

Bruce Hornsby has built one of the most diverse, collaborative, and adventurous careers in contemporary music. Drawing from a vast wellspring of American musical traditions, the singer/pianist/composer/bandleader has created a large and accomplished body of work and employed a vast array of stylistic approaches. Throughout this period, Hornsby has maintained the integrity, virtuosity and artistic curiosity that have been hallmarks of his work from the start.

Hornsby and his band The Range's first album *The Way It Is* (1986) was steadily and slowly building in popularity in the U.S. when in August the title track exploded on BBC Radio One in England, then Europe, the rest of the world and finally in the United States. The record went on to sell three million records, the band played Saturday Night Live and opened for Steve Winwood, John Fogerty, Huey Lewis, the Grateful Dead and the Eurythmics before becoming headliners on their own tour supported by Crowded House.

Soon Hornsby was being approached regularly to collaborate with a broad range of musicians and writers, a demand that continues to this day. He has played on records for Bob Dylan, Robbie Robertson, Bonnie Raitt (piano on her iconic "I Can't Make You Love Me"), Willie Nelson, Don Henley, Bob Seger, Squeeze, Stevie Nicks, Chaka Khan, Charlie Haden, Jack DeJohnette, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Bon Iver, Leon Russell, Chris Whitley, Warren Zevon, Bernie Taupin, Brandon Flowers (of the Killers), Cowboy Junkies, Shawn Colvin, Bela Fleck, Randy Scruggs, Hillary Scott, the Wild Magnolias, Clint Black, Sara Evans, Clannad and many more. He has worked on his own records with Ornette Coleman, Jerry Garcia, Eric Clapton, Sting, Elton John, Mavis Staples, Phil Collins, Pat Metheny, Branford Marsalis, Wayne Shorter, Justin Vernon, and James Mercer (of The Shins) among others. Along with his early co-writer Jonathan Hornsby and latter-day partner Chip deMatteo, Bruce has co-written songs with Robert Hunter (the great Grateful Dead lyricist), Justin Vernon, Robbie Robertson, Don Henley, Leon Russell, Charlie Haden, Chaka Khan, and Jack DeJohnette. His songs have been recorded by another broad array of artists including Tupac Shakur (his iconic "Changes"), Akon, Bon Iver, Snoop Dogg, Chaka Khan, E-40, Don Henley, Leon Russell, Willie Nelson, Mase, Randy Scruggs, and Robbie Robertson.

Over the years Hornsby has successfully ventured into bluegrass, jazz, classical, and even electronica, reflected on acclaimed releases like two projects with Ricky Skaggs- *Ricky Skaggs and Bruce Hornsby* (2007) and the live *Cluck Ol' Hen* (2013), the jazz trio album *Camp Meeting* (2007) with Jack DeJohnette and Christian McBride, and *Solo Concerts* (2014), a stylistic merging of traditional American roots music and the dissonance and adventure of modern classical music. This latter-day interest led to an orchestral project spearheaded by Michael Tilson Thomas featuring this new music; the first performance occurred in January 2015 with Thomas' New World Symphony, and the latest concert with more new material came in June 2018 at his Funhouse Fest with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

His three Grammy wins ( along with his ten Grammy losses!) typify the diversity of his career: Best New Artist (1986) as leader of Bruce Hornsby and the Range, Best

Bluegrass Recording (1989) for a version of his old Range hit "The Valley Road" that appeared on the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's *Will The Circle Be Unbroken Volume Two*, and a shared award with Branford Marsalis in 1993 for Best Pop Instrumental for "Barcelona Mona", a song written and performed for the 1992 Olympic Games.

