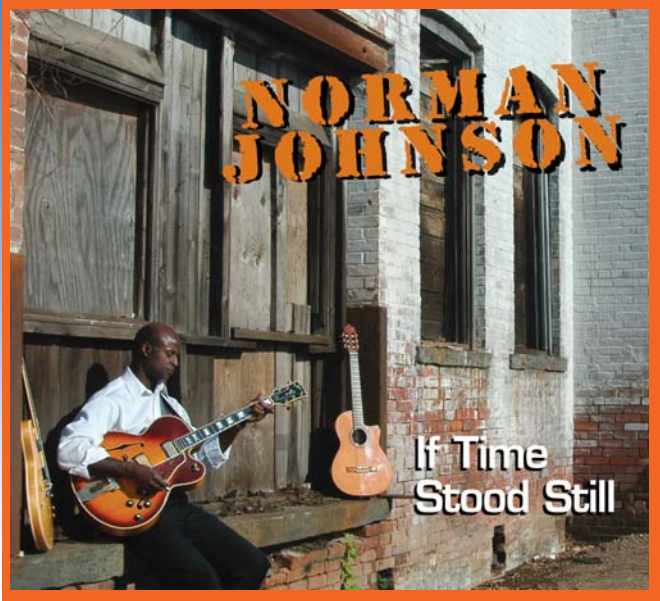




# PACIFIC COAST JAZZ

## is proud to present



## NORMAN JOHNSON *"If Time Stood Still"*

*If Time Stood Still*, the debut solo release from guitarist Norman Johnson on the Pacific Coast Jazz label, is an exquisite expression of music that has been waiting to happen. From sonic grooves reminiscent of Wes Montgomery and George Benson to the mysterious, sultry melodies that frame Johnson's distinctive sound this recording integrates the best of contemporary and traditional jazz. With over twenty recordings as a sideman, playing with highly respected musicians (Dave Brubeck, Jerry Bergonzi, Bill Mays, Harvie S., Phil Wilson and Steve Gadd) along with composing and recording music for corporate clients, this release puts Norman Johnson in the spotlight he truly deserves.

*If Time Stood Still* is well worth the wait with exceptional original songs that incorporate Latin and contemporary jazz grooves and a special arrangement of the Pat Metheny cover tune, "Always and Forever." There are five different types of guitars used on this recording, a string quartet on the title cut and a wide range of instruments that include, Tyler VanOstrand (bass), Ken Fischer (piano), Chris Herbert (sax and flute), Steve Davis (trombone), Josh Bruneau (trumpet), including drummers, Bob Forte, Arti Dixson, Anthony Cusano, Chris Lemp drums and percussionists, Martin Obeng, Greg Allan and Eric Galm. "The songs and arrangements allow each musician to create interesting parts and improvise," commented Johnson. "I would like people to hear this recording for what I intended it to be, good songs played by fine musicians accessible to everyone whether you love jazz or not."

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Smooth and Contemporary Jazz with elements of Latin, Funk and R&B inspired by guitar heroes George Benson, Wes Montgomery and Earl Klugh

Artist	Norman Johnson
Title	If Time Stood Still
Selection #	PJ82455
UPC	869166824554
Prebook date	July 7, 2010
Street date	August 10, 2010
MSRP	\$14.95
Genre	Jazz
Run time	49:07
Box lot	140
Label	Pacific Coast Jazz
Format	CD (digipak)



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### RADIO ADD DATE: July 27, 2010

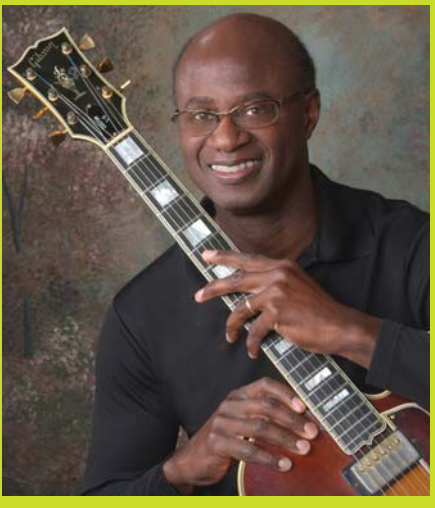


**PERSONNEL:**  
Norman Johnson, guitars  
Tyler VanOstrand, bass  
Ken Fischer, piano  
Chris Herbert, sax and flute  
Bob Forte, drums  
Arti Dixson, drums  
Anthony Cusano, drums  
Chris Lemp, drums  
Steve Davis, trombone  
Josh Bruneau, trumpet  
Martin Obeng, percussion  
Greg Allan, percussion  
Eric Galm, percussion



# www.normanjohnson.com

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Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Johnson became interested in playing the guitar in his freshman year of high school after a friend of his lent him a recording of George Benson's "The Other Side of Abby Road." His other early influences were Wes Montgomery, Earl Klugh, and r&b groups Rufus (with Chaka Khan) and Earth, Wind and Fire. An east coast resident and always active in the music scene, the Norman Johnson Group won the Hartford Advocate "best jazz" in 2000 and in 1998 Norman won the Communicator Award for "Otis in China," a composition he wrote for Otis Elevator. Johnson has been the Dean of the Hartford Conservatory of Music and Dance for over nine years and a teacher at the Artist Collective in Hartford, CT, which is an inner city arts school, founded by Jackie McLean's wife, Dolly. He is also the owner of the recording studio,

The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. Johnson is presently involved in a project that takes the music from the play "The Real Ambassadors" written by Dave Brubeck and recording those songs with guitar instead of piano with Chris Brubeck (bass and trombone), Dan Brubeck (drums) and his long time vocal partner Dianne Mower. "The title track "If Time Stood Still" is an interesting song," Johnson remarked, "because of the simplicity of melody but complexity of the harmony. I choose this as the title track because the title has specific meaning to me. I find that most people spend their time wishing their lives away, waiting for something new to happen and never enjoy what is happening now. This recording is my way of reminding them to enjoy the present."

#### TRACK INFORMATION FOR "If Time Stood Still" from Norman Johnson:

- 1) *It's Time To Fly* – The intro gives a sense of being above it all, and the song brings you back to earth with a smooth, driving rhythm.
- 2) *Acoustic Groove* - The nylon string guitar is featured over a percussion bed. It paints a picture of Morocco on the beach.
- 3) *Always And Forever* – A beautiful Pat Metheny song. The original recording of this song was with nylon string guitar and orchestra. This version has been turned around by using a jazzy hip-hop groove with a bass and electric guitar melody and tenor sax weaving throughout. The beauty of Pat's melody still shines through.
- 4) *As It Is* - An interpretation of smooth jazz as if done by Wes Montgomery.
- 5) *Starting Tomorrow* – An up tempo samba that allows the group to improvise freely.
- 6) *Can I Get An Amen* – I wrote this song after listening to an evening of gospel music. It is not a gospel song, but it has some of that feel, with an R&B rhythm and alto sax.
- 7) *If Time Stood Still* - I choose this as the title track because the title has specific meaning to me. I find that most people spend their time wishing their lives away. They can't wait for something new to happen and never enjoy what is now. This recording is my way of saying enjoy the present.
- 8) *Unforgiven* – A mysterious and dark sound with soprano sax and guitar melody that is reminiscent of early contemporary jazz.
- 9) *All In Time* – A semi-Latin groove that has a little bit of everything.
- 10) *Midnight Sun* – This sonic picture of the article circle holds a feeling of what it would be to sit outside at midnight and still see the sun shining.