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**Interviewee:** Desi Norman

**Interviewers:** Melissa Keeling  
Jennifer Souder  
Yvonne Clayton

**Behind the Scenes:** Tom Ruff  
Morgan Souder  
Malcolm Souder

Date: July 12, 2019  
Time: 4:00pm  
Place: 1403 3rd Ave., Asbury Park, NJ

Interview begins on page 7.

Jennifer S.:

I don't think they're going to, um. Usually, what we do is we just, uh, after we do this stuff and then get set up then we just...

Jennifer S.:

Guess I should [inaudible 00:00:09] this?

Melissa K.:

Uh, yeah. You have to, uh, clip that to you.

Tom:

Then we'll do a quick audio check [inaudible 00:00:13].

Jennifer S.:

Morgan and Malcolm, we're gonna start, okay? So that means quiet. You can always go upstairs in your room, that'd be a great idea. [Laughs].

Tom:

[inaudible 00:00:21].

Speaker 4:

[inaudible 00:00:21].

Jennifer S.:

Want me to check check?

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Melissa K.:

Oh yeah. Do a couple checks for me.

Jennifer S.:

Check, check, check.

Melissa K.:

All right, one more time please.

Jennifer S.:

Check, check, check. Hey Morgan, I actually have a quick job for you too. And then maybe you guys wanna go upstairs but I have a quick check... quick job. Can you come over here for a sec?

Speaker 4:

Waiting for [inaudible 00:00:51]?

Jennifer S.:

Yep.

Speaker 6:

(Laughs).

Jennifer S.:

Can you take a few pictures of us while we do this? Thank you.

Morgan S.:

Right now?

Jennifer S.:

Yeah, just for now.

Desi Norman:

What uh, what do you have that mic plugged into?

Speaker 4:

No.

Desi Norman:

This mic.

Tom:

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The camera. Mic up.

Desi Norman:

Okay. Yeah, I see.

Speaker 4:

No, Daddy.

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:01:16].

Speaker 4:

I'm taking picture. [inaudible 00:01:16].

Jennifer S.:

[inaudible 00:01:16]. Is Malcolm in the shot now?

Melissa K.:

Yes-

Jennifer S.:

Yeah-

Melissa K.:

Malcolm's in the shot.

Jennifer S.:

Malcolm. You can't be back there, okay buddy? 'Cause see this camera? It's shooting right that way. All right?

Melissa K.:

There you go.

Yvonne Clayton:

Yay.

Melissa K.:

That's a good spot.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

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Jennifer S.:

That's a good spot. And your room is a great spot.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Hint hint.

Yvonne Clayton:

Where's Molly?

Jennifer S.:

Molly is in the room upstairs too.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

She's the only one that's-

Speaker 4:

Um, and [inaudible 00:01:38].

Jennifer S.:

Yep, everybody's up there.

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:01:42].

Jennifer S.:

All right, Morgan let me-

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:01:46].

Jennifer S.:

Thank you, that's a, that's a good distance. That's pretty distance there.

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Speaker 4:

[inaudible 00:01:49].

Morgan S.:

No, mommy [inaudible 00:01:52].

Melissa K.:

Oh wow. Look at you, Tom. I can't even-

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

I can't even.

Tom:

Okay. It helps if my [crosstalk 00:02:04].

Melissa K.:

Look at this cool thing he's got. What do you call that, Tom? A

Tom:

Just a-

Melissa K.:

[crosstalk 00:02:06] pad?

Tom:

Just a monitor.

Melissa K.:

A monitor. It's just a monitor? I really like that.

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:02:11].

Tom:

It helps with my old eyes. [Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Thank you, Morgan. And then, Morgan.

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Tom:

[crosstalk 00:02:19]

Melissa K.:

No that's really, that's really cool.

Jennifer S.:

A couple on this side and then if you guys might... It might be really good to go upstairs, not because I don't want you here it's just 'cause it's distracting.

Morgan S.:

Behind the scene.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

(Laughs).

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Usually do this during school time. [Laughs]. All right, thank you very much.