The sales stats and breadth of his collaborations (including being sampled many times by rap/hip-hop artists) speak volumes about Hornsby's unique fusion of mainstream appeal and wild musical diversity. His albums have sold over eleven million copies worldwide. *Harbor Lights* (1993) won the Downbeat Reader's Poll Album of the Year in 1994. Tupac Shakur co-wrote a new song over "The Way It Is" music called "Changes"; it was a major worldwide hit in 1998, selling 15 million copies. In 2006 his 4 CD set *Intersections* was selected as one of the best boxed sets of the year by the New York Times. His song "Levitate" was selected in 2011 by Sports Illustrated as one of the top 40 sports songs of all time. Bruce and his current band The Noisemakers' latest record (a collection featuring Bruce on the Appalachian dulcimer) *Rehab Reunion* (2016) entered the Billboard album chart at 101, marking his tenth album appearance on the venerable chart over a thirty-year period. In 2016 the annual Rolling Stone "Hot List" selected Bruce as "Hot Surprise Influence", citing his influence and inspiration on such modern artists as Justin Vernon (Bon Iver) and Ryan Adams.

Throughout the years Hornsby has participated in several memorable events: the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opening concert in September 1995 (with the performance included on the concert album), Farm Aid IV and VI, the Telluride Bluegrass Festival (many times), the Newport Jazz Festival (2007), New Orleans Heritage and Jazz Festival (1997 and 2011), Woodstock II (1994), Woodstock III (1999, with the band's performance included on the concert album), and the Bonnaroo Festival (2011). Hornsby, solo and with Branford Marsalis, has performed the National Anthem for many major events including the NBA All-Star game, four NBA Finals, the 1997 World Series Game 5, the night Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's all-time consecutive game streak, and the soundtrack to *Baseball: A Film by Ken Burns*. Most recently he was a special guest of Bon Iver for their set at the Coachella festival in April 2017, and sat in with Justin Vernon (Bon Iver) twice in December 2017 and once in Eau Claire, WI in 2018.

Bruce's long involvement with the Grateful Dead began when the group asked him to open two shows in Monterey, CA in the spring of 1987. Bruce and the Range continued to open shows for the Dead in 1988, 1989 and 1990, and after the tragic death of Dead keyboardist Brent Mydland the band asked him to play with them. He started winging it with them with no rehearsal for five nights at Madison Square Garden in September 1990, and played more than 100 shows with them until March 1992. He continued to sit in with the band every year until Jerry Garcia passed away in 1995. He played in the first post-Dead band "The Other Ones" in 1998 (the album *The Strange Remain* chronicles that tour) and 2000. Bruce reunited with the band for the 50th Anniversary Fare Thee Well concerts in June and July 2015 at Levi's Stadium (Santa Clara, CA) and Soldier Field (Chicago). He appears on seven Grateful Dead records including *Infrared Roses*, *So Many Roads* and *View From The Vault II*.

Bruce has been part of many tribute records including two Grateful Dead collections, the original *Deadedicated* (1991) and the recent massive compilation curated by the band The National entitled *Day of the Dead*. He recorded "Black Muddy River" with Justin Vernon of Bon Iver and Justin's high school band DeYarmond Edison. Other tribute record appearances include *Two Rooms- A Tribute To The Songs of Elton John and Bernie Taupin*, a Keith Jarrett tribute, a tribute to The Band, a Fats Domino collection, Ricky Skaggs' *Big Mon - the music of Bill Monroe*, and the Jackson Browne tribute record *Looking Into You*.

A University of Miami alum, Hornsby has partnered with The Frost School of Music to establish the Creative American Music Program, a curriculum designed to develop the creative skills of talented young artist/songwriters by immersing them in diverse American folk, blues, and gospel traditions that form the foundations of modern American songwriting.

Indeed, Bruce Hornsby's restless musical spirit continues to spontaneously push him forward into exciting new musical pursuits. He's composed and performed for many projects with long-time collaborator, filmmaker Spike Lee including end-title songs for two films, *Clockers* (1995, with Chaka Khan) and *Bamboozled* (2001). He contributed music for *If God is Willin' And the Creek Don't Rise* (2010), *Old Boy* (2013) and *Chirag* (2015), and composed full film scores for *Kobe Doin' Work*, Lee's 2009 ESPN Kobe Bryant documentary, 2012's *Red Hook Summer*, *Da Sweet Blood of Jesus* (2015), and Lee's film for the NBA2K16 video game (2015). Bruce wrote and performed the end title song "Set Me In Motion" for Ron Howard's *Backdraft* (1991) and a featured song "Big Stick" for Ron Shelton's *Tin Cup* (1996). He's currently working with DeMatteo on a musical entitled *SCKBSTD*, and contributed music for Disney/Pixar's *Planes: Fire And Rescue* (2014). Hornsby is also featured onscreen in and contributed music to the Robin Williams/ Bobcat Goldthwaite film *World's Greatest Dad* (2009), the first (and last!) time he has been asked to "act." He scored both seasons of Spike Lee's Netflix series *She's Gotta Have It*, in 2017 and 2019, wrote and performed new music for Lee's 2018 film *Blackkklansman*, and contributed a new solo performance of "The Way It Is" for the 2019 documentary *NYC Epicenters 9/11-2021½*.

