

THE VICTOR

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EPK

2016

THE VICTOR



"A MUST-SEE"
HOUSTON PRESS

"Audiences are walking away refreshed and excited"-THE VICTOR

THE VICTOR

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HIP HOP | JAZZ | FUSION

"The kind of multi-faceted, dynamic type of jazz we want to hear"-CultureMap Austin

Labeled "SXSW 2014 Best Music Act" by the Wall Street Journal and dubbed "A must-see" by the Houston Press, Official 2014 SXSW Showcasing Artist THE VICTOR quietly released an independent EP entitled Live At The Compound which debuted on the 2012-2013 Jazz Week Station of the Year, Portland's KMHD 89.1.

Influenced by hip-hop, soul, funk & jazz, THE VICTOR explores

mostly original compositions steeped in languid grooves with fiery beats and transporting sounds. Houston Style Magazine says THE VICTOR "has tapped into a musical time warp", while CultureMap Austin describes THE VICTOR as "the kind of multi-faceted, dynamic type of jazz we want to hear."



Grooves: Victor Bernard (C)
Beats: Jarrell Campbell (R)
Sounds: Clayton Farris (L)

“All of our influences from hip-hop to funk to soul and jazz find their way to the music”

THE VICTOR



THE VICTOR is a forward thinking collective of hand picked highly original in-demand musicians & artist lead by composer/producer/bass guitarist Victor Bernard.

Influenced by hip-hop, soul, funk & jazz, THE VICTOR explores original compositions steeped in languid grooves with fiery beats and transporting sounds in any combination of acoustic/electric pianos, keyboard synths, acoustic/electric drums, electric guitar, vocals and electric bass.

Core Trio:

Victor Bernard (Bass Guitar/FX/Vox)-Bass player for the seminal Houston based rock trio The Last Ones. Toured the U.S. entertaining NBA WNBA & MLB fans with Rockin Ray & Skydogs USA. Ex-college basketball coach and Houston Baptist grad with dual degrees in Business Management and Accounting.

Jarrell Campbell (Acoustic/Electric Drums)-Berklee College of Music in Boston 2019.

Clayton Farris (Acoustic/Electric Pianos/Synths)-HSPVA (Houston High School for Performing Arts) grad, attended Eastman Conservatory in Rochester, NY.

Key Collaborators:

Michael Wooten (Keys/Synth)-Berklee College of Music Boston 2016 Grad

Vincent Troyani (Sax/Fx)-William Patterson Grad

Daniel de Luna (Electric Guitar)-Noteworthy credit on Miguel's #1 Hit "Sure Thing."

Shaleyah (Vocals)-Featured vocalist for New Orleans funk band Water Seed.

NYC DEBUT

SHAPESHIFTER LAB



THE VICTOR DEBUTS IN NYC

THE VICTOR DEBUTED IN NYC MARCH 18TH AT SHAPESHIFTER LAB

"Best Jazz
Venue 2016"
DOWNBEAT

THE VICTOR debuted their *new tunes* "Last Year" and "Early" at Matt Garrison's famed Shapeshifter Lab in Brooklyn on March 18th, 2016. Shapeshifter Lab was listed as one of Downbeat's "193 Best Jazz Venues" in their February 2016 edition.

THE VICTOR fulfilled their earlier promise to expand the band and round out their sound during their NYC debut. Along with the core rhythm section THE VICTOR added:

Fender Rhodes/Moog: Michael Wooten

Sax/Fx: Vincent Troyani





SXSW 2014 Official Showcase | *Elephant Room | March 14 12:45a

Showcases

*Elephant Room-SXSW (ATX)
Avant Garden

Headliners

*Shapeshifter Lounge (Brooklyn)
-Matt Garrison's SS+ Presents
Funk n' Waffles (Syracuse, NY)
-with Sophistafunk
DJ Sun's The Flat
-Jazz Scene Houston Presents
Super Happy Fun Land
Jet Lounge
Bohemeos



Features

Athens Lounge (*Motif' n Volume*)
Jet Lounge (*Motif' n Volume*)

Residencies

Bar Boheme

DOWNBEAT BEST JAZZ VENUES 2016

NEW YEAR'S EVE DEBUTS ON JAZZ WEEK STATION OF THE YEAR

Since forming in July of 2012, THE VICTOR quietly released an independent EP entitled Live At The Compound, which debuted on the 2012-2013 Jazz Week Station of the Year. Matt Fleeger is the program director at Portland's KMHD 89.1, where he hand picked their promising new tune, New Year's Eve for his lunchtime program, appropriately named New Jazz for Lunch.

RADIO AIRPLAY

On January 10, 2014 THE VICTOR found themselves back in the studio. This time at 226 Recordings, where they filmed and recorded a live in-studio performance of their new single, "Test My Soul." The video for "Test My Soul" is currently being featured on SXSW's official youtube page, single is currently being featured as a station on Pandora.



