

## Jamie Davis biography



**“A proper singer of real talent and style. He can sing blues and ballads to the manner born and boy, does he swing. A must for any lovers of great music.”** Sir Michael Parkinson – BBC and iTV Broadcaster and chat show host.

### Vocalist

Jamie Davis holds a position amongst the pantheon of great male vocalists with a compelling full deep, baritone voice and passion for his craft that leaves his audiences uplifted and “feelin’ good... really good”.

Jamie’s musical education began in his father’s Pentecostal Church in Mansfield, Ohio in the choir. Attended of Ohio State, Jamie’s unique bass-baritone voice brought to life liturgical music in Latin, Bach, Schuman, Mahler and Rameau’s French compositions. After a spell in the US Army singing a range of swing, show tunes, jazz and blues for the Special Services elite group, Jamie studied under the renowned vocal coach, Edward Boatner in New York. Moving to San Francisco secured Jamie opportunities to perform with Milt Jackson, Eddie Henderson, Melba Moore, Pharaoh Saunders and in 2000 The Count Basie Orchestra. On that experience Davis reflects, “Having all that sound behind you is just amazing. You’ve got to ride that current.”

A repertoire from Cole Porter to Stevie Wonder to Charles Mingus, Jamie Davis has the flexibility and the sexy sophistication in his effortless delivery to stand with any of the great masters. Davis has been described as a fine wine who has stood the test of time constantly innovating jazz classics, “rolling out” the blues and performing with one foot in the past and the other in ‘today’.

### Performances

Named the ‘chocolate voiced baritone’ by Sir Michael Parkinson, the BBC’s arbiter of important international jazz following Jamie’s performance in London with the BBC’s sixty-four piece Orchestra and Big Band. Clint Eastwood is another fan of Jamie and enthused by his performances at the Monterey Jazz Festival, exclaimed “...Jamie Davis is one of my favorite singers.”

Sharing his passion for music with his audiences at venues around the Globe, Jamie performs at Yoshi’s in San Francisco, Dizzy’s and The Blue Note in New York, Milan, Tokyo, Istanbul and Ronnie Scott’s in London and recently the Union of Composers Jazz Club, Moscow. Monterey, Sacramento, Aspen, Lake Tahoe, Dubai, Cheltenham, Edinburgh, Annecy and Serbia Jazz and music festivals and not forgetting the popular Holland America jazz cruises.

Jamie can be seen on television shows: ‘Parkinson’ in UK, Sweden and Australia, The Jerry Lewis Telethon in Las Vegas and a ‘60th Anniversary Show’ with The HRTa Big Band in Zagreb, Croatia. BBC Radio’s 2 ‘Friday Night Is Music Night’ and ‘Big Band Special’ are broadcast live and on digital.

In 1997 Jamie narrated ‘A Time to Remember,’ a docudrama which won the ‘Black American Independent Filmmakers Award’.

### Recording Artist/Producer

Davis’ solo CDs, ‘It’s A Good Thing’ and ‘Vibe Over Perfection’ on the Unity Music label, reunited Jamie with members of the Count Basie Orchestra and Los Angeles’ finest instrumentalists producing a full big band. ‘It’s A Good Thing’ was chosen as ‘Album of the Week’ on the digital radio station Thejazz.com (now Jazz.FM) and for the in-flight audio programs of British Airways, Scandinavian, Aer Lingus and British Midland. ‘Vibe Over Perfection’ reached No 18 in the US Jazz Charts and a favourite of jazz station WBGO. The ten track CD ‘It’s All About Love’ was a labor of love for Jamie singing romantic ballads with a quintet. In 2009 singing ‘Young At Heart’ Jamie was featured with Clark Terry, Wynton and Ellis Marsalis and Marcus Roberts on the acclaimed trumpeter Scotty Barnhart’s CD, ‘Say It Plain’. The recording reached no 3 in the charts and attracted enthusiastic reviews.

The latest project from the catalogue of Unity Music and Jamie Davis is a live recording from inside Louisiana State Penitentiary. ‘Free On The Inside’ CD/DVD blends together Jazz and Gospel genres featuring Jamie Davis, Scotty Barnhart, Wycliffe Gordon, Lady Bianca, Charles McNeal in an all star big band under the direction of Dennis Wilson. ‘Free On The Inside’ CD/DVD will be released late 2010.