Three decades after Bruce Hornsby established his global name as the creator of pop hits that defined "the sound of grace on the radio," as a Rolling Stone reviewer once wrote, such projects continue and are consistent with his lifelong pursuit of musical transcendence. "It's always been about staying inspired, broadening my reach and range of abilities and influences, and exploring new areas", Hornsby says. "I'm very fortunate to be able to do that, to be a lifelong student, and to continue to pursue a wide-ranging musical life."

His adventurous 21st album, *Absolute Zero*, was released in April 2019, and received some of the most rapturous reviews of Hornsby's career, from such venues as the New York Times, Spin, Pitchfork, Times of London, Mojo, Guardian U.K., and the Washington Post. "Voyager One" was picked as one of the Best Songs Of 2019 by the New York Times. It featured guests yMusic, Justin Vernon, Blake Mills, Robert Hunter,

The Staves, and Jack DeJohnette.

Vernon and Hornsby co-wrote and sang a duet together on the main single from the record, "Cast-Off". They continued their collaborative efforts in writing the song "Yu Man Like" for the new 2019 Bon Iver album *i,i*. Hornsby played piano and sang one lead line.

In 2020 Hornsby released the follow-up to *Absolute Zero* entitled *Non-Secure Connection*, which was again met with an extremely positive critical reception from The NY Times, Pitchfork, Spin, Esquire, The Times of London, Uncut, UK Evening Standard and The London Sunday Times. "My Resolve", a duet with James Mercer from The Shins, was picked as one of the Best Songs of 2020 by the New York Times. It featured guests Mercer, Jamila Woods, Leon Russell, Vernon Reid, Justin Vernon, and Rob Moose. Bruce and James appeared in virtual duets on Stephen Colbert and the Virtual Bonnaroo Festival.

Also appearing with Bruce on the Bonnaroo set was Chicago hip-hop artist Polo G who released "Wishing For A Hero" in 2020, a song inspired by Tupac's "Changes" that again used the music and some words from "The Way It Is" to great effect. "Wishing For A Hero" was a highly acclaimed and well-received hit from Polo's 2020 album *The GOAT*.

Bruce's 23rd record, *Flicted*, was released in May 2022 completing the trilogy of albums begun with *Absolute Zero*. Featuring an array of special guests including Ezra Koenig (Vampire Weekend), Danielle Haim (Haim), Blake Mills, and yMusic, the album was again met with critical acclaim from The New York Times, Sunday Times (UK), Uncut, and Pitchfork, amongst others.

#### Discography-

*The Way It Is* (1986)  
*Scenes From The Southside* (1988)  
*A Night On The Town* (1990)  
*Harbor Lights* (1993)  
*Hot House* (1995)  
*Spirit Trail* (1998)  
*Here Come The Noisemakers* (2001)  
*Big Swing Face* (2002)  
*Halcyon Days* (2004)  
*Intersections (Boxed Set-* 2006)  
*Ricky Skaggs and Bruce Hornsby* (2007)  
*Camp Meeting* (2007)  
*Greatest Radio Hits* (2004)  
*Levitate* (2009)  
*Bride of the Noisemakers* (2011)  
*Soundtrack- Red Hook Summer* (2012)

*Cluck Ol' Hen- Skaggs-Hornsby Live (2013)*  
*Solo Concerts(2014)*  
*The Essential Bruce Hornsby (Sony Collection- 2015)*  
*Rehab Reunion (2016)*  
*Absolute Zero (2019)*  
*Non-Secure Connection (2020)*  
*'Flicted (2022)*  
*Spirit Trail: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition (2023)*