

Richard Bona

“Richard Bona is the hottest electric bass player since Jaco Pastorius – and the first since that past master with the potential for solo stardom.”

— *Billboard*

“It’s not cool to be impressed by the latest whiz kid to hit town. But even the hippest of the hip give it up when the subject turns to Richard Bona, a slight, shy virtuoso of the electric bass guitar from a mud-hut village deep in Cameroon.”

— *Newsweek*

“Imagine an artist with Jaco Pastorius’ virtuosity, George Benson’s vocal fluidity, Joao Gilberto’s sense of song and harmony, all mixed up with African culture. Ladies and gentlemen, we bring you Richard Bona!”

— *Los Angeles Times*

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Richard Bona

GRAMMY®-nominated **RICHARD BONA** is universally recognized as an absolute master of his art and a melodist of rare elegance and sensuality. He's a poignant singer and one of the world's greatest bassists.

Born in Camaroon, the grandson of a famous percussionist and singer, **Richard Bona's** family quickly recognized his musical talent. Without access to traditional instruments, the young prodigy found creative ways of making his own instruments, including reed flutes, a large balafon, wooden percussion instruments, and a 12-string guitar. *"I hung around the workshops where they repaired bicycles,"* he recalls, *"and as soon as the guys turned their backs, I'd put brake cables in my pocket for my prototype."*

In 1989, at age 22, **Bona** left Africa for Paris, where he quickly built a solid reputation as a solo artist and session player. Upon arriving in New York in 1995, he immediately became Harry Belafonte's bandleader and music director. The list of musicians who have played with **Richard Bona** reads like the roster from a musicians' hall of fame, including Larry Coryell, Michael and Randy Brecker, Steve Gadd, Bob James, Mike Stern, Pat Metheny, George Benson, Bobby McFerrin, Branford Marsalis, and Chaka Khan.

For the past fifteen years, **Bona** has been displaying his smile, humor, serenity, and grace throughout the world. A wonderful storyteller, a surprising musician, and a spellbinding vocalist, his unique style is situated at the crossroads of a horde of influences - jazz, bossa nova, pop, afro-beat, traditional song, and funk - giving **Richard Bona's** music a dimension that is genuinely universal.



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