

Lincoln Goines - Long Bio / Profile

Bassist, composer, author, and educator Lincoln Goines has distinguished himself as one of the premier bassists of his generation. As a sideman, Goines' resume reads like a who's who of the pop, jazz and Latin world. From Carly Simon to Sonny Rollins to Dave Valentin, Goines is the consummate musician who is adept in any musical environment. His versatility as a bass player and writer has kept him in demand for over four decades.

A native of Oakland, California, Goines is the fifth of eight children. He studied piano and trumpet in grade school, then in his teens at the apex of the psychedelic/soul culture explosion of the 1960's he chose music as his path and began playing electric and acoustic bass, studying formally with Vancouver, BC Symphony bassist/cellist Sydney Keats and virtuoso bass soloist Gary Karr. In 1975, after finishing high school in northwestern Canada, he returned to the SF Bay Area and began gigging with local musicians, most notably pianist Mike Wolff, trombonist Julian Priester, and alto saxophonist John Handy. It was also in this period that he took some private lessons with jazz bassists Steve Swallow and Eddie Gomez.

In 1977 Goines relocated to New York City and took up residence in Manhattan's East Village. At the time, there were plenty of loft sessions and clubs to play at and be heard, and in 1978 he began playing with drummer Idris Muhammed, who flew him out to Fantasy Studios in Berkeley, CA for his first major recording session (*You Ain't No Friend of Mine* / 1978). With his versatility and fluid style, Goines began to establish himself as a mainstay on the NYC jazz, Latin, and studio scene, recording and touring with an extensive list of premier artists.

In 1979 Goines met Latin flutist legend Dave Valentin, stating "Playing with South Bronx native Dave Valentin was my induction into the prolific NYC Latin music scene. We met at a performance/jam session event in Manhattan in 1979. He had just completed his first recording with GRP records and was looking to put a touring band together, and asked if I wanted to come to his place to jam. I was playing a lot of fretless bass at the time and I guess he liked what he heard, because that was the beginning of a musical relationship that lasted over 30 years." Goines played on 17 recordings of Valentin's, most notably: *The Hawk* / 1980, *Kalahari* / 1984, *Mind Time* / 1987, *Live at the Blue Note* / 1988, *Two Amigos* / 1990, *Musical Portraits* / 1992, *Red Sun* / 1993, and *Tropic Heat* / 1994.

In 1980 he toured with Argentinian saxophonist Gato Barbieri. That relationship lasted 35 years, introducing Goines to master drummers Bernard Purdie and Portinho. You can hear him on two of Barbieri's recordings, *Bahia* / 1982, and *Para Los Amigos* / 1984.

From 1981 through 1998 Goines started playing and recording with Tania Maria. He recalls, "She could swing a samba harder than anyone I had ever played with before or since. It was my initiation into the NYC Brazilian music scene, which was flourishing at the time". Goines is on two of Tania's records, *Come With Me* / 1982 and *Made in New York* / 1985.

Legendary producer Dave Grusin came to call on Goines for two records. "Dave was an executive producer (and sometimes arranger) on the Dave Valentin records of the 80's and early 90's. He called me to play acoustic and electric bass on two of his own projects: *Out of the Shadows* / 1982 (my first experience playing with Steve Gadd), and *Night Lines* / 1983."

Pianist Bill O'Connell and Goines met in 1979, performing live with Dave Valentin, along with five incredible recordings. Goines fondly recalls "Pianist Bill O'Connell, drummer Robby Ameen, and I were Dave Valentin's recording/touring rhythm section for almost 30 years. I have a DNA-level groove/interaction thing with these cats that can only happen from playing that long together." Recordings: *Love For Sale* / 1988, *Latin Jazz Fantasy* / 2004, *Jazz Latin* / 2018, *Wind Off the Hudson* / 2019, *A Change is Gonna Come* / 2022.

It was Bill O'Connell that recommended Goines to Sonny Rollins, a major milestone in Goines' musical evolution. "Bill got word that Sonny was looking for an electric bass player for a tour of Europe and recommended me for the audition. Two days later, Mrs. Lucille Rollins called me and told me I was hired. I was like a deer in the headlights at first, playing for an icon like Sonny, but when I realized that he liked what was happening musically I relaxed and let the groove flow. I learned a lot!"

Goines went on to play and record with Cuban alto sax/clarinet virtuoso Paquito D'Rivera from 1984-2019. His time with Paquito is documented on three releases, *Why Not* / 1984, *Explosion* / 1986 and *Celebration* / 1987. It was there that he met pianist Michel Camilo, which also produced three records, *Michel Camilo* / 1988, *Through My Eyes* / 1997, and *Playing Lecuona* / 2015.

