

Phredley Brown's Homecoming (Interview)



Detroit is a very warm and honest place

How did you feel about the show Sunday night?

I had been preparing all week long and when I looked up, it was my father, their family, childhood friends, high school friends, musicians Iâ€™ve played with over the years in Detroit, it just really overwhelmed me, a lot of emotion. It was a very emotional homecoming, I hadnâ€™t been to Detroit in 6 years.

How did you become a musician?

It was something I always felt I had to do. As a kid, I wanted to play sports when I grew up but as I got older it was

something I was always doing. My mother was a teacher of music growing up. I would play in any band around Detroit I was asked to. I find myself sometimes practicing the guitar and I don't have a guitar in my hand. I think for me it's something very deep in who I am.

Who has had the biggest impact on your music?

My mother used to play a lot of R&B music a lot of old soul music in the house but a lot of great songwriters too James Taylor or those kind of '70s acoustic songwriters and then, of course, I would say The Beatles always sound good to me no matter what's going on. Then people like Marvin Gaye, Ray Charles is a big one for me and Sam Cooke. I would say with contemporary musicians John Mayer had a big influence on me wanting to play guitar as well as writing music.

So would you say you are a guitarist first or a songwriter first?

The piano was my first instrument and I grew-up playing horns.

What kinds of bands were you in, in Detroit before you moved to L.A.?

A ska band called Super Dot and my band was a seven-piece sort of funk, rock, there was a couple of punk bands, there was a band called Woodward for a while, just whatever was different and fresh to me.

[youtube id="He_ILsju2yM"]

How would you describe your music?

A soul and rock-inspired songwriter.

Detroit is known as a strong music city, are there specific things about Detroit that prepared you for what you are doing now?

Detroit prepared me in a lot of different ways for one is the many, many talented musicians but you're also surrounded by the people of Detroit, there is a very very rich community when it comes to people's personalities. Detroit is a very warm and honest place. You will get honest feedback and people are very talented they have a great ear and it's just very nurturing.

What's the most challenging thing about putting the shows together for Bruno Mars?

When I got the job to be musical director I really didn't know what a musical director did, I was just coming out of being a guy who was in a band and was able to do several different things; arranging, writing or providing my musical experience. I would say in this group we kind of all go through things for the first time together. The most challenging part is being ready, adaptable and quick at learning something new and quickly being able to put it to use.

[youtube id="F2i0Bc3f7jk"]

The Bruno Mars Super Bowl performance was amazing. What was that like?

It was the biggest stage I've ever been on it was a lot of pressure but it was also so fast that you don't really have time to think about it and it comes and goes.

Do you have any plans to ever record as a solo artist?

Yes, that's the reason I did the show other than wanting to do something to give back to Detroit . I also wanted to take a first step and share some of the things I have been working on and to see how people are responding.

What's next?

We are coming off the road now. Bruno's writing his next

record hopefully I will be more a part of that and Iâ€™m writing my own music. Just keeping my head buried in music.

Keep up with Phredley Brown on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

Detroit Raised Guitarist & Bruno Mars Musical Director, Phredley Brown Band to Benefit Music Hall @ Jazz Cafe / December 28 8:00 PM



Phredley Brown returns to Detroit as a solo performer for the first time in over 5 years to share his experiences and new material at an intimate club show benefiting Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts at Jazz CafÃ©, Sunday, December 28th. Brown is accompanied by his band, including sister and Detroit-based recording artist Alesha Nicole as well as longtime friend and drummer Paul Loos, Arranger and Director for world class and championship drum lines North Coast Academy and Lake Orion High School.

Born and raised in Southfield, Phredley Brown has been entranced by music his entire life. His earliest exposure to music came from his mother, Natalie. Natalie taught private piano and voice lessons during the child's infancy and after 3 years, Phredley had heard enough. The 3-year-old told his mother that she needed to stop focusing on other kids and instead start teaching him – So Natalie did. Brown grew up

playing drums in church, trombone and saxophone in school concert bands and still found time to discover trumpet, guitar, bass and other instruments outside of school. Brown went on to graduate from The Roeper School and after a month at the University of Michigan on scholarship, Brown decided music school was not for him. Phredley returned to Detroit to find his feet in the music scene and eventually his path led him to Los Angeles.

Brown's travels have since taken him all over the world. Phredley has shared stages with the likes of Sting, Lenny Kravitz, Stephen Marley, Damien Marley, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Pharell Williams, Rihanna, Janelle Monae, B.o.B, Billy Ray Cyrus, Skylar Grey, Wiz Khalifa, Mark Ronson, Mystikal and more. Brown currently serves as the Musical Director, Guitarist, Keyboardist and Vocalist for Bruno Mars and has also appeared on Saturday Night Live, The Grammys, American Idol, The Voice, The Today Show, The MTV Video Music Awards, The Super Bowl and arenas worldwide. Phredley Brown is endorsed by Fender Guitars and DR Strings.