Morgan S.:

[inaudible 00:02:35].

Jennifer S.:

Okay. Just tell, tell me when you're ready Tom.

Tom:

I am ready.

Jennifer S.:

Ready?

Melissa K.:

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Ready.

Jennifer S.:

All right. All right, we're on guys.

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Interview Start

Jennifer S.:

Hello.

Desi Norman:

Hi.

Jennifer S.:

How are you?

Desi Norman:

I'm great. I'm-

Jennifer S.:

First of all, we wanted to say thank you to Mr. Desi Norman for coming here today, um, to speak with us as part of the Asbury Park African-American Music Project. Uh, we've been really excited and wanted to speak with you for a long time so-

Yvonne Clayton:

Yes.

Jennifer S.:

Thank you for coming and spending your time with us.

Desi Norman:

Thank you for having me.

Jennifer S.:

Um, we, generally how we do this is we do a quick introduction of ourselves, around the table and, um, talk about the project for a few minutes.

Desi Norman:

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Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

And then ask some questions and whatever, uh, direction you'd like to go is fine. This is informal, um, so, uh, I'm Jennifer Souder. I've been working with this team for a couple years, I'm super happy to be here and be a part of this and we have two missing team members, Mr. Charles Trott and, um, Ms. Kathleen Melgar who are usually here with us. And uh, yeah, I've lived here about 10 years and really, um, excited to see some focus on Springwood Avenue history-

Desi Norman:

Mm.

Jennifer S.:

And wanting to shine a light on that and the music history of Asbury Park but in particular, the African-American community, um, and just having ways of sharing between different generations and making sure that these stories are central to Asbury Park history.

Yvonne Clayton:

Hi, I'm Yvonne Clayton and currently, I serve on the city council, the city of Asbury Park. I grew up here, moved away, came back a few years ago and this project means a lot to me because I remember it being Springwood Avenue of old. When there were stores and music and sounds and it was a very, very vibrant community. And so when I had an opportunity to join a project, I jumped at it and I think that it's important that we do this 'cause we need to preserve the music of Springwood Avenue, we need to preserve-

Desi Norman:

Yes.

Yvonne Clayton:

The sound and we need to pass it on to other generations because other people don't know how important-

Desi Norman:

That's right.

Yvonne Clayton:

It was and what was here and also, we wanna see what we can do to bring it back.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Yvonne Clayton:

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So that's, that's part of the reason and the main reason I'm part of this project. And thank you 'cause I know we've been wanting to interview you for a while.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

I'm Melissa Keeling. I'm a musician and a music educator. I teach in Brick Elementary School. So, I moved here about four or five years ago because why not? It's very musical this place in, uh, Jersey.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

And I was shocked to learn about the history of the West Side because when I first came here, I knew nothing and come to find out that there was this amazing legacy of music that happened here that is kind of invisible, I think, to a lot of people like me. Coming into the town, I had no idea.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Melissa K.:

So I was really excited that this project started and then to, just wanna do my part to help how I can. Thank you for being here.

Desi Norman:

Thank you for having me.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Wait, wait. So, um, would you please tell us your name, when you were born and just a few memories from your childhood?

Desi Norman:

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My name is Desmond Norman. Um, I was born October 29th, 1952 and I lived in... at 119 Ridge Avenue, uh, for many, many years. My grandmother's sister lived on Washington Avenue so I was, I would walk from right around the corner, uh, you know, so that they could watch, watch me. And I wasn't old enough yet to be on my own but, um, I remember, uh, Springwood Avenue. I grew up with a few friends of mine. Uh, Boom Carter was one. He lived right down the street. Uh, [Brian Pink 00:06:54] who passed away, was a bass player who lived almost right next door, um, and there were other musicians that lived right in the area. I mean, so we, we grew up basically practicing most of the day.

Desi Norman:

Um, I remember one time I, I played piano from five years old and I would practice three to four hours a day, you know, and um, Boom Carter was a drummer and he lived right down the street and we would probably start practicing around the same time. So I'd practice my three or four hours and then I'd say, "Well, let me go see what Boom's doing," you know? I'd walk down there and Boom's still practicing, I'm like, "What?!"

