

George Winston

Solo Piano Concert

The Winter Show



Biography

George Winston grew up mainly in Montana, and also spent his later formative years in Mississippi and Florida. During this time, his favorite music was instrumental rock and instrumental R&B, including Floyd Cramer, the Ventures, Booker T & The MG's, Jimmy Smith, and many more. Inspired by R&B, jazz, Blues and rock (especially the Doors), George began playing organ in 1967. In 1971 he switched to the acoustic piano after hearing recordings from the 1920s and the 1930s by the legendary stride pianists Thomas "Fats" Waller and the late Teddy Wilson. In addition to working on stride piano, he also at this time came up with his own style of melodic instrumental music on solo piano, called folk piano.

Since 1972, George has released fifteen solo piano albums. His latest solo piano albums are RESTLESS WIND, and SPRING CAROUSEL—A CANCER RESEARCH BENEFIT.

He also recorded the soundtracks for three video projects produced by the late George Levenson of Informed Democracy (www.informeddemocracy.com): a solo guitar soundtrack for SADAKO AND THE THOUSAND PAPER CRANES, as well as piano, guitar, and harmonica solos for PUMPKIN CIRCLE and BREAD COMES TO LIFE. In addition, he recorded the solo piano soundtrack for the Rabbit Ears video of the children's story, THE VELVETEEN RABBIT (www.rabbitears.com), and the soundtrack for the Peanuts episode, THIS IS AMERICA CHARLIE BROWN: THE BIRTH OF THE CONSTITUTION.

George is presently concentrating mainly on live performances, and most of the time he is touring, playing solo piano concerts, (the *Summer Show* or the *Winter Show*), solo guitar concerts, solo harmonica concerts, and solo piano dances (with R&B and slow dance songs).

He is currently most inspired by the great New Orleans R&B pianists Henry Butler, James Booker, Professor Longhair, Dr. John, and Jon Cleary; and he is also working on interpreting pieces on solo piano by many of his favorite composers, especially Vince Guaraldi, Professor Longhair, and the Doors, as well as Dr. John, Allen Toussaint, Ralph Towner, Sam Cooke, Randy Newman, Frank Zappa, Al Kooper, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, John Hartford, Oliver Schroer, Philip Aaberg and others, to play at concerts, and at his solo piano dances.

George is also recording the masters of the Hawaiian Slack Key guitar for an extensive series of albums for Dancing Cat Record (www.dancingcat.com). Slack Key is the name for the beautiful solo fingerstyle guitar tradition, unique to Hawaii, which began in the early 1800s and predated the steel guitar by over half a century.

He is also recording his main inspirations for his harmonica playing - Sam Hinton, Rick Epping, and Curt Bouterse.

Piano: George Winston plays Steinway Pianos

Guitar: Martin D -35 (1966), with low 7th string added

Harmonica: combining Hohner Big Rivers with key of Low D Cross Harp reed plates, with some notes returned.

Food Bank in the Lobby

We have invited a local Food Bank to the venue tonight. They help get food & assistance to people in the surrounding area - many thanks to everyone who was able to participate in the food drive. The proceeds from the CD sales tonight will also benefit this group.

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Discography



- (1) Songs listed with the recordings are ones that George often plays in concert.
- (2) Scan the QR code for all of George's recordings.
- (3) To see **liner notes** for these albums, click on the recording and then "**Liner Notes**".

Solo Piano Recordings:

1. **RESTLESS WIND** (2019) – includes *A Change is Gonna Come* & *Muskrat Ramble Medley*.
2. **SPRING CAROUSEL—A CANCER RESEARCH BENEFIT** (2017)
3. **FOREST** (1994) - includes *Tamarack Pines*, *The Cradle*, *Lights In The Sky* (played at the end of the song *Moon*), and *Snowman Medley* (you can see THE SNOWMAN story on YouTube).
4. **AUTUMN** (1980) - includes *Colors*, and *Moon*.
5. **DECEMBER** (1982) - includes *Thanksgiving*, *Prelude*, and *Carol Of The Bells*.
6. **PLAINS** (1999) - includes *Cloudburst* (played in the middle of the song *Carol Of The Bells*), and *Give Me Your Hand*.
7. **MONTANA—A LOVE STORY** (2004) - includes *The Twisting Of The Hay Rope*, and *You Send Me*.
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8. **WINTER INTO SPRING** (1982) - includes *Rain*.
9. **SUMMER** (1991) - includes *Fragrant Fields*.
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10. **LINUS & LUCY—THE MUSIC OF VINCE GUARALDI** (1996) includes *Linus & Lucy*, *The Great Pumpkin Waltz*, *Charlie Brown's Thanksgiving*, *Skating*, and *The Masked Marvel*.
11. **LOVE WILL COME—THE MUSIC OF VINCE GUARALDI, VOL. 2** (2010) - includes *Time For Love*, *Be My Valentine Charlie Brown*, *Love Will Come*, *You're Elected Charlie Brown/Little Birdie*, and *Christmas Time is Here*.

Discography ... continued

Solo Piano Recordings ... continued:

12. **GULF COAST BLUES & IMPRESSIONS—A HURRICANE RELIEF BENEFIT** (2006) - includes *Pixie*, and *Pixie #3* (Gobajie*).
13. **GULF COAST BLUES & IMPRESSIONS 2—A LOUISIANA WETLANDS BENEFIT** (2012) - includes *An African In The Americas*, and *Pixie #6* (Gobajie*).



Gobajie (Pixie)*

*Gobajie was a kitty who loved music. She would listen attentively to live music & CDs, and whenever the music stopped she would respond by singing.

14. **NIGHT DIVIDES THE DAY—THE MUSIC OF THE DOORS** (2002) - includes *Riders On The Storm*.
15. **BALLADS AND BLUES 1972** (1972) - special edition with 5 bonus tracks.

Benefit EP:

REMEMBRANCE—A MEMORIAL BENEFIT (2001)

A 7 song EP of piano, guitar and harmonica solos, benefitting those affected by 9/11 and the Feeding America Food Bank - includes, on guitar, *Daughters and Sons*, and *Where the Sun Rises First*.

Soundtrack Recordings:

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT (1984)

Meryl Streep (narration) & George Winston (piano). Special edition also includes the piano solos without the narration and a bonus track. DVD & book/CD set available at www.rabbitears.com.

SADAKO AND THE THOUSAND PAPER CRANES (1995)

Liv Ullmann (narration) & George Winston (guitar). The guitar solos also appear without the narration in Part 2 - includes *Birds In Flight* (aka *The Boys of Ballisodare*).

Harmonica Recordings:

HARMONICA SOLOS (2012) - includes *Derentwater's Farewell* (& Volume 2 is also planned).

Posters of CD Covers:

RESTLESS WIND

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

NIGHT DIVIDES THE DAY—THE MUSIC OF THE DOORS

LOVE WILL COME—THE MUSIC OF VINCE GUARALDI, VOLUME 2

MONTANA—A LOVE STORY

GULF COAST BLUES & IMPRESSIONS—A HURRICANE RELIEF BENEFIT