



Chick Corea

(June 12, 1941 – February 9, 2021)

AS with the others, this was a shocker and it truly came out of left field. It only proves when it is time, it is time. Chick Corea 50 year career of music span the ages as his music will span the ages long after he is gone. Like the others, I grew up on Chick. I had several albums, cassettes and a few 8 tracks infused with his sounds. The list of greats he had played with may hit the flooring roll out the room, but a few are;

Herbie Hancock
Herbie Mann
Stan Getz
Miles Davis
The Braxton Brothers
Bobby McFerrin
Joe Farrell
Stanley Clark
and a host of others

You would have thought that chick reached his pentacle with is famous Return to Forever band, but he had a ton more in him.

Corea's other bands included the [Chick Corea Elektric Band](#), its trio reduction called "Akoustic Band", Origin, and its trio reduction called the New Trio. Corea signed a record deal with [GRP Records](#) in 1986 which led to the release of ten albums between 1986 and 1994, seven with the Elektric Band, two with the Akoustic Band, and a solo album, *Expressions*.

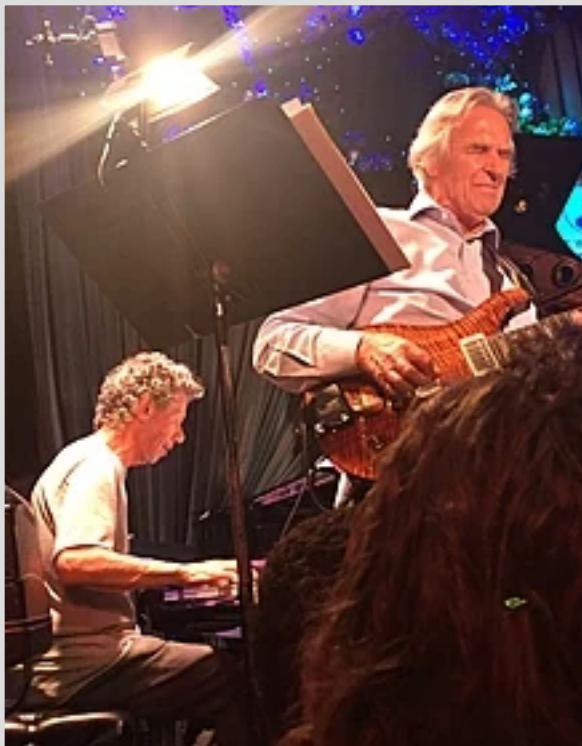
The Akoustic Band released a self-titled album in 1989 and a live follow-up, *Alive* in 1991, both featuring [John Patitucci](#) on bass and [Dave Weckl](#) on drums. It marked a return to traditional jazz trio instrumentation in Corea's career, and the bulk of his subsequent recordings have featured acoustic piano. The Akoustic Band has toured intermittently since 1986.^{[1](#)[5](#)[11](#)[16](#)[17](#)[18](#)} They provided the music for the 1986 Pixar short [Luxo Jr.](#) with their song "The Game Maker".

In 1992, Corea started his own label, [Stretch Records](#).

In 2001, the Chick Corea New Trio, with bassist [Avishai Cohen](#), and drummer [Jeff Ballard](#), released the album *Past, Present & Futures*. The eleven-song album includes only one standard ([Fats Waller's "Jitterbug Waltz"](#)). The rest of the tunes are Corea originals. He participated in 1998's *Like Minds* with old associates Gary Burton on vibraphone, Dave Holland on bass, Roy Haynes on drums, and [Pat Metheny](#) on guitars.

During the latter part of his career, Corea also explored [contemporary classical music](#). He composed his first [piano concerto](#) – and an adaptation of his signature piece, "Spain", for a full symphony orchestra – and performed it in 1999 with the [London Philharmonic Orchestra](#). Five years later he composed his first work without keyboards: his [String Quartet](#) No. 1 was written for the [Orion String Quartet](#) and performed by them at 2004's [Summerfest](#) in Wisconsin.

Corea continued recording fusion albums such as *To the Stars* (2004) and *Ultimate Adventure* (2006). The latter won the [Grammy Award for Best Jazz Instrumental Album, Individual or Group](#).



Chick Corea's 75th birthday, Corea and [John McLaughlin](#), [Blue Note Jazz Club](#), New York City, 10 December 2016

In 2008, the third version of *Return to Forever* (Corea, Stanley Clarke, [Lenny White](#), and Al Di Meola) reunited for a worldwide tour. The reunion received positive reviews from jazz and mainstream publications.^[19] Most of the group's studio recordings were re-released on the compilation *Return to Forever: The Anthology* to coincide with the tour. A concert DVD recorded during their performance at the [Montreux Jazz Festival](#) was released in May 2009. He also worked on a [collaboration CD](#) with the vocal group [The Manhattan Transfer](#).

A new group, the [Five Peace Band](#), began a world tour in October 2008. The ensemble included John McLaughlin

whom Corea had previously worked with in Miles Davis's late 1960s bands, including the group that recorded Davis's classic album *Bitches Brew*. Joining Corea and McLaughlin were saxophonist [Kenny Garrett](#) and bassist [Christian McBride](#). Drummer [Vinnie Colaiuta](#) played with the band in Europe and on select North American dates; [Brian Blade](#) played all dates in Asia and Australia, and most dates in North America. The vast reach of Corea's music was celebrated in a 2011 retrospective with Corea guesting with the [Jazz at](#)

[Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) in the [Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts](#); a *New York Times* reviewer had high praise for the occasion: "Mr. Corea was masterly with the other musicians, absorbing the rhythm and feeding the soloists. It sounded like a band, and Mr. Corea had no need to dominate; his authority was clear without raising volume."

Chick Corea at Cool Jazz Festival 2015 in [Oeiras, Portugal](#)

A new band, Chick Corea & The Vigil, featured Corea with bassist [Hadrien Feraud](#), [Marcus Gilmore](#) on drums (carrying on from his grandfather, Roy Haynes), saxes, flute, and bass clarinet from Origin vet [Tim Garland](#), and guitarist Charles Altura.

Corea celebrated his 75th birthday in 2016 by playing with more than 20 different groups during a six-week stand at the [Blue Note Jazz Club](#) in [Greenwich Village](#), New York City. "I pretty well ignore the numbers that make up 'age'. It seems to be the best way to go. I have always just concentrated on having the most fun I can with the adventure of music."



Bill Sommerville

Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chick_Corea. Later work