In 1984 Goines had the opportunity to record with musical legend Dizzy Gillespie on his release *New Faces* / 1984. As he remembers, "It was truly an honor to meet and play with Mr. Dizzy Gillespie in the studio".

In 1984 Goines met up with Bob Mintzer. "Bob was one of the busiest reedmen in NYC during the 80's and 90's, and we played together in numerous situations. Also a prolific composer/arranger, he would often hire me to record and perform with his big band, which gave me the opportunity to play with some of the best cats in the business: the Brecker brothers, Peter Erskine, Bob Malach, Marvin Stamm, Frank Malabe, Russell Ferrante, Dave Taylor, Lawrence Feldman, and many others".

Recordings with Bob Mintzer include: *Incredible Journey* / 1985, *Spectrum* /1988, *Urban Contours* / 1989, *Departure* /1991, and *For the Moment* / 2012.

Saxophonist and composer Bob Berg first met Goines in 1978. "I first played with Bob in Idris Muhammed's band in the late 70's. He was a good friend, and a fiery spirit who played the tenor sax like he was born with it in his mouth". Goines is on two of Berg's releases, *In the Shadows* / 1990 and *Back Roads* / 1991.

Goines went on to forge a musical relationship with storied guitarist Mike Stern, recording three titles, two of which received Grammy nominations: *Odds or Evens* / 1991, *Between the Lines* (Grammy nom) / 1996, *Play* / 1999, *Big Neighborhood* (Grammy nom) / 2009. "Another Miles Davis alumni like Bob Berg, and just as intense and fiercely dedicated to the art of music." Goines also performed and recorded with Stern's wife, Leni Stern from 1988-2010. You can hear him on four of her recordings, *Secrets* / 1988, *Closer to the Light* /1989, *Ten Songs* / 1992 and *Words* / 1995.

Eliane Elias had Goines in her rhythm section from 1989-2007. "I played with Eliane in several versions of her Brazilian/electric band projects. Elegant woman, elegant pianist." Recording: *A Long Story* / 1991.

Goines performed and recorded with guitarist Wayne Krantz from 1991-2010. "Wayne and I played together in the Leni Stern bands of the late 80's and early 90's. He is a guitarist in a genre all his own. *For the Long to Be Loose* album we rehearsed for weeks before going into the studio, and I had to come up with a completely different style of bass playing to fit his music". Recordings: *Long to Be Loose* / 1993, *2 Drink Minimum* / 1995. Goines also recorded and performed with legendary guitarist Jeff Golub, playing on five titles from 1996-2010. Recordings: *Naked City* / 1996, *Out of the Blue* /1999, *Dangerous Curves* / 2000, *Soul Sessions* / 2003, *Grand Central* / 2007.

In 2008 Goines received a call from rock/pop legend Carly Simon. "Carly called me in the spring of 2008, saying I had been recommended to play acoustic and electric bass on the bossa/Latin style folk recording and touring project she was starting up. It took me a minute to realize that I was talking to the actual Carly Simon! It ended up being a pretty interesting conversation after she inquired about the origins of my last name and we discovered our similar mixed heritages. I had a blast working for her, first class rock and roll style all the way." Recording: *This Kind of Love* / 2008.

Goines is a published composer in his own right and his compositions can be heard on recordings by Dave Valentin, Ryo Kawasaki, and on the album *Night and Day*, a collaboration with drummer Kim Plainfield released in 2002. In addition, he is a Professor of Bass at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and an artist-in-residence faculty member at the Bass Collective in New York City.

Goines is a senior student of the acclaimed Tai Chi Chuan Grandmaster William C.C. Chen, and is one of his certified master instructors. He is also a contributing author for the book *Bass Lessons with the Greats* ([Amazon](#)) and co-author of the best-selling book and video *Funkifying the Clave: Afro-Cuban Grooves for Bass and Drums* ([Alfred Music](#)).

In 2022 Goines released his first solo album *The Art of the Bass Choir*, an ambitious and unique project which features himself multi-tracked along with a stellar cast of his bass and drum contemporaries, including John Pattitucci, Victor Wooten, Dennis Chambers, Matthew Garrison, Tom Kennedy, Boston Pops principal bassist Susan Hagen, Mike Pope, Robby Ameen, and several others. He states: “ The spirit of the bass has possessed me from an early age, and since the 1980’s as an upcoming musician in New York City it’s been an idea of mine to perform music in a multi-bass ensemble format. I began actualizing this vision over the past several years as a professor at the Berklee College of Music; putting together arrangements for student ensembles. On these tracks I attempted to create a collage of styles and moods: groove, lyricism, tradition, virtuosity, sonic math, and directed chaos; textured in a context where harmonies could resonate outside the confines of keyboard temperament and within perimeters of clearly voiced low end/non-tonal instruments. Indeed, an exquisite jungle of bass!”

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