



Johnny B. Gayen -

Johnny B. Gayen Born in Chicago in 1953 and raised on the South side of the city. He began playing bass when he was twelve years old after being influenced by a guitar-playing friend. He played along with the radio, listening to some of his favorite artists including: The Beatles, James Brown, Wilson Pickett, Vanilla Fudge, The Rolling Stones, Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf. He

was self-taught until high school by listening to the various styles of Willie Dixon, Paul McCartney, James Jamerson, Jack Bruce and Robert "Kool" Bell.

The band that Johnny toured with was Son Seals in 1973. He ended up making four CDs with Son. Shortly after that he did some touring with the Staples Singers although never doing any recording with them.

He then began playing with the great Albert Collins in 1979 and from that point on Johnny's career was on a path that most musicians can only dream about. He recorded nine CDs and numerous DVDs with Albert. The band won a Grammy Award for the Alligator recording

“SHOWDOWN” with Albert Collins, Johnny Copeland and Robert Cray. Johnny speaks very highly of The Ice Man, and Albert was a dear friend and mentor, like a father figure to me more so than a boss. He was someone who could touch you in a way that you could not help but love the man. I learned a lot from Albert. After Albert's death in 1993, Johnny did a lot of studio recording for Alligator Records and his career total so far is close to 100 recordings. Johnny is a nine-time W.C. Handy nominee for the Instrumentalist-Bass category. He has been honored to record with Johnny Winter, Gary Moore, John Primer, Son Seals, A.C. Reed, Junior Wells and Koko Taylor, just to name a few.

Although most of the recording Johnny has done has been with Blues artists, his taste in music reaches far beyond the Blues. Some of his idols today are Willie Dixon, Marcus Miller, Larry Graham, Jaco Pastorius, Alain Caron, John Patitucci, Chuck Rainey, Flea, Mark King and Stanley Clarke. He states, “I like to listen to any bass player than can lay down a groove.”

Johnny is proud to say he is not only a GHS String and Washburn endorsee but also an Eden Amplifier endorsee. He states “Eden is the best quality-sounding amp I have ever played on. It has outstanding tone.” He currently uses an 800 World Tour amplifier with multiple speaker cabinets.

Johnny currently resides in Indiana, not far from his hometown of Chicago. He does some studio work and mostly plays with some local bands, but still enjoys getting together with his old friends from Chicago and rocking the house. Johnny also teaches bass and has about 20 students of all ages with skill levels ranging from beginners to those that just want to learn a few of Johnny’s famous lines to impress their friends.