DISCOGRAPHY



Live at The Compound EP

Release Date: Aug 1, 2012

Track Listing:

1. Someone's Listening
2. New Year's Eve*
3. Conversations

*New Year's Eve debuted on the 2012 Jazz Week Station of the Year, Portland's KMHD 89.1



Test My Soul Single

Release Date: May 16, 2014

Track Listing:

1. Test My Soul

*Currently featured as a station on Pandora.



TESTIMONIALS

What the press & fans are saying about THE VICTOR

What the **press** is saying:

“**A must-see**”-Jesse Sendejas Jr., Houston Press

“**The kind of multi-faceted, dynamic type of jazz we want to hear**”-Katie Friel, CultureMap Austin

“**Has entered into a musical time warp**”-Keandra Scott, Houston Style Magazine

“**Two thumbs up...transporting**” -Donna M, ElementsofJazz.com

What the **industry** is saying:

“**I like the 3 song EP...I dig what your doing...keep up the good work.**” -Matt Fleeger, Program Director Portland's KMHD 89.1 FM Jazz Radio

“**I really dig New Year's Eve**” -Cornelius White, Former Director of Operations, Spectra Jazz Records

What the **fans** are saying:

“**Excellent**...Blue Note goes hip hop.” -Norbert Hinterberger, Germany

“**Huge sound...very elegant...yet streamlined.**” -Greg Sims, CA

“**Hot stuff**...I hear and feel the freedom.” -Ira Jackson, NY

“**New Year's Eve is killer**...on repeat now...**bravo.**” -Brie Cook, GA



“**Can't wait to hear you guys again**”

“This track [Conversations] is nice...**impressed.**” -Robert Washington III, FL

“**Solid**...it's good stuff...some good groove.” -Dimitri, Russia

“**Sick concert...can't wait to hear you guys again.**” -Hunter Loucks, Tx

“**Really nice...lovely smokey sensual vibe...great.**” -Sam Eaton, AL

“*Audiences are walking away refreshed and excited*”-THE VICTOR

SXSW 2014

Your Guide To The Best Music Acts

BY JIM FUSILLI MARCH 10, 2014

With some 2,200 acts performing at the annual **South by Southwest Music Festival** in Austin, Texas, the roster is too varied and too deep to serve as an indicator of where rock and pop is headed. But it's rich with clues.

For example, SXSW says hip-hop is still a force. Next-generation performers on tap include 20-year-old **Chance the Rapper**; **Future**, likely to showcase material from "Honest," his next album; genre-smasher **Jeremiah Jae**; **Gee Watts**, whose debut album "199x" arrives in early April; 21-year-old **Young Thug**; and **YG**, whose debut full-length disk "My Krazy Life" is out next week. As for hip-hop's present: **Kendrick Lamar** is headlining an iTunes-sponsored show that also features **Schoolboy Q** and **Isaiah Rashad**. **Action Bronson**, **Fat Tony**, **Wiz Khalifa** and **Mobb Deep** are slated to perform during the week, and veteran rapper Nas returns, topping a bill that includes the **A\$AP Mob** and **B.o.B.**, who will perform with a live band, according to the festival organizers. (The **Nasshow** also includes the hip-hop-influenced jazz trio **BadBadNotGood**, the DJ and producer **Flying Lotus**, and bassist

Thundercat.) Tomorrow night/Tonight, 50 Cent, who's held back the release of his new albums "Animal Ambition" and "Street King Immortal" for years, will perform a showcase to be streamed via the mobile app Hang w/.

It may be that top commercial EDM artists are saving their energies for the mammoth Ultra Music Festival in Miami at the end of the month, but experimental electronic musicians are in ample supply at SXSW. Though capable of producing and spinning dance music, artists like **bEEdeEEgEE**, **Creep\$ide**, **Lakim** and **Tom Trago** resist pandering to banal tastes, while **Kira Kira**, **Mr. Carmack**, **Rabit** and **Until the Ribbon Breaks** and others push electronica to intriguing limits.

There's very little high-gloss commercial country at SXSW, but the festival is presenting a slew of gifted country-influenced singer-songwriters, including **Wendy Colonna**; **John Fullbright**; Austin's **Shakey Graves**; **Jessica Lea Mayfield**, whose new album "Make Me



Head Sing" will be released next month; **Parker Millsap**, out supporting his new self-titled album; and **Sturgill Simpson**, whose 2013 album "High Mountain Top" is a gem. As for well-established singer-songwriters: **Lucinda Williams** is coming home to Austin, making four appearances. She may sprinkle new songs among her standards. Jazz at SXSW? Depending on your definition, yes. Jazz artists playing the festival include guitarist **Stanley Jordan**; avant gardists **Nymph**; hip-hop influenced **the Victor**; prog fusionists the **Hedvig Mollestad Trio**; traditionalists the **Kristian Terzic Band** and **Cettina Donato**; '30s revivalists **Jitterbug Vipers**; and many more. It's as if it's dawned on the industry that young music fans may enjoy jazz if they can enter the world on their own terms.

