

Gary Clark Jr.

Gary Lee Clark Jr.^[1] (born February 15, 1984) is an American musician from Austin, Texas.^{[2][3]} He is best known for his fusion of blues, rock and soul music with elements of hip hop.^[4] In 2011 Clark signed with Warner Bros Records and released *The Bright Lights EP*.^[5] It was followed by the albums *Blak and Blu* (2012) and *The Story of Sonny Boy Slim* (2015). Throughout his career Clark has been a prolific live performer, which has been documented in two releases; *Gary Clark Jr. Live* (2014) and *Gary Clark Jr Live/North America* (2017).^[6] He has shared the stage with Eric Clapton, B.B. King and the Rolling Stones.^[7] His new album *This Land* was released on February 22, 2019, a week before its initial release date.^[8] In 2014, Clark was awarded a Grammy for Best Traditional R&B performance for the song "Please Come Home", while the year before he had been nominated for "Ain't Messin Round".^[9]

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Musical career

Gary Clark Jr. began playing guitar at the age of twelve. Born and raised in Austin, Texas, Clark played small gigs throughout his teens, until he met promoter Clifford Antone, proprietor of the Austin music club Antone's. Antone's was the launch pad from which Jimmie and Stevie Ray Vaughan redefined blues at the time.^[10] Soon after meeting Clifford, Clark began to play with other musical icons, including Jimmie Vaughan. Vaughan and others in the Austin music community helped Clark along his musical path.

Gary Clark Jr.



Clark performing at the North Coast Music Festival in Chicago in 2013

Background information	
Birth name	Gary Lee Clark Jr.
Born	February 15, 1984 <div>Austin, Texas, U.S.</div>
Genres	Blues rock · soul · R&B
Instruments	Vocals · guitar · drums · trumpet · keyboards · harmonica
Years active	1996–present
Labels	Hotwire Unlimited · Warner Bros.
Website	garyclarkjr.com (http://garyclarkjr.com)

Clark sang on the 2010 bonus track cover of the Jackson 5's "I Want You Back" on Sheryl Crow's album 100 Miles from Memphis.^{[11][12]}

Rolling Stone declared Clark "Best Young Gun" in its April 2011, "Best of Rock" issue.^[13]

In 2012 Clark recorded with Alicia Keys on two different songs in New York City. He co-wrote the song Fire We Make with Alicia Keys, Pop Wansel and Oak Felder for the album Girl on Fire.^[14]

On August 28, 2012, Alicia Keys revealed via Twitter that Clark's new album and major-label debut called Blak and Blu would be released on October 22, 2012.^[15]

Clark worked with the Foo Fighters on the track "What Did I Do? / God as My Witness" on their 2014 album Sonic Highways recorded at KLRU-TV Studio 6A in Austin.^{[16][17]}

Gary Clark released his new album *The Story of Sonny Boy Slim* on September 11, 2015.^[18]

Clark also had a guest appearance on Tech N9ne's album The Storm. The album was released on December 9, 2016. Clark provided the chorus for the song "No Gun Control".

On Childish Gambino's album "Awaken, My Love!" Clark performs the guitar solo on the track, "The Night Me and Your Mama Met".

Clark collaborated with ZZ Ward on "Ride" from the soundtrack to the 2017 Pixar film Cars 3.^[19]

Clark's cover version of the Beatles' 1969 No. 1 hit "Come Together", released in early 2017, has become his first charting single on Billboard's Mainstream Rock chart, peaking at #15.

In 2018, Clark featured on two songs on Bun B's album Return of the Trill, "Blood on the Dash (<https://song.link/us/i/1429286772>)" and "Gone Away (<https://song.link/us/i/1429286780>)" also featuring Leon Bridges.

Clark was featured on Tom Morello's album The Atlas Underground, providing vocals and guitar on the song "Where It's At Ain't What It Is."

