Corea (Polydor)
- 1979: "Little Sunflower" from *The Love Connection*/Freddie Hubbard (Columbia)
- 1983: "Bet Cha Say That to All the Girls" from *Bet Cha Say That to All the Girls*/Sister Sledge (Cotillion)
- 1985: "We Are the World" from *We Are the World/*USA for Africa (Columbia) US No. 1, R&B No. 1 UK No. 1
- 1986: "Since I Fell for You" from *Double Vision*/Bob James & David Sanborn (Warner Bros.)
- 1987: "Day by Day" from City Rhythms/Shakatak
- 1997: "How Can I Help You Say Goodbye" from Doky Brothers 2/Chris Minh Doky/Niels Lan Doky (Blue Note Records)
- 1997: "Girl from Ipanema" and "Waters of March" from *A Twist of Jobim/*Lee Ritenour (GRP)
- 2010: "Whisper Not" from New Time, New Tet/Benny Golson (Concord Jazz)
- 1974: "If I Ever Lose This Heaven" from *Body Heat*/Quincy Jones (A&M) (Jarreau provides background scat and vocal percussion.)

6 Awards

- **6.1** Grammy Awards
- **6.2** Hall of Fame
- **6.3** Honorary degrees

7 References

- [1] "Brief official bio". aljarreau.com.
- [2] Contemporary Authors Online, Gale, 2009. Reproduced in Biography Resource Center, Farmington Hills, Mich: Gale, 2009. http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioRC.
- [3] "Governors". Badger Boys State. 2014-06-20. Retrieved 2017-02-12.
- [4] See http://web.archive.org/web/20060106110300/http:// www.jazzreview.com/articledetails.cfm?ID=1037 - Retrieved February 13, 2017.
- [5] Box Score Top Grossing Concerts. Billboard. Nielsen Business Media, Inc. 1 June 1985. pp. 48–. ISSN 0006-2510.
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- [17] georgeduke.com
- [18] "Welcome to AlJarreau.com The Official site For Al Jarreau 7 Time Grammy Award Winning Jazz / Crossover Legend!". Aljarreau.com. Retrieved 2010-07-23.

8 External links

- · Official website
- Audio interview with Al Jarreau on the Sodajerker on Songwriting podcast
- "Al Jarreau performs 'You Don't See Me'" on the WGBH series, *Say Brother*
- Al Jarreau 2006 Interview with George Benson on Sidewalks Entertainment
- Al Jarreau 2006 Smoothviews.com Interview
- Al Jarreau 2011 ct.com interview
- Grammy Awards
- Honorary Degree Recipients (Berklee College of Music)
- Honorary Doctorate (University of Wisconsin– Milwaukee)

6 8 EXTERNAL LINKS

- Hollywood Walk of Fame
- SoulMusic.com

• ARTE.TV 50 ans Montreux Jazz Festival, Al Jarreau & Carlos Santana & Claude Nobs

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9.2 Images

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