

# Contemporary Jazz Recording Artist

Deon Yates

Born and raised on the East Side of Detroit, Deon Yates doesn't just play jazz—he breathes the city's legendary soul, funk, and R&B into every single note.

An Emmy-nominated composer, master of the saxophone and an undeniable force on stage, Deon delivers Smooth Jazz with a vibrant, contemporary twist.

From intimate, sold-out jazz clubs to headlining massive festival stages, Deon guarantees a high-octane, deeply emotional musical experience that leaves audiences on their feet.

- **The Detroit Energy:** Blending old-school sensibilities with soul-deep contemporary grooves, his setlists are a masterclass in funk, R&B, and smooth jazz.
- **World-Class Pedigree:** With a Master's degree in Communications and a deep history as a jazz educator, Deon is the consummate professional off-stage and an absolute powerhouse on it.

100  
TOP

Charting Artist

MEDIABASE

Billboard

Smooth Jazz  
NETWORK



Now Booking 2025-26 Dates

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# DEONYATES.COM

## THE MUSIC

In 2012 Deon Released his third solo album entitled "SPOTLIGHT," which featured collaborations with Guitarist Nick Colionne, Vocalist Maysa and Trumpeter Lin Rountree. This project catapulted Deon, as the name suggest, into the spotlight. For the release, Deon opened for Rick Braun and Richard Elliot at the Masonic Temple Theater in Detroit. The CD produced three Billboard charting singles and got the attention of the head of Woodward Avenue Records, Mark Nordman. After performing for a couple of years with a few of the artists on Woodward, it was finally Deon's turn. He was signed to release his "School of Funk" album on Woodward Avenue Records in 2015. The first single "Motor City Strut" was the #1 Most Added song on Billboard in its first week. "School of Funk" features collaborations with Keyboardist Brian Simpson, Guitarist Paul Brown, Trumpeter Lin Rountree and Keyboardist Nate Harasim. Many of the tracks are currently still in rotation on contemporary jazz stations today. In 2016, with his reputation as a gifted artist and entertainer growing, Deon was selected to headline his own show on the 10th Anniversary of the Capital Jazz Super Cruise. While on the cruise the soul duo Kindred the Family Soul needed a sax player. Deon got the call and with less than a 30 minute rehearsal performed two shows like he had been a member of the group all along. That performance exhibited not only Deon's professionalism and abilities as a musician, it cemented his reputation as an artist.

### **Appearances & Recordings with:**

Nick Colionne, Brian Simpson, Maysa, Kindred the Family Soul, Marion Meadows, Rick Braun, Nils, Richard Elliot, Ronnie Laws, Marc Antoine, Lin Rountree, Paul Brown, Cindy Bradley, Sinbad, Adam Hawley, Willie Bradley and more...



Middle C  
Charlotte, NC



Lex Smooth Jazz  
w/Rick Braun

### **Notable Performances:**

Phi Beta Sigma Conclave, Detroit, MI  
Capital Jazz Supercruise, Caribbean  
Gulf Coast Jazz Festival, FL  
Masonic Temple, Detroit, MI  
Blues Alley Washington, DC  
Arizona Jazz Festival Phoenix, AZ  
St. James Live Atlanta, GA  
Spaghetini Seal Beach, CA  
Capital Jazz Festival Columbia, MD  
Jazz Legacy Foundation Hampton, VA  
GrandJazzFest Grand Rapids, MI  
Perfect Note Hoover, AL  
Spaghetini Beverly Hills, CA  
Spring Jazz & Arts Festival, FL  
Chayz Lounge, SC  
Ribs & Soul Music Festival, Detroit, MI  
The Velvet Note Alpharetta, GA  
Middle C Charlotte, NC



St. James Live  
Atlanta, GA



Smooth Chicago  
w/Adam Hawley



Masonic Temple  
Detroit, MI



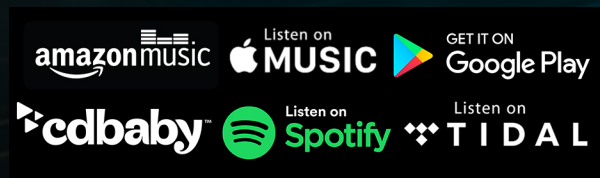
Keystone Korner  
w/Rob Zinn



**Get ready** to experience the perfect blend of nostalgic grooves and modern contemporary jazz with **Back In The Day**, the highly anticipated new recording project from soulful saxophonist Deon Yates. True to its title, this album is a vibrant sonic journey that captures the essence of classic soul-jazz while remaining firmly rooted in the present. Featuring a stellar lineup of original compositions, Yates masterfully weaves his signature warm saxophone tone through tracks that are as emotionally resonant as they are rhythmically infectious. It is a heartfelt homage to the golden eras of R&B and smooth jazz, delivering a feel-good energy designed to make listeners nod their heads and hit the replay button.



To bring this ambitious vision to life, Yates has teamed up with an elite roster of contemporary jazz heavyweights. **Back In The Day** boasts electrifying collaborations with chart-topping saxophonist **Jackiem Joyner**, guitar virtuoso **Steve Oliver**, dynamic trumpeter **Rob Zinn**, and legendary keyboardist **James Lloyd** of Pieces of a Dream. Each guest artist brings their unique melodic flavor to the mix, creating a rich, multi-layered listening experience that highlights Yates' incredible versatility and collaborative spirit. Whether you are a lifelong smooth jazz aficionado or simply a lover of deep, instrumental soul music, this project is a masterclass in musical storytelling that promises to be an instant classic.



Let's Socialize!



**JALIANBLAIR**  
ENTERTAINMENT MANAGEMENT

FOR BOOKING:

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