On January 10, 2019 Clark announced the March 1, 2019 release of his new *This Land* album via Warner Bros. On the same day he also released the title song from the album supported by a Savannah Leaf directed music video for the song.^[20]

Live appearances

Clark performed at the 50th Monterey Jazz Festival as part of the promotion for John Sayles' 2007 film, Honeydripper. Clark performed at the 2010 Crossroads Guitar Festival alongside B.B. King, Eric Clapton, Buddy Guy, Steve Winwood, John Mayer, Sheryl Crow, Jeff Beck, and ZZ Top.^{[21][22][23]} He joined Doyle Bramhall II and Sheryl Crow on stage for their performance with Eric Clapton, and also debuted several original songs.^{[24][25]}

In June 2011, Clark played at the annual Bonnaroo Music Festival in Manchester, Tennessee,^[26] at the Miller Lite On Tap Lounge. On June 10, 2012, Clark again played at Bonnaroo, and his performance was streamed live online via the Bonnaroo MusicFest Channel on YouTube.

In February 2012, Clark performed alongside blues legends at the *Red, White and Blues* event at the White House. The event, aired on PBS, also included B.B. King, Mick Jagger, Jeff Beck and Buddy Guy, among others. Clark played "Catfish Blues" and "In the Evening (When the Sun Goes Down)", as well as contributing to performances of "Let the Good Times Roll", "Beat Up Old Guitar", "Five Long Years" and "Sweet Home Chicago".^{[27][28][29]}

In June 2012, Clark guested with the Dave Matthews Band playing "Can't Stop" and "All Along the Watchtower" at dates in Virginia Beach and Indianapolis and on October 21 and 22, 2012, Clark appeared as the opening act at the Bridge School Benefit Concert, Bridge XXVI. On December 8, 2012, Clark appeared at The Rolling Stones' first US-gig of their 50th anniversary tour at the Barclay's Center in Brooklyn, to perform the Don Nix song "Going Down" with the band.^[30] On December 15, 2012 he joined them onstage again to play the same song, along with John Mayer, during the last date of the Stones' mini-tour at the Prudential Center.^[31]

On May 13, 2013, Clark opened for Eric Clapton & His Band at the LG Arena, Birmingham, England, and on June 12, 2013, Clark was the guest performer with the Rolling Stones at Boston's TD Garden. Clark joined the Stones in playing the Freddie King tune "Going Down". On June 30, 2013, he appeared on the Avalon stage at the Glastonbury Festival. His performance was declared 'the most electric performance of the festival, knocking the legendary appearance of The Rolling Stones (the previous night) well into second place' and on October 25, 2013, he appeared on long-running British music show Later... with Jools Holland.^[32]

On February 9, 2014, Clark performed The Beatles song "While My Guitar Gently Weeps", along with Dave Grohl and Joe Walsh for The Beatles: the Night that Changed America. On February 16, 2014, Clark performed in the NBA All-Star Game Halftime Show with Trombone Shorty, Earth Wind and Fire, Doctor John, and Janelle Monáe and on May 29, 2014, Gary Clark Jr performed solo at Rock in Rio in Lisbon. Clark performed guitar, as a guest, on an episode of the PBS cable television show Austin City Limits, with the Foo Fighters, that aired on February 7, 2015. He and the Foo Fighters were accompanied, on stage, by another guest guitarist, Jimmie Vaughan.

On May 24, 2015, Clark opened for The Rolling Stones at Petco Park in San Diego and on July 4, 2015, played as part of the lineup for the Foo Fighters 20th Anniversary show at RFK Stadium in Washington D.C. On June 8, 2016, he performed alongside Jon Batiste and Stay Human as musical guest of The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and on June 26, 2016, he performed during West Holts Stage, Glastonbury Festival, and on July 8, 2016, performed on the Preferred One Stage at the Basilica Block Party in Minneapolis.

On January 10, 2019 Clark appeared on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert for which he performed "This Land" and "Feed the Babies". The latter he performed along with Jon Batiste and Stay Human as a "bonus track".

