

ERIC ESSIX BIOGRAPHY

SHORT BIO

Eric Essix has released 28 full-length albums over a period of more than 32 years, maintaining a steady flow of new music that continues to push the boundaries of contemporary jazz. He has toured relentlessly with his own Eric Essix Group and with dozens of A-list artists as a sideman, constantly refining every aspect of his craft, with legacy always in the forefront of his purpose.

Following the success of his 2020 album "Songs From The Deep," Eric released his 28th album, "STRiDE," on July 1, 2022, under his Essential Recordings label. The album was distributed by Lightyear Entertainment/Virgin Music. His two most recent singles, "My Heartbeat" and "Time To Chill," serve as previews for a new album scheduled for release in the fall of 2024.

Eric's primary goal is to create high-quality art through music or his lifelong passion for photography, always striving to create emotional and spiritual connections with people.

“STRIDE” ALBUM NOTES

Following the success of his Songs from The Deep project, Eric recently released his 28th album entitled STRiDE on his Essential Recordings label, again distributed by Lightyear Entertainment/Virgin Music/UMG.

The album features nine original compositions by Eric and a lush arrangement of Bill Withers' classic, Ain't No Sunshine, featuring fellow Birmingham, AL native and American Idol winner Ruben Studdard. Released as a single, the song has done well on smooth jazz radio and has maintained a solid presence on several charts and syndicated programs.

STRiDE showcases a diverse mix of songs ranging from danceable funk instrumentals to sultry ballads, hints of blues and traditional jazz textures, and, as always, a very intentional nod to Eric's gospel roots. "This album is an extension of the Songs From The Deep record in a sense. I consciously tried to build on what I did with that project compositionally and maintain the same vibe. Musically, it felt like a good place to explore a while longer."

Even though STRiDE does not directly bring Eric's southern upbringing to the forefront conceptually for this record, the influences and the sound are still essential ingredients in the mix. "Some things will always be buried in every note I play, and those down-home elements that are inherent in my playing are never going away. I gave up trying to be someone other than myself 22 years ago and learned to embrace who I am as a guitarist and an artist. I haven't looked back."

STRiDE has several uptempo standouts, with Steady, Coming Home To You, The Light, and the title track leading the pack. However, the ballads Until We All Are Free, Slow And Easy and the beautiful 6/8 time, Inside Out (featuring flutist Claudia Hayden and a brilliant synth solo by Grammy winner Phil Davis), are compelling vehicles for some of Eric's best guitar work on the session.