

Anniversary Edition

*The Extraordinary
and Tragic Life
of Jaco Pastorius*

JACO



Includes CD

Bill Milkowski

Free, How Are You [1978]. We did a beautiful duet together. I remember we needed seven minutes of music to finish the album, so we just decided to play free stuff in the studio. We both finished playing simultaneously, and when we went in the control room to check the time, it was exactly seven minutes—sort of a magical hookup. He ended up naming the piece “Nativity” because he said the music was being born there in the studio, like Christmas.

There was a spiritual side to Jaco that was very strong, and not many people ever knew about that. He and I used to talk about some very nice things, very spiritual things. And I always felt that there was a mutual respect between us. I always had good communication with Jaco. But I think his music was bigger than himself. He couldn't really play everything he wanted to play. The guy was way out there, man. And I respect that. His creative spirit was beautiful.

John Patitucci

Bassist-composer, sideman with Chick Corea Elektric and Akoustic Bands, Wayne Shorter Quartet, bandleader

Hearing “Donna Lee” from Jaco's first album changed my life. To me, that was his strongest statement on the bass, ever. But my favorite Jaco track has to be “Portrait of Tracy”—not just because of what he did on the bass technically, but also because the composition is so beautiful. Jaco had a unique style and concept on the instrument. In short, he had the ultimate musician's gift: a voice.

Maurizio Rolli

Italian upright bassist, recorded and performed Jaco's music in a big band setting

The excellence of Jaco's music and character is proven by all other musicians and fans who call him by his first name only, a privilege given only to the very few greats, like Jimi, Miles, Django, and Duke. I have talked about Jaco with his family, his fellow musicians, and even with people who have never known him but through his music, and in all of these people the word “Jaco” elicited feelings of affection and familiarity and excitement. I myself feel these same things without being able to explain it. Everyone talks about him as if he were a friend, a companion in many experiences together. I find this wonderful. The way his music has struck our ears, and above all the hearts of people all over the world, is extraordinary. Maybe this is the magic of his music. It creates close ties even among people far away from each other. His music influences the lives of all people unexpectedly. The influence of Jaco on my own life and on my music has been incredible. I owe a real debt of gratitude to this man—one of the few great ones everyone can call by his first name.