



An Independent Record Label

rufus harris

Take the vocal and melodic sound of Seal; add a little funk; guitar work like Toto; bundled with a spiritual focus; and you have - Rufus Harris. Since the mid-70s, this Metro Detroit native has been writing and performing music. His cleverly crafted songs illustrates Rufus' creativity and varied musical influences. His upbringing in Alaska exposed him to all types of musical artists ranging from Sly and the Family Stone to the Beatles.

For years he was the principle singer and songwriter in a band call *Jubal*. They performed throughout the Midwest and East coast sharing their unique sound from the 70s thru the early 90s. During his time with *Jubal*, Rufus was one of the most requested recording engineers in Detroit. George Clinton, Earl Klugh, The Four Tops, Marvin and BeBe Winans, and The Commodores, are among the celebrated national recording artists with whom he has worked. He contributed not only audio engineering expertise but production assistance. He started his own recording studio in 2002 called *bridgewerks Audio Services*.

Rufus stepped out on his own and embarked upon a solo music career in the late 90s. In 1999 he released *rufus harris* – a project that layered an array of compositional styles set into a smooth pop and r&b format. His heartfelt lyrics revealed a man on a spiritual journey coupled with soothing vocals and soaring guitar solos that left listeners inspired and wanting more. And Rufus did not disappoint.

He followed that up with his sophomore release in 2003 entitled *How Do You Read It?* HDYRI thrilled fans with a cradle of sound that revealed Rufus' rock edge without neglecting his soulful style. Its catchy melodies, driving rhythms and candid lyrics created a visionary journey that captured an honest yet hopeful look at the state of the Western church.

Then In 2006 Rufus did something he said he'd never do. Often dubbed as Scrooge, Rufus felt Christmas had lost its true meaning and the season was one he began to dislike. But over the years fans had encouraged him to record Christmas songs. He released *Come and Listen: Songs of the Savior*. Come and Listen proved that there was nothing Rufus couldn't tackle. This album managed to capture many of the holiday classics that you've come to know and love. The creative spin that Rufus lent to these Christmas songs was nothing short of refreshing. These carefully crafted renditions managed to maintain the magic of old, while new musical arrangement kept listeners guessing as each song unfolded.



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In 2012 he released a Happy Birthday single he co-wrote with his wife – Denise. *Happy Birthday to You* is a fun musical blend of pop, rock and jazz with bluesy undertones. Finger popping, hand clapping and fresh harmonies abound in this fun tune. Marlin Lewis Baker of Jazz Band – *Zamar* makes a significant contribution to this song with a grooving sax solo and Rufus Harris shines and is fluid on both acoustic and electric guitar.

Rufus' latest release - *basics* is an acoustically-driven collection of songs with spiritual concepts centered on the "basics of the Christian faith." The project features various songs from two of Rufus' CDs: *rufus harris* (self-titled) and *How Do You Read It?* Originally, these songs featured the electric guitar as the principle instrument. These versions, however, are performed on acoustic guitar. The album also includes four new songs: a cover of the beautiful song *Tapestry* by Glenn Kaiser (Rez Band); *Blessed Abundantly* (the 1st Christian song he wrote); *Rescue* – inspired by Fanny Crosby (1864); and his original *Happy Birthday to You* song. Most of the songs he chose for Basics deal with giving praise to God; the importance of diversity; the Christian lifestyle; and sharing hope. He calls this CD "prison-inspired" and created this project because there were many places he was invited to perform his music but for security reasons could not take in his electric guitar – namely prison. So he performed the songs on acoustic guitar and wanted a project that represented this sound.

In an effort to help other independent Gospel artists, he co-founded [*The CAMP – Christian Artists and Musicians Project*](#) – a non-profit organization that assists and showcases diverse independent artists. The organization's most visible event - [*4thFridays with rufus harris*](#) will celebrate 15 years in 2017 and has become one of Metro Detroit's premiere venues for Inspirational entertainment.

Rufus is also a platform artist for Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship. He has shared his music and message with prisoners around the country. He especially enjoys spreading hope and sharing music with the female inmates at Womens Huron Valley Correctional in Ypsilanti and the men at Milan Federal Prison in Milan, Michigan.

As a singer and songwriter, Rufus' efforts have not gone unnoticed. He has been featured on Canada's International Christian TV show - Huntley St.; WDIV (NBC News) in Detroit, on WMUZ Christian radio; in the Detroit Free Press; Oakland Press; in Cross Rhythms – Europe's Christian Music Magazine, and TBN – Trinity Broadcasting Network - Illinois.

Rufus continues to touch many with his unforgettable melodies and thought-provoking lyrics. He has become a mentor to many local artists. He currently lives in the Detroit area with his wife Denise; has two beautiful daughters; is "Grand pappy" to two delightful granddaughters. He is pastor of *The Bridge Church* in Pontiac, Michigan.