

Paul Francis

Electric & Upright Bassist | Backing Vocalist | Composer

Location: Somerset / London, UK • Contact: 07956424321 • Website: paul-francis-bass-player.com

Professional Profile

A highly versatile, emotive, and cerebral **Electric and Upright Bassist**, backing vocalist, and producer. Born in Camden Town into a deeply musical family as the son of renowned jazz singers Derrick Francis and Marion Williams, playing bass has spanned **over 45 years of high-profile touring, recording, and television appearances**. Known for a unique sonic fusion crossing rock, punk, acid jazz, funk, and world music, with a proven track record as a trusted session player for legendary industry names and major television networks.

Core Skills & Expertise

- **Instruments:** 4/5-String Electric Bass Guitar, Upright / Double Bass.
- **Vocal Ability:** Experienced Backing Vocalist (BVs).
- **Genres:** Funk, Soul, Acid Jazz, Post-Punk, Rock, Blues-Rock, Soca, and World Music.
- **Professional Domains:** International Touring, Studio Session Recording, Live TV/Radio Broadcasts, Band Leadership, and Higher Education Music Lecturing.

Current Projects & Recent Work

Emma Wilson Band | *Session / Dep Bassist* (Dec 2025 – Present)

- Anchoring the groove for the award-winning UK blues vocalist, performing live dates and prominent blues festival showcases across the UK circuit.
- Handling both upright and electric bass requirements, locked into a soulful blend of classic blues, roots, and r&b.;

The Capricorn 1 Project | *Band Leader & Composer* (2021 – Present)

- Founded an instrumental project showcasing original tunes spanning rock, funk, jazz, and world genres.
- Compositions utilize collaborations with prominent contemporary players and have been licensed for use across film and TV.
- Released the single "Fat Freddie's Cat" featuring jazz saxophonist Dave O'Higgins.

"Are You Ready For Love" (Sir Elton John Tribute) | *Dep Bassist* (Jun 2024 – Present)

- Providing precision bass arrangements for high-end theatrical tribute performances across major UK venues.

Zoë Schwarz Blue Commotion | *Session / Dep Bassist* (2014 – 2024)

- Completed a decade-long tenure as a trusted dep and core live acoustic/electric bassist for the award-winning blues outfit throughout the South West and UK blues circuit.
- Featured recording bassist on the band's fifth acclaimed studio album release, *Livewire* (33 Records, 2016).

Selected Career Highlights & Credits

Londonbeat | *Television Studio Session Bassist (1995)*

- Tracked the bassline for the chart-topping pop/dance group's entry "I'm Just Your Puppet on a... (String!)" as part of a pre-recorded television studio session for the BBC's Eurovision selection show, *A Song for Europe 1995*.

Combo Passé | *Band Member & Live Bassist (Early 1980s)*

- Performed as a core member of the influential London-based live soca-based funk and soul fusion band.
- Anchored a powerhouse foundational rhythm section alongside guitarist J.J. Belle, drummer Neil Conti, and featured vocalist Jimmy Chambers.

Steve Hillage Band | *Touring & Studio Bassist*

- Secured a major career milestone performing as live bassist for the legendary progressive rock guitarist Live at Glastonbury Festival 1979.
- Featured bass player on the officially archived live album release, *The Glastonbury Experience (Live 1979)* (Madfish Records).
- Featured live bass player on the archived archival concert release, *Paris Bataclan 11.12.79* (Madfish Records), documenting the band's peak European touring era.
- Co-wrote and recorded electric bass tracks on Hillage's influential studio album, *Open* (Virgin Records, 1979).

Chris Farlowe Band | *Touring & Studio Session Bassist*

- Performed as the touring and session rhythm anchor for the legendary English rock, blues, and soul singer (Colosseum, Atomic Rooster), delivering precision blues and R&B; basslines for live theater and festival stages.

The James Taylor Quartet (JTQ) | *Live & Session Bassist*

- Established a long-standing musical relationship with the legendary British jazz-funk outfit, anchoring the live groove for major UK/European festival dates and club residencies.
- Featured bassist on historical live cuts including *The BBC Sessions* album.

Jimmy Litherland | *Studio Recording Bassist*

- Tracked Electric 4 & 5-string bass parts for the legendary Colosseum guitarist's solo album, *Back 'n Blue*.

Maggie Bell | *Studio Session Bassist*

- Tracked studio electric bass parts for the acclaimed Scottish blues-rock vocalist, officially compiled on the live album release *The River Sessions*.

The Paul Weller Movement | *Touring & Session Bassist (1990)*

- Recruited to anchor the live comeback lineup for Paul Weller immediately following the end of The Style Council. Toured extensively across the UK and Europe, and featured on *Weller At The BBC*.

Head (Post-Punk / Indie Rock) | *Band Member & Recording Bassist*

- Performed and recorded under the alias Paul "Cheese Jackson" Francis for the prominent Bristol-based Virgin Records signing alongside Gareth Sager (The Pop Group) and Nick Sheppard (The Clash).

Television & Media Appearances

- **Omar:** Performed as session bassist for the British neo-soul pioneer for a featured, pre-recorded promotional studio broadcast on BBC's *Pebble Mill at One*.
- **Top of the Pops** (BBC) & **Wogan** (BBC) studio broadcast appearances.

Additional Notable Collaborations & Tours

- **High-Profile Educational Concerts & Performance Camps:** Served as the live rhythmic anchor for exclusive masterclass concerts and elite music camps, performing alongside world-class instrumental virtuosos including Paul Gilbert (Mr. Big) and legendary master drummers Mike Mangini (Dream Theater), Virgil Donati, and Antonio Sanchez (Pat Metheny).
- **Notable Session/Studio Work:** Tracked studio sessions for diverse commercial artists including Galliano, Ian Hunter Band, Dan Baird, Midge Ure (alongside drummer Andy Anderson), Michelle Gayle, The Foundations, and The Upsetters.

Academic & Teaching Experience

- **ACM (Academy of Contemporary Music):** Bass Lecturer (1997 – 2013).
- **BIMM (Brighton Institute of Modern Music):** Bass Lecturer (2015).
- **Musicians Institute (London):** Bass Lecturer (1995 – 1997).