**At the 51st Monterey Jazz Festival “The Jamie Davis Big Band delighted the Garden Stage crowd with his rich vocals.”**

[www.ejazznews.com](http://www.ejazznews.com)

More information can be found at:

[www.jamiedavis.com](http://www.jamiedavis.com)

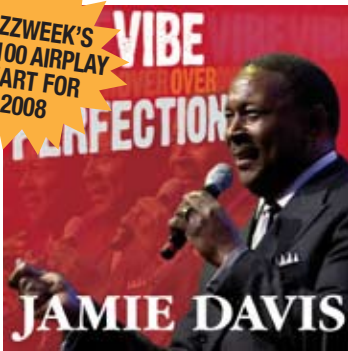
[www.unity-music.net](http://www.unity-music.net)

[www.myspace.com/jamiedavisunity](http://www.myspace.com/jamiedavisunity)

[www.last.fm/music/Jamie+Davis](http://www.last.fm/music/Jamie+Davis)

[www.youtube.com/jamiedavismusic](http://www.youtube.com/jamiedavismusic)

## Jamie Davis discography



### 'VIBE OVER PERFECTION'

"'Vibe Over Perfection' is one of the best vocal recordings I have received in a while. Swings beautifully..." [Jae Sinnett - Jazzweek.com](#)

Tracks: Blue Skies, Pennies From Heaven, The Look Of Love, If You Want Me To Stay, I'm Going To Move To The Outskirts Of Town, Round Midnight, Hello, You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine, Nature Boy.

Released in 2008 Unity Music LLC, Dig/Ryko

Available from [www.unity-music.net](http://www.unity-music.net), Dig Music, iTunes, Amazon...t



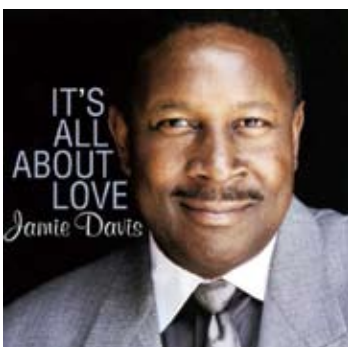
### 'IT'S A GOOD THING'

"... Davis's pedigree and voice as well as the cast of accompanying players move 'It's A Good Thing' light years ahead of the others and make it one of the most truly enjoyable albums of the year." [SoulTracks.com](#)

Tracks: Isn't She Lovely, Something, I've Got The World On A String, Night And Day, Besame Mucho, My Funny Valentine, Straight, No Chaser, My Kinda Love, Another Star, Every Day I have the Blues, The Very Thought Of You, Alright Okay You Win.

Released in 2006 Unity Music LLC

Available from [www.unity-music.net](http://www.unity-music.net), iTunes, Amazon...



### 'IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE'

"The completion of my first solo recording was a labor of love for me. I have always wanted to present the kind of music that I love to sing."

Tracks: My One And Only Love, I Love You For Sentimental Reasons, Angel Eyes, Something, My Romance, Moody's Mood, You Are Too Beautiful, Summertime (Estaté), Tenderly, That's All.

Released in 2002 JAMCO

Available from [www.unity-music.net](http://www.unity-music.net), CD Baby, Amazon



### 'SAY IT PLAIN'

...Jamie Davis another of those extremely polished singers who are beginning to appear again...

[Stanley Crouch](#)

The debut CD of Count Basie Orchestra lead trumpeter Scotty Barnhart, with Wynton Marsalis, Clark Terry, Ellis Marsalis, Marcus Roberts, Jamie Davis...

Track featuring Jamie Davis: Young At Heart

Released on May 19 2009 Unity Music LLC

Available from [www.unity-music.net](http://www.unity-music.net), Dig Music, iTunes, Amazon...

## Jamie Davis career highlights



### 2010

April Return performance at Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola LA. Workshops, concert and live recording

### 2009

Nov Performed at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, London for HRH Princess Royal fundraiser for Carers.

June Performed/Co producer Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola LA. Workshops, concerts and live recording

May Performed/Co producer with The Count Basie Orchestra, Walnut Creek CA for Generations of Jazz fund raiser  
 'Say It Plain' reaches #3 in the Jazz Charts.

January 'Vibe Over Perfection' in Jazz Week's Top 100 airplays for 2008.

'Vibe Over Perfection' named as one of WBGO Top three favourite CD's of 2008

### 2008

Sept 21 Jamie Davis Big Band, Monterey Jazz Festival, Garden Stage

August Shakespeare Music Festival, Mendocino Music Festival.

July 15 'Vibe Over Perfection' released and enters charts at No 26.

April 28 Recording of 'Young At Heart' for Scotty Barnhart's CD 'Say It Plain' in New Orleans, LA

April 14 'Vibe Over Perfection' celebration party at Yoshi's, San Francisco.

January "It's A Good Thing" on the in-flight audio programs of British Airways, Scandinavian Airlines, Aer Lingus and British Midland.