On February 16, 2019 Clark performed "Pearl Cadillac" and "This Land" on NBC's Saturday Night Live (<https://www.nbc.com/saturday-night-live>).^{[33][34]}

On February 28, 2019, Clark performed "This Land" on Comedy Central's The Daily Show with Trevor Noah.

On July 7, 2019, Clark opened for the Rolling Stones' concert at Gillette Stadium during their 2019 No Filter Tour. Clark also provided guest vocals and guitar with the Stones during their performance of "Ride 'Em on Down."

In popular culture

- Clark starred alongside Danny Glover, Stacy Keach, and Charles Dutton in John Sayles' 2007 film Honeydripper.^{[35][36]}
- In 2010, Clark and his band played onscreen in an episode of the acclaimed television series Friday Night Lights.^[37]
- The song "Don't Owe You a Thang" is played in the Clint Eastwood movie Trouble with the Curve and Longmire.
- "Bright Lights" can be heard in a 2011 Jack Daniel's commercial as well as in the 2012 videogame Max Payne 3. It has also been used in soundtrack of Stand Up Guys, in the final shootout scene. The song was also featured in the opening montage sequence of season 6 premiere of BET's The Game as well as in the USA Network series Suits in the episode "High Noon" and in the Showtime series House of Lies in the episode "Gods of Dangerous Financial Instruments".
- Clark appears with his band performing "Travis County" and "When My Train Pulls In" in the 2014 Jon Favreau film Chef.

- "Ain't Messin 'Round" was featured in the motion picture *Identity Thief* in 2013.^[36]
- Clark was featured in the 2015 Don Cheadle motion picture *Miles Ahead* as part of Miles Davis' band.^[36]
- Clark's song "Take Me Down" is heard during the closing credits of the 2016 Peter Berg film *Deepwater Horizon*.
- His version of "Come Together" plays during the closing credits of the 2017 Zack Snyder film *Justice League*.
- "The Healing" was featured on CBS during their commercials for the 59th Annual Grammy Awards.
- Clark appears playing the songs "If Trouble Was Money" and "Bright Lights" live in a club during a 2018 episode of Netflix series *Marvel's Luke Cage*.^[38]
- "Our Love" is featured in the 2018 Marvel Film *Venom*.

Awards and recognitions

Kirk Watson, the Mayor of Austin, proclaimed May 3, 2001 to be Gary Clark Jr. Day. Clark was seventeen years old at the time.^{[39][7][40]} Clark won the Austin Music Award for Best Blues and Electric Guitarist, on three different occasions.^[21]

Clark was Spin's breakout artist for the month of November 2011.^[41]

Rolling Stone magazine ranked Clark's Bright Lights EP (named for the title track, an homage to Jimmy Reed and his song of the same name), number 40 on its list of its top 50 albums of 2011.^[42]

"Bright Lights" can be heard in the video game *Max Payne 3*, the premiere episode of *House of Lies*, as well as in the movie *Think Like a Man* near the end when the guys are in the bar before reconciling with their respective ladies, and "Don't Owe You a Thang" can be heard in *Need for Speed: The Run*

Kirk Hammett from Metallica introduced Clark onstage before his performance at the *Orion Festival* in Atlantic City, NJ.

While playing music festivals such as *Coachella*, *JazzFest*, *Memphis Beale St.*, *Hangout*, *High Sierra*, *Sasquatch*, *Mountain Jam*, *Wakarusa*, *Bonnaroo*, *Electric Forest*, *Hard Rock Calling*, *Newport Folk Festival*, *Orion Music Festival*, *Osheaga*, *Lollapalooza*, and *ACL Music Festival*, Clark was awarded *SPIN Magazine's* Golden Corndog award for performing in more major *North American Music Festivals* in 2012 than any other musician on the planet.^[43]

Clark swept the 31st annual Austin Music Awards for 2012–2013, collecting eight awards, he earned the following: Band of the Year, Musician of the Year, Song of the Year – "Ain't Messin Round" (from *Blak and Blu*), Album of the Year – *Blak and Blu*, Electric Guitarist of the Year, Songwriter of the Year, Blues/Soul/Funk Artist of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year.

