**MIKE MAINIERI** / *A PROFILE*

Mike Mainieri's career in itself is remarkable in that it spans six decades. Mike's first professional performance took place in 1952, at the age of 14 years, when he and his trio became regular guests on the Paul Whiteman TV & Radio show. At the age of 20, he won Downbeat's International Jazz Critic's new Star Award and has since been voted as one of the top 10 vibraphonists in Downbeat's Readers' Poll for 52 consecutive years

Over the years, Mike has performed with such legendary artists as **Buddy Rich, Billie Holliday, Dizzy Gillespie, Coleman Hawkins, Charlie Shavers, Paul Chambers, Wes Montgomery, Jim Hall, Joe Henderson, Art Farmer, Elvin Jones, Al Jarreau,**

**David Sanborn, Marcus Miller, Paul Desmond, Joe Lovano, Jack McDuff, Art Farmer,**

**Billy Cobham,Toots Theilsman and Randy Brecker.**

In 1962, he joined the groundbreaking jazz/rock group Jeremy & the Satyrs led by flutist **Jeremy Steig.** The Satyrs appeared at New York's Club A-GoGo, and performed with such monumental figures as **Frank Zappa, Richie Havens** and **Jimi Hendrix.** During the late ‘60s, a small circle of New York City musicians and singers grew into what became known as the White Elephant Orchestra, a 20-piece experimental ensemble. The group featured such soloists Michael Brecker, Ronny Cuber, Jon Faddis, Lew Soloff and Randy Brecker.

In the late 70s, Mike founded the pioneering jazz/fusion group **Steps Ahead,** which included previous cohorts **Michael Brecker, Eddie Gomez, Steve Gadd** and **Don Grolnick.** Delving into contemporary sounds while maintaining experimental sounds and compositional integrity, Steps Ahead was and is a launching pad for young talent and new musical ideas.

As a composer, arranger, producer and performer, Mike has contributed to over 100 gold and platinum albums. Mike was also an active participant in the rock and pop scenes. He produced

and co-wrote three albums with **Carly Simon,** and recorded with **Paul McCartney, Paul Simon, Linda Ronstadt, Aerosmith, Billy Joel, Phobe Snow, Andy Summers, Laura Nyro, Janis Ian, Boz Scaggs, James Taylor, Dire Straits, Bonnie Raitt, George Benson, Art Garfunkel, Carol King,** and on **Don McClean's** classic album: ***American Pie.***

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