

WALI MUHAMMAD

Biography

Originally from Benton Harbor, Michigan, **Wali Muhammad** began playing drums at an early age. Having been surrounded by musical role models, Wali was encouraged to study piano to strengthen his musical understanding. Tony Williams was his biggest influence and with his direction set Mr. Muhammad went on to attend Boston's renowned **Berklee College of Music**.

While at Berklee, Wali started developing his concepts of jazz drumming through private studies. He was able to hone his skills by performing in creative bands led by Don Byron, Greg Osby and Donald Harrison.

After earning his Bachelor of music degree from Berklee in 1984, Mr. Muhammad moved to Montreal, Canada, to expand his musical horizons. He began teaching at Concordia University and conducting jazz workshops for schools in the province of Quebec. In 1987, Wali began performing with jazz pioneer/bassist **Charlie Biddle** at Biddle's Jazz. The weekly performances lasted fifteen years, making this an unforgettable musical experience.

Over the next few years, Mr. Muhammad has performed and recorded with some of Canada's accomplished musicians. His recordings include Felix Award recipient **Oliver Jones** for Yuletide Swinging and Juno recipient **The Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir** for Joy To The World. In 1991 he was privileged to participate in Nelson Symonds' recording of Getting Personal. In 1996 he played on Charlie Biddle's debut CD In Good Company. Mr. Muhammad has performed written pieces with The Metropolitan Orchestra and I Musici Of Montreal. He has performed for heads of state Nelson Mandela and Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

During the last eight years, Mr. Muhammad has appeared on ten recordings for various international artists on the Justin Time label. These recordings and promotional concerts surrounding them have led wali to a creative cooperation with such artists as Jeri Brown, Johnny O'Neal, John Hicks, Rufus Reid, Curtis Lundy, Cyrus Chestnut, Stephen Scott, Russell Malone, Avery Sharpe, Fred Hersch, Peter Leitch, Kirk Lightsey, Tarus Mateen and Seamus Blake.