In 2014 and 2015, Clark won a *Blues Music Award* in the 'Contemporary Blues Male Artist of the Year' category.^{[44][45]}

Instruments

Gary Clark Jr. mainly uses *Epiphone Casino*, both *P-90* and *Humbucker Gibson SG*, and both *Fender Stratocaster* and *Fender Telecaster* electric guitars, as well as *Epiphone Masterbilt* and *Gibson Hummingbird* acoustic guitars. Clark has his own signature Blak & Blu *Epiphone Casino* which features *Gibson USA* made *P-90* pickups.^{[46][47][48][49]}

Clark uses .011-.049 D'Addario Strings EXL 115.^[50]

Clark uses a Fender Vibro-King amp purchased from Zapata (who currently tours with him and plays rhythm guitar) paired with a Fender Princeton. He is known for extensive use of fuzz pedals, with his most frequently used pedal being the Fulltone Octafuzz, and regular use of a wah pedal.^[51]

Charity

Clark performed at *Alicia Keys' Keep a Child Alive Black Ball* benefit, in an effort to raise money for children with *AIDS in Africa*.^[52] The two performed the *Beatles' "While My Guitar Gently Weeps"* as a tribute to *George Harrison*.^[53]

Personal life

On November 5, 2014, it was announced Clark was engaged to his longtime girlfriend model Nicole Trunfio.^[54] The couple married in 2016 and have two children.^{[55][56]} In late 2016, Clark and Trunfio purchased a 50-acre horse ranch in Kyle, Texas.^[57] A question from a neighbor about Clark's ownership of the ranch served as inspiration for the song "This Land."^[58]

Discography

Studio albums

Title	Peak positions						
	US ^[59]	AUS ^[60]	FRA ^[61]	GER ^[62]	NLD ^[63]	NZ ^[64]	UK ^[65]
<i>Worry No More</i> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Released: 2001Label: Hotwire Unlimited</div>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>110</i> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Released: 2004Label: Hotwire Unlimited</div>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Blak and Blu</i> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Released: October 22, 2012Label: <u>Warner Bros.</u></div>	6	34	93	37	6	6	44
<i>The Story of Sonny Boy Slim</i> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Released: September 11, 2015Label: Warner Bros.</div>	8	18	126	74	10	13	40
<i>This Land</i> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Released: February 22, 2019Label: Warner Bros.</div>	6 ^[66]	23 ^[67]	139 ^[68]	36	50	—	97

Live albums

Title	Peak positions						Notes
	US [59]	AUS [60]	BEL [69]	FRA	NED	UK [70]	
<i>Gary Clark Jr. Live</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released: September 23, 2014 Label: Warner Bros. 	26	55	95	159	94	159	Track listing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Catfish Blues" "Next Door Neighbor Blues" "Travis County" "When My Train Pulls In" "Don't Owe You a Thang" "Three O'Clock Blues" "Things Are Changin'" "Numb" "Ain't Messin 'Round" "If Trouble Was Money" "Third Stone from the Sun / If You Love Me Like You Say" "Please Come Home" "Blak and Blu" "Bright Lights" "When the Sun Goes Down"
<i>Live North America 2016</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released: March 17, 2017 Label: Warner Bros. 	80	32	71	—	—	—	