### 2007

Dec 12 'It's A Good Thing' 'CD of the Week' on theJazz.com digital radio station.

Nov 11-17 Jazz Cruise, m/s Westerdam, Holland America Line.

Nov 3 TV performance on Sir Michael Parkinson's, 'Parkinson' in UK, Australia and Sweden.

Sept/Oct Finland, Madrid, Moscow, Italy and Paris concerts, masterclasses and television performances.

Sept 5 Yoshi's Oakland with Big Band plus performance/report on ABC 7 News.

August Edinburgh Jazz Festival, Scotland with BBC Big Band. Recorded for BBC Radio 2's 'Big Band Special'.

May 4 Cheltenham Jazz Festival UK with BBC Big Band and BBC Orchestra presented by Sir Michael Parkinson and recorded for BBC Radio 2's 'Friday Night is Music Night'.

April 11 Jazz at Lincoln Center, NY - performed at Dizzy's Club.

March 1-2 Recording for 'Vibe Over Perfection', LA.

Jan 14 60th Anniversary Show with HRT Big Band featuring Jamie Davis, recorded for TV in Zagreb, Croatia.

### 2006

Sacramento Jazz Festival, Pizza on the Park - London.

Aspen Jazz Party - CO, Catalina's Jazz Club - LA.

'It's A Good Thing' release party and school fundraiser at San Francisco Palace of Fine Arts for Unity Music.

### 2005

M.H. de Young Museum, San Francisco re-opening gala concert.

Recording of 'It's A Good Thing' debut recording for Unity Music in LA.

Formation of Unity Music LLC.

### 2003/04

Conservatory of Flowers, San Francisco. Re-opening gala concert.

Dubai International Jazz Festival with Billy Cobham.

Massimo Faro Quartet featuring Jamie Davis tour of Italy - Bologna, Marostica, Trevino, Bolzano, Ferrara...

### 2002

Jazz Cruise, Holland America Line.

'It's All About Love', first solo CD released.

### 2000/03

Lead singer with The Count Basie Orchestra. World tours for concerts, festivals, workshops, television and radio.

### 1997

Narrated 'A Time to Remember,' a docudrama which won the Black American Independent Filmmakers Award.

## What the press are saying about vocalist Jamie Davis and his CD, 'Vibe Over Perfection'



**Jazz Times - Christopher Loudon**

"Davis' dark, dense "Round Midnight" rivals Eckstine's silken splendor. Most impressively, he manages to elevate Lionel Richie's "Hello" to the same lofty plateau."

**Mercury News - Andy Gilbert**

"One of the finest male jazz singers on the West Coast, Davis is an entertainer of the old school, an eager to please performer who can belt the blues, croon American Songbook ballads with a warm, burnished bass, and deliver Stevie Wonder hits with soulful authority."

**www.jazzweek.com - George W. Harris**

"Don't believe the title of this disc; this disc is vibe WITH perfection."

**blogcritics.org - Jordan Richardson**

"He wraps his words around the melody, sliding the lyrics underneath the song and becoming part of the music rather than overcoming it..."

**Daily Republic - Tony Wade**

"At the end of Davis's set the crowd rose as one in a rousing standing ovation."

**Midwest Record - Chris Spector**

"Simply a top flight jazz vocalist that delivers on a wide swatch of fave cuts and serves them with no dust extant."

**www.ejazznews.com - 51st Monterey Jazz Festival**

The Jamie Davis Big Band delighted the Garden Stage crowd with his rich vocals,

**www.soundsoftimelessjazz.com**

"...Round Midnight" - is an innovative experience that features his artistry and mastery of singing jazz with bluesy passion and soulful yearning."

**Jazz Scene of Oregon**

"Bay area vocalist Jamie Davis makes the most of the seemingly rare opportunity for a singer to record with a big band. Davis has a compelling vocal presence..."

**Blog Critics Magazine - Big Geez**

"This is an album of mostly feel-good music, and the singer seems to be having a ball with it."

**The Run Off Groove - Blogspot John Book**

"...it's another thing to take jazz standards and truly make them sound new."

**Jazz & Blues Reporter - Nancy Ann Lee**

"He continues to dazzle the listener with this CD"

**www.ejazznews.com - John Gilbert**

"I got chills listening to the opening track 'Blue Skies' Davis brought me back to time of non affected jazz."

**WBG0 Radio - Gary Walker, Music Director**

TOP CD'S - Jamie Davis, 'Vibe Over Perfection'

**www.jazzweek.com - Jae Sinnett**

One of the highest debuts on Jazz Week!