

Throwback: Reuben Wilson-Hot Rod



[youtube]BdPjHt2q0cM[/youtube]

Reuben Wilson is a former professional boxer who was born in Oklahoma but raised in Pasadena, California. As a teenager he was interested in music and boxing. He spent some time in Los Angeles working as an organist at the Caribbean Club. A short stay in Las Vegas was not successful so he moved back to L.A. and became friends with Richard "Groove" Holmes who became a great influence on his style. In the late '60's he moved to New York City and formed the Wildare Express which was a trio. The group didn't last but he was soon playing with artists like Grant Green, Roy Haynes and Sam Rivers. Blue Note offered him a contract and he recorded five albums of soul-jazz material for them between 1968 and 1971. "Hot Rod" was a self-written composition from his 1969 *Love Bug* album. When his music came out it wasn't heralded but years later he would be rediscovered by UK DJ Gilles Peterson who used his music among others

to coin the term [acid jazz](#). "[Got To Get Your Own](#)," "Ronnie's Bonnie," "[Inner City Blues](#)" and "[We're In Love](#)" have all become inspirations and samples in contemporary music.

The organist retired from music in the '80's and started recording again in the late '90's. *Azure Te* from 2009 on the 19th and Vine label is his more recent release.