

DAVID BASSE

JAZZ VOCALIST

In 1982 David Basse made a tough decision: attend his tenth high school class reunion, or take a gig at a brand new Kansas City nightclub. Little did he know that one night stand would turn into almost seven years, five nights a week at the club and an opportunity to jam with jazz royalty such as Johnny Griffin, Richie Cole, and Les McCann. Basse's rough but rich voice, beat poet sensibility and "down-home worldly" delivery both continued and expanded on the KC tradition.

Meeting drummer Bill Goodwin in 1985 led Basse to LA. Bill introduced Basse to pianist Mike Melvoin; a musician David had long idolized. Starting in 1992, Melvoin helped Basse establish himself in L.A. and to develop a body of original material that continues to grow to this day. In 2003 Basse produced a recording that became a Grammy nominated project for Mike Melvoin. The recording project began when Goodwin brought Basse and Melvoin to Woods's home for a rehearsal that featured many originals that Woods instantly dubbed "the American songbook raised up a notch".

Basse's latest recording, *The Hero and the Lover...* is the culmination of over forty years of trial and error and serendipitous miscalculation – an ode to the tenacity required to survive in the face of an international recession and continue to create worthwhile art.

BIOGRAPHY

More than a vocalist, David Basse's voice has come to represent the jazz and blues of Kansas City. The Kansas City Star called him, "The voice of Kansas City". And following a David Basse performance, poet Maya Angelou exclaimed, "I love the soul that is your voice".

Since the turn of the century David has hosted The Jazz Scene on Kansas Public Radio, winning the Kansas Association of Broadcasters award. KPR's jazz department was awarded, "Best Jazz Station – Small Market," from *Jazzweek*. In 2010, David became a regular featured

performer on *12th Street Jump*, public radio's weekly jazz, blues and comedy jam, now heard in over 100 cities. His latest venture is the syndicated daily radio show, *Jazz with David Basse*

THE HERO AND THE LOVER...

David Basse's ninth recording, *The Hero and the Lover...* is a culmination of over forty years of living a life dedicated to jazz, and is an expression of his powerful and undying love of art and music. David continues to travel in support of his new recordings and to speak publicly on the merits and musical heritage of Kansas City.



WHAT THEY SAY

"The soul of a bon vivant and the spirit of a hipster... Basse scats with insouciance, reels you into ballads with a raconteur's charm."

George Kansler, *Hot House Magazine*

"...the rich substance, clear intonation and sincerity of delivery that are all qualities of Basse's style... shades of Eddie Jefferson all the way."

Scott Yanow, *LA Jazz Scene*

"A hip and swinging singer who digs into the lyrics that he sings."

Scott Albin, *Jazz Times*

"David Basse is the working man's hi-tone remedy to a week spent fighting the boss, busting the hump, and dialing back stress."

Mark S. Tucker, *Acoustic Music Exchange*

"I love the soul that is your voice."

Maya Angelou

LISTEN

"Easy the Hard Way" on Vimeo

from the album *The Hero and the Lover*