

## BARRY MILES

### BIOGRAPHY

"I guess it all started the day I was born in 1947", muses composer, arranger, and keyboard wizard, Barry Miles. "The doctor was a serious jazz buff and he was playing a Benny Goodman record while he was delivering me. My parents have always been into music and when I was just a toddler, my father who owned a record store, would bring home be-bop records of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie which I would play incessantly on my little 78 phonograph. When I was four I started taking piano lessons from my uncle and when I was seven I started drum lessons. My father noticed my early musical ability and took me to sit in with some great musicians who were passing through town." One of the musicians who heard Barry was Woody Herman and through his association with Woody, Barry performed on some major TV shows and concerts which led to his early membership in the musician's union at age nine. In his pre-teen years, he got the opportunity to perform with some of the greatest jazz legends including Lester Young, Billie Holiday, Roy Eldridge, Buck Clayton, Coleman Hawkins, and John Coltrane. "I remember playing a concert in Newark, N.J. with then 19 year old Wayne Shorter and in a darkened backstage area I heard a gruff voice behind me say 'you sound good, kid'. I turned around and discovered it was Miles Davis!"

In the early 60's, throughout high-school, Barry continued his musical studies: Harmony and Theory with Dika Newlin who herself had been a student of composer, Arnold Schoenberg, classical piano with Olga Von Till, who had studied with Bela Bartok. (Olga, at the time, was also teaching famed jazz pianist, Bill Evans who had gone a decade earlier to the same high-school as Barry). Barry simultaneously was studying jazz piano with acclaimed teacher John Mehegan and during the summers went up to the Eastman School of Music to study arranging and orchestration with Ray Wright, Manny Albam, and Fred Karlin. Along with school and private study, Barry maintained his own band which performed concerts and TV. He played a State Department tour of Europe and recorded and composed all the music for his first album, "Miles of Genius" on Charlie Parker-MGM Records (1961). Many great young musicians were introduced to the public in Barry's group in the 60's, including Woody Shaw, Eddie Gomez, Richard Davis, and Ron Carter.

By the mid-60's, Barry came to the conclusion that "because of the developments in mass communication, people have the opportunity to hear music from all over the world and the result will be the fusion of many diverse elements into various new styles". The outcome of this concept was the recording of Barry's "Syncretic Compositions" (1966) featuring Lew Soloff, Robin Kenyatta, Walter Booker, and Don Perullo, and it's probably the first "fusion" album in an acoustic setting containing elements of jazz, classical, rock, and Eastern music. It was recorded at a live concert at Princeton University which Barry graduated from in 1969. While at Princeton, Barry studied electronic music and experimented with the early versions of the synthesizers available today.

Upon graduation, Barry recorded an album for Poppy- RCA Records and through the 70's continued to pioneer his fusion concept by recording seven more albums and touring all over the world with his quartet, Barry Miles & Silverlight. Many more great musicians were introduced through his band and recordings including Al Di Meola, Vic Juris, Pat Martino, John Abercrombie, Eric Kloss, Lew Tabackin, and Barry's brother, Terry Silverlight. In between engagements, Barry did studio work playing on hundreds of pop, R&B, and jazz recordings.

Between 1980 and 1994, Barry was the musical director for Roberta Flack and through Roberta he composed and arranged music for the Richard Pryor movie, "Bustin' Loose" as well as contributing as a producer/composer/arranger/performer on a number of her albums.

In the early '90's, Barry renewed a long association with Al Di Meola by performing with the Al Di Meola Project and collaborating in the production, arranging, and writing of Al's "Kiss My Axe" album. Throughout the '90's to the present, Barry has composed music for several hundred national and international TV and radio commercials along with numerous Miramax movie trailers. More recently, he performed and arranged with Roberta Flack on the "Songs From the Neighborhood" album, which won the 2006 Grammy for best children's album, and is currently producing and arranging on a new album of Beatles songs for her. Once again, Barry has collaborated with Al Di Meola on his highly acclaimed albums, "The Consequences of Chaos" (2006), and "In Pursuit of Radical Rhapsody" (2011). Barry is proud to have performed and assisted on Terry Silverlight's albums, "Diamond In The Riff" (2008) and "In Concert" (2011).