PREPARE TO MEET

Texas Jazz Darlings THE VICTOR During SXSW

BY KATIE FRIEL MARCH 10, 2014

Name: The Victor

Featured track: "New Year's Eve"

City of origin: Houston, Texas

Genre: Jazz meets hip-hop

In one sentence: "All of our influences from hip-hop, funk to soul and jazz find their way to the music," bassist and bandleader Victor Bernard told the Houston Press.

Why we chose them:

Named one of Houston's "Must See Jazz Acts" in 2013, The Victor is just the kind of multi-faceted, dynamic jazz we want to hear during our last Friday of SXSW. Plus, getting to see the band at the revered Elephant Room is a treat we just can't pass up.

SXSW official

showcase: Friday, March 14, 12:45 am at **Elephant Room.**



NEW STANDARDS

MY HOUSTON MUST-SEE JAZZ ACTS

BY JESSE SENDEJAS JR. NOVEMBER 22, 2013

The Victor

The first jazz band I ever heard live was Robert "Doc" Morgan's small jazz ensemble at Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. I was a sophomore at HSPVA and a friend invited me to a show at the old Holman campus.

We had some jazz records at home - John Klemmer's *Touch* and The Crusaders' *Those Southern Knights* come to mind - but I'd never sat in an audience and witnessed the music unfold before me. It was a revelation. Houston had a healthy jazz scene so I became a habitual show-goer. I followed Kirk Whalum, Everette Harp, Sebastian Whittaker, Herman Matthews, the late Dave Catney. I learned about Joe Sample - one of our town's greatest jazz musicians, who was almost literally under my nose all along, every time I dropped the needle onto "Keep That Same Old Feeling." I found other music and strayed from live jazz, only venturing out to catch a national touring act here or there. In an effort to get that old feeling back -- and, to keep on keeping it, as The

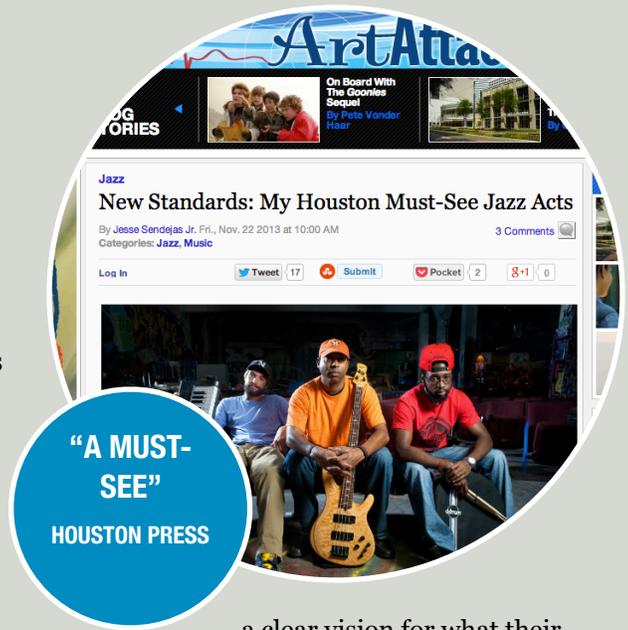
Crusaders instructed all those years ago - I've surveyed some of Houston's current jazz artists to see what's exciting and fresh out there. I found two hard-working women bent on keeping some traditions alive and a pair of trios working to advance the notions of Houston jazz.

THE VICTOR

The first jazz artist I asked assured me "jazz is alive and well here in Houston." That person was Victor Bernard, bassist and bandleader of The Victor. The group released "Live at The Compound," last summer, a three-song EP one fan referred to as "Blue Note meets hip-hop."

"We love to groove, man, to let it all hang out, but in an organic kind of way. All of our influences from hip-hop, funk to soul and jazz find their way to the music," Bernard said.

He and band mates Jarrell Campbell (drums) and Clayton Farris (keys) had



a clear vision for what their music should sound like.

"Houston is becoming more diverse with the influx of the younger workforce that's coming from all over the globe to see what life is like in a big American city," Bernard explained. "Jarrell, Clay and I thought it was the perfect climate to introduce Houston to the very type of jazz we thought was missing from the equation, the type that would hopefully speak to all ages. Enter The Victor."

Story Continues on next page.

