



REMEMBERING DOUG LUNN

1954 – 2017

Doug Lunn, 63, of Santa Monica, California, died Saturday, February 11, 2017 from complications of pancreatic cancer.

Doug was born on January 30, 1954 and grew up in San Carlos, California. A prolific musician, Doug joined the The American Federation of Musicians (AFM) at the age of 19. He began his professional career as a bassist, keyboardist and percussionist in the vibrant San Francisco music scene of the early 1970s with many notable artists, including Linda Tillery and her soul-rock band, The Loading Zone.

In 1975, Doug studied harmony, counterpoint, form, and composition with renowned jazz pianist, composer and educator Art Lande.

Doug moved to Los Angeles in March of 1977, where he quickly established himself as an innovative top tier studio session recording artist, songwriter and music producer. He is remembered by peers and fans for his mastery of the 5-string fretless electric bass guitar. In a February 2009 interview with FretlessBass.com he said,

“I got my first fretless in 1974 when I was 20 years old. I remember having to call Fender (guitar maker) to place a special order. They didn’t exactly know how to react. When I asked for a Sunburst Precision bass with a fretless neck, Fender’s reply was “You know, the frets don’t cost any extra.”

In 2011, Doug released a solo album, *The Doug Lunn Project*, with Vinnie Colaiuta (drums), Mike Keneally (guitars), Peter Maunu (guitars and loops), Dimitris Mahlis (guitars), and George Bernardo (mallet percussion, engineer, mixing and production assistant).

The following is a short list from Doug's catalog of work. He performed on over 100 recordings with artists including Bruce Springsteen, Mark Isham, David Torn, Andy Summers, Sting, Ava Cherry, Toni Basil, Jimmie Spheeris, Paul Delph, Vida Vierra, Mike Keneally and in numerous film and TV soundtracks. Doug was the bassist, percussionist and musical director with Peter Buffett's multi-media show *Spirit-The 7th Fire* on a PBS special, CD, and 3 national tours. He was the co-leader and featured composer for the critically acclaimed band *Fire Merchants* with guitarist John Goodsall (from *Brand X*) and drummers Chester Thompson, Chad Wackerman, and Toss Panos. He toured Europe in 1997 with the trio *Subject/Object* which included drummer Vinnie Colaiuta and guitarist David Torn.

Doug was a member of the house band on the late night *Dennis Miller Show* on over 150 TV shows in 1992. He was also a performer and musical director for the award winning *Friends & Artists Theatre Ensemble (F.A.T.E.)*. Doug spent many years as the percussionist and music director for *Swing Brazil Dance Company* and was involved with the organization and production of the 3rd and 4th versions of the *World Festival of Sacred Music* during September and October 2005 and 2008 in Los Angeles.

Other artists and groups Doug performed or recorded with include:

L Shankar, John Abercrombie, Paul McCandles, Don Cherry, Chaka Kahn, Steven Stills, Martha Davis/*The Motels*, Wayne Kramer, Mike Keneally, Reeves Gabrels, Empire Brass, Richard Thompson, Dave Liebman, Nels Cline, Kevin Gilbert, Buddy Guy, *Axiom of Choice*, Eddie Henderson, Mick Farren/*The Deviants*, Patrick Moraz, Mike Clark, Bette Midler, Ed Mann, Brian Adams, Eddie Jobson, Michael Des Barres, Joey Ramone, John Sinclair/*Blues Scholars*, *Tanzi* (the musical-1984), Sylvia St James, Zoo Drive, Robert Mirabal, Armen Chakmakian, *Left-Right-Left*, Lyle Workman, Warren Cuccurullo, *Podunk Nowhere*, Gilby Clarke, *Umphrey's McGee*, Lydia Lunch, Jerry Cantrell, Kofi Baker and many others.

Doug is survived by his wife of 36 years, Vida Vierra, their daughter, Dani A. Lunn, his mother, Dorothy Lunn, his sisters Johanna Gromme and Barbara Brandiff and his brother, David Lunn.

For additional information online, please visit [Remembering Doug Lunn](#).