

# PAUL ASBELL



From his early years, playing blues on Chicago's South Side, to his present multi-faceted career based out of northern Vermont, Paul has earned an underground reputation as a true "musician's musician". He has played and recorded with **Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Howlin' Wolf, Lightnin' Hopkins, Otis Rush, Magic Sam, Earl Hooker, Lightnin' Slim, Paul Butterfield, Sam Lay, Pops Staples, Donny Hathaway,** and numerous others while in his home-town of Chicago, Ill.

Paul moved to Vermont in the heady "back-to-the-land" days of 1971, where he still lives. He soon started playing with a head-spinningly diverse array of artists, including **Big Mama Thornton,** singer-songwriters **Paul Siebel, Jim Ringer, Mary McCaslin,** and **Rosalie Sorrells,** jazz greats **Jon Hendricks, Bobby McFerrin, Sonny Stitt,** and **Nick Brignola,** and many others.

In 1978, seeking an outlet for more personal musical visions, he formed **Kilimanjaro,** and recorded 2 award-winning albums for **Philo Records** which led to several appearances at the **Kool Jazz Festival** at SPAC, the **Atlanta Jazz Festival,** the **Montreal Jazz Festival,** the **Montreux Jazz Festival** in Switzerland, the **Roskilde Festival** in Copenhagen, and numerous national tours and concert dates.

In 1981, he and other members of Kilimajaro joined forces with a legendary saxophonist/blues singer to form **Big Joe Burrell** and the **Unknown Blues Band,** which remained a Northeast regional favorite until Big Joe's passing in 2005.

Performance/recording credits in recent years include **David Bromberg, Paul Butterfield, Betty Carter, Joshua Redman, James Carter, Kermit Ruffins, Michael Ray, the Sun Ra Arkestra, The Wild Magnolias, John Stowell,** guitar wunderkind **Julian Lage,** and ex-student **Trey Anastasio.**

He has also taught guitar for over 55 years, including workshops at the **Healdsburg, Woodstock (NY) and Newport Guitar Festivals,** and positions at **Dartmouth College, Skidmore College, St. Michaels College,** and presently at **Middlebury College** and the **University of Vermont.**

Since 1994, Paul has been reconnecting with his original folk-based roots in enthusiastically received festival shows and solo concerts at numerous acoustic venues across the country. His 3 solo acoustic CDs, "**Steel-String Americana**", "**Roots and Branches**", and "**From Adamant To Atchafalaya**" received rave reviews in **Acoustic Guitar, Guitar Player, Sing Out, Downbeat, Blues Revue,** and other mags for their highly individualized twists on blues and jazz standards, old-timey country-based themes and original pieces from the "american roots" tradition. The **Flynn Theatre** called them "A genre-blurring, virtuosic waltz through the deep heritage of American folklore, where styles of Robert Johnson, Doc Watson and Dr. John rub elbows with those of Joe Pass and Bill Frisell."