



[George Howard](#)

(September 15, 1956 – March 20, 1998)

Like with Art Porter I ran into George while overseas. George was smoooooth with that soprano sax. He could make draws leave a woman's body and she would have never touch them. A many guys played George's CD's when they were alone with their woman. There is no doubt about, George Howard's music contributed to the population growth.

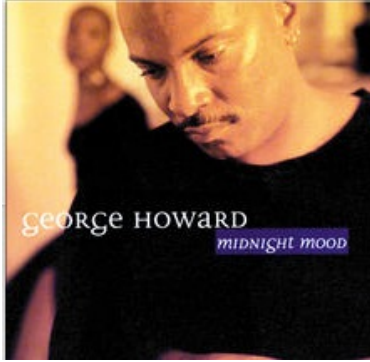
Yet George took his unique style of rhythm and blues and did a fusion of the two which produced some amazing results. My words do not do it justice to describe it here. You will instantly understand when you hear him play.

You can tell by the way he played who his idol was (Grover Washington Jr) and when he got his break to play with him, he didn't shy from it. George put out some great stuff and again like Art Porter, he died way to young. I never got a chance to her him live, but some of my favorites cuts are as follows:



[Three Minute Warning](#)
[Within Your Eyes](#)
[Smooth](#)

Just to name a few. You can tell George was a hard worker with such a short career. He cranked out some serious stuff that took every bone of his skill to produce. George did what many artist do. They learn from those their idol's and take Jazz to another step.



Notice I did not say the next step. In Jazz we never know what is the next step. Artist's like George, who had the opportunity to carry on from their predecessors, don't know where Jazz is going to take them as well. That is why I say another step, where-ever that step maybe or lead to will be fine with the artist and fans alike. One thing you can rely on is like the weather, if you do not like what you hear in Jazz, be patient, by the time you say you do not like it, it will surely change again.

Artist like George knew this and learned that they are leaders in their own style of Jazz with a following. Their fan base is in many cases willing to follow whatever direction their favorite artists leads to the new sounds they crave. Some things can be an addiction. Jazz is no different and like with all addictions the end result is the key to whether the addition is positive or negative in nature.

Like those who get the traveling bug, you can surely catch the Jazz bug. If you catch both (like me) man are you in for a ride. I have learned so much from both. I will never forget those whom have shared their Jazz experience as I traveled the world.

Bill Sommerville