EPs

Title and details	Notes
<i>Gary Clark Jr. EP</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type: EP Released: 2010 Label: Hotwire Unlimited 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Intro (1:37) Bright Lights (5:12) Don't Owe You a Thang (3:33) Please Come Home (5:04) The Life (4:38) Things Are Changing (3:49) Outro (4:49) Breakdown (4:16)
<i>The Bright Lights EP</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type: EP Released: August 9th 2011^[71] Label: Warner Bros. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bright Lights (5:24) Don't Owe You a Thang (3:35) Things Are Changin' (Live) [Solo Acoustic] (4:31) When My Train Pulls In (Live) [Solo Acoustic] (8:13)
<i>The Bright Lights EP Australian Tour Edition</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type: EP Released: 2012 Label: Warner Bros. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bright Lights (5:24) Don't Owe You a Thang (3:35) Things Are Changin' (Live) [Solo Acoustic] (4:31) When My Train Pulls In (Live) [Solo Acoustic] (8:13) Third Stone from the Sun / If You Love Me Like You Say – (Live in Charlottesville, VA) (12:32) Bright Lights (Live in London, UK) (10:55)

Others

- 2012 – *Gary Clark Jr. Presents Hotwire Unlimited Raw Cuts Vol. 1* – Hotwire Unlimited/Warner Bros. – released April 30, 2012 [U.K. vinyl 45rpm]
 - Side A Third Stone from the Sun / If You Love Me Like You Say (Live in Charlottesville, VA) (12:32)
 - Side B Bright Lights (Live in London, England) (10:55)
- 2013 – *Gary Clark Jr. Presents Hotwire Unlimited Raw Cuts Vol. 2* – Warner Bros. – released April 21, 2013 [U.K. vinyl Side A – 33 rpm, Side B – 45rpm]
 - Side A When My Train Pulls In (Live at The DO512 Lounge in Austin, TX) (16:22)
 - Side B When My Train Pulls In (Album Version) (7:45)

Singles

Title	Year	Peak chart positions					Album
		US AAA <div>[72]</div>	US Alt. <div>[73]</div>	US Main. Rock <div>[74]</div>	US Rock <div>[75]</div>	FRA <div>[76]</div>	
"Bright Lights"	2012	29	—	—	—	—	<i><u>Blak and Blu</u></i>
"Ain't Messin' Around"		10	—	—	—	—	
"The Healing"	2017	18	—	—	—	—	<i><u>The Story of Sonny Boy Slim</u></i>
" <u>Come Together</u> "	2017	—	39	15	7	66	<i><u>Justice League (soundtrack)</u></i>
"This Land"	2019	34	—	—	42	—	<i>This Land</i>
"What About Us"		—	—	25	—	—	
"—" denotes a recording that did not chart or was not released in that territory.							



Guest appearances

- Booker T. Jones – "Austin City Blues" on *Sound the Alarm (Booker T. Jones album)* (2013)
- The-Dream – "Too Early" on *IV Play* (2013)
- Talib Kweli – "Demonology" (featuring Big K.R.I.T.) on *Gravitas* (2013)
- Foo Fighters – "What Did I Do? / God As My Witness" on *Sonic Highways* (2014)
- Tech N9ne – "No Gun Control" (featuring Krizz Kaliko) on *The Storm* (2016)
- Childish Gambino – "The Night Me And Your Mama Met" on *"Awaken, My Love!"* (2016)
- ZZ Ward – "Ride" on *Cars 3* soundtrack (2017)
- Trae Tha Truth – "I'm on 3.0" (featuring T.I., Dave East, Tee Grizzley, Royce Da 5'9, Curren\$y, DRAM, Snoop Dogg, Fabolous, Rick Ross, Chamillionaire, G-Eazy, Styles P, E-40 & Mark Morrison) on *The Truth, Pt. 3* (2017)
- Tom Morello - "What It's At Ain't What It Is" (featuring Nico Stadi) on *The Atlas Underground* (2018)

Mixtapes

- 2014 – *Blak and Blu The Mixtape* – presented by D-Nice – released April 30, 2014

See also

-  [Biography portal](#)
-  [Blues portal](#)

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External links

Media related to Gary Clark, Jr. at Wikimedia Commons

- [Official website \(http://www.garyclarkjr.com\)](http://www.garyclarkjr.com)
- [Crossroadsguitarfestival.com \(http://www.crossroadsguitarfestival.com\)](http://www.crossroadsguitarfestival.com)

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