NEW STANDARDS

MY HOUSTON MUST-SEE JAZZ ACTS

BY JESSE SENDEJAS JR. NOVEMBER 22, 2013

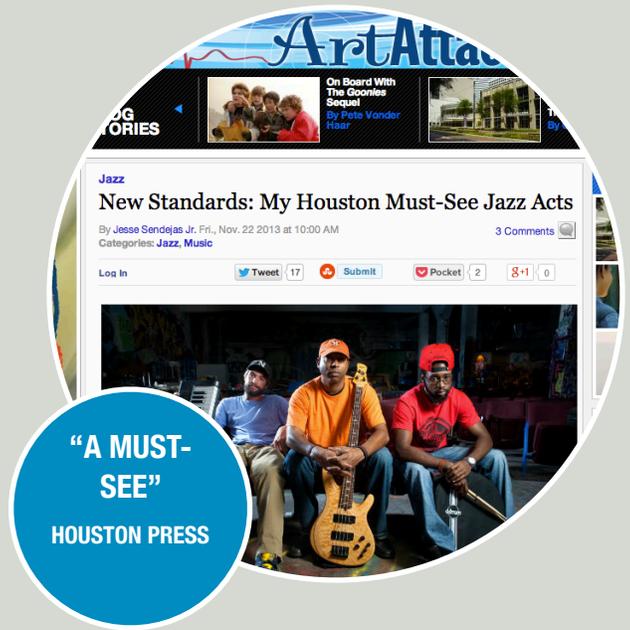
The Victor

Continued...

"Our compositions are more like templates. We know the changes and the basic structures, but we leave the number of bars open so we really have to listen and pay attention to each other, which is a lot of fun because you never know who or what will take the music in what direction," he said.

The band has performed at Jet Lounge, Bohemeo's, Athens Lounge and Super Happy Fun Land and looks to build on its foundation with future recordings and shows.

"The coolest thing is to see how the diversity in Houston is paying dividends on the once lukewarm music scene," Bernard said. "The diversity along with the influx of great people rooting here, coupled with the massive commercial and residential development inside the loop and downtown really has opened the mind of this great city. Houstonians are more adventurous and have come out to support our movement and in return have walked away refreshed and excited."



FIRST TIME'S A CHARM

Official SXSW 2014 Showcasing Artist: THE VICTOR

BY KEANDRA SCOTT FEBRUARY 19, 2014

After getting hip to The Victor on last year, I knew that their musical journey was profound. This three-piece combo has created a musical fulfillment that a Mr. Normal can't stop patting his foot to. The Victor released an independent EP entitled, Live at The Compound which debuted on the 2012-2013 top jazz station of the year, Portland's KMHD 89.1. Often related to American jazz pianist & producer, Robert Glasper, The Victor has tapped into a musical time warp of smooth grooves & progressions to a modern dynamic. When it comes to jazz & even hip-hop, Houston is no stranger; this city has a uniquely-rich culture of music.

The Victor breakdown:

Ke'Ke: The Victor has been chosen out of thousands of band entries for SXSW (which is the biggest music festival in the world), how does it feel & how are you preparing for the event?

The Victor: It's indescribable! I mean, you hear the quote of "when preparation meets opportunity it equals success" all the time but belief in words alone sometimes limits your faith. So when we got the nod it was reassuring to know all the work we put

in thus far has paid off and that all the people who have supported us collectively and individually and that constantly inspire us can share this moment.

As far as preparation goes we're keeping the same approach we've employed since day one, which is to over prepare, but not to the point where we wear out the groove. Then we go with the flow and have as much fun on the bandstand as possible. It's really a trademark of our performances, we have a lot of fun and we think it's evident.

Ke'Ke: Who are the musicians that have most influenced you?

The Victor: Donny Hathaway, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Commissioned & Fred Hammond, Tony Royster Jr., Aaron Spears, Chris Coleman, Chris Dave, Lennie Tristano, Pharoah Sanders and Thelonious Monk...just to name a few.

Ke'Ke: How did you guys meet?

The Victor: We all met two summers ago. It was strange really. I met Jarrell when I stumbled upon an online

Style Magazine

Houston News Health Entertainment Sports Auto International

First time's a charm: Official SXSW 2014 Showcasing Artist, THE VICTOR

CNN/Stylemagazine.com Newswire | Keandra "Ke Ke" Scott | 2/19/2014, 12:37 a.m.



"Has entered into a musical time warp"

Houston Style Mag

drummer ad that sounded like something I would have written so I knew I had to call this cat and set up a jam. Oh did we jam! It was like we had been playing together all our lives. From there, Jarrell and I started formulating the kind of band we wanted, and in walks Mr. Farris at a local cafe we were hanging out at on a Sunday night. Clay walks in and shoots us the deuces (peace sign), and say's what's up as he walks past toward the bandstand. He sits in on keys with the band and Jarrell and I both knew instantly that his swing was a little different than most and that he was the one. We hooked up a couple days later to jam and afterwards we all just looked at each other and laughed, I think deep down we knew, and we've been laughing ever since.



THE VICTOR

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