



paul **"shilts"** weimar

Paul "Shilts" Weimar hails from London, England. He began playing sax in his early teens, leading to a career spanning jazz, soul and pop music. Along the way, he has toured the world and recorded with a host of international artists.

Most recently, Paul was band leader and frontman of British urban jazz funk export Down To The Bone, which has enjoyed massive success in the U.S. DTTB has released 7 albums on which Paul is heavily featured as a

player and as a writer.

At 15, Paul was asked to join the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Great Britain. It was with NYJO that Paul got a taste for the business, backing such great jazz stars as Nancy Wilson, Buddy Greco, Rosemary Clooney, George Shearing and Mel Torme.

After turning professional at 16, Paul began working in nightclubs backing many great American stars such as The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Drifters and Rose Royce. Keen to see more of the world, Paul embarked on a travel spree that saw him work in Hong Kong, the Middle East, Europe and the Caribbean.

On returning home, Paul began to firmly establish himself on the London session scene, recording with David Bowie, Jimmy Paige, Bill Wyman, Lulu, Conner Reeves and Dina Carroll. Working in such great company led Paul to join UK pop band Breathe, which went on to have top 10 hits in the US with "Hands to Heaven" and "How Can I Fall." Despite a few years of touring and pop success, Paul never lost sight of his love for jazz, and co-formed System X with five other like-minded London session musicians. They went on to record the highly acclaimed album *Beat The System*.

By now, Paul was highly regarded for his soulful, funky saxophone style, which ensured an invitation to join British acid jazz group The Brand New Heavies in 1994. This association lasted for 6 years, during which he toured the world several times and was featured soloist on their album *Shelter*, which also gave him a chance to work with legendary vocalist and song writer Siedah Garrett. Paul also found time to tour America with UK chart toppers Jamiroquai in 1995.

It was with The Heavies that Paul met keyboard player Neil Cowley, which in turn led to an introduction to Chris J. Morgans

(Internal Bass) and Stuart Wade, creative forces behind DTTB. After featuring heavily on the *Urban Groove* album, Chris and Stuart asked Paul to form and front the live DTTB band which would tour the U.S. Many tours and seven albums later, Paul emerged as the face of the DTTB live band and a target of great interest as a solo artist.

In 2000, an approach from Higher Octave records led to the creation of his debut "Shilts" album, *See What Happens*, and features a crop of London's finest musicians, including many of the talents heard in the DTTB live band. *See What Happens* was recognized in 2001 as one of the top releases in the U.S. and received an industry nomination in the National Smooth Jazz Awards for "Best New Artist."

In 2004, Paul moved from the U.K. to the Los Angeles area with his wife and two children. Since then he has been seen not only on the session scene but also special guest to many top Smooth Jazz artists such as Rick Braun, Jeff Lorber, Paul Brown and Peter White.

In 2005, while working in the Jeff Lorber band, Paul received a telephone call from Rick Braun, asking if he would like to present some of his music to ARTizen Music. Paul did and Braun, along with his partners Richard Elliot, Steve Chapman and Al Evers, signed Shilts to their new record company. The culmination of this was the release of *HeadBoppin'* in 2006. The CD received rave reviews and features some of Paul's musical heroes.

In 2008, after a bitter sweet decision, Paul said farewell to DTTB to focus on his solo career. Armed with his new album *Jigsaw Life* and a new label, nuGroove Records, things couldn't look brighter for the future.

Paul's ethos is a desire to produce good music without ever losing sight of the fact that it should be good fun at the same time. Now let's just wait and see what happens!

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