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Yeah, six, seven hours he would go-

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

You know. Then his father would yell down 'cause his drums were in the basement, his father would yell down, um, "Less tin, more skin!" You know, because he was beating-

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

He was beating those cymbals to death, you know. But, uh, he was a great, he is a great drummer. And he played, uh, with Bruce Springsteen, uh, when David Sancious was there. We all grew up together and David was from Belmar. Um, we actually had a band together in grammar school, uh-

Jennifer S.:

Oh, wow, what was the name of that band?

Desi Norman:

The Jazz Jay Trio.

Jennifer S.:

The Jazz Jay Trio.

Desi Norman:

Now I'm going back many, many years.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Um. We, we played a, we had a little assembly one day and we played Charles Lloyd's Forest Flower and it's in two parts, the second part is almost like a... hmm. It's very danceable, put it that way. And so, when we broke into that, the kids started, they jumped up and they're starting to dance in the aisles and the teacher's running around behind 'em, "Sit down, you can't do that!" You know, so it was a little chaotic but, um, they, they, they kept it under control.

Jennifer S.:

Oh wow. And, and so from the age of five, I mean, that young age... What got you into music, how did that start for you?

Desi Norman:

Um, all my cousins played. You know, I had a cousin that played flute and one that played violin. And the rest were probably piano, uh, players like myself and I told my father one day, I said, "Dad, I wanna play piano." And he says, "Are you sure?" And I said, "Yeah, I, I wanna learn." And, uh, yeah he went out and bought me an old, used piano and um, he, um, signed me with some lessons.

Desi Norman:

Uh, at that time, I was living in Belmar and there was this old lady and we lived on 10th Avenue. It was this old lady on 21st Street and I used to walk every day with my little book bag, you know. And, uh, kids were kind of rough, you know. They, in the winter, they'd throw snowballs at me, you know, try to, [inaudible 00:09:57] case and uh, that, that's all part of growing up, I guess, you know.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). So did you go to, um, school in Asbury at the time or Belmar or both? I mean, at different points.

Desi Norman:

I went to Belmar Grammar after moving to Belmar from Asbury. I went to Bangs Avenue-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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Desi Norman:

Uh, I went to Belmar Grammar and then two years at Manasquan and two years at Asbury.

Jennifer S.:

Okay, interes-

Desi Norman:

Because I was, I guess, on the border there where I was able to make the call.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

And uh, I should've stayed in Manasquan. I think the level of education is better. I'm sorry Asbury but at that time.

Jennifer S.:

At that time, yes-

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Well, things change but, yes, it's-

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Uh, did you, um... when you were here, and I'm taking back a little bit, uh, when you're on Ridge Avenue, can you tell us a little bit about your memories of the neighborhood. Just, um, what it looked like, what you remember, what comes to mind about just your really early childhood neighborhood.

Desi Norman:

Well, it's, uh, changed a lot since then but, uh, a lot of folks have moved away and don't live there anymore. Um, but I, uh, I just remember practicing all the time and, and, you know, all the other kids were out playing ball and you know, and I, and my grandmother was, uh, she was a task master, you know. She didn't know music but she knew when I'd hit a wrong note. It's amazing. I don't know how she did it. And she'd be in the kitchen and I'd be practicing, you know, and, and, uh, sometimes I'd, I'd wanna throw a little improvised part in there and, you know, and she'd, she'd come right in, "That's not in there!"

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Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

You know, "That's not the way that goes." Okay, how do you know?

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

But, um, she knew. Every time. I couldn't sneak it by her.

Jennifer S.:

Wow. That's-

Desi Norman:

Um. And, um, my father brought me a, a vibraphone when I was oh, I guess, a junior in high school. And I learned on that. Yeah. And compared to what I have now it's like a toy but, um, it was a good learning instrument.

Jennifer S.:

And did he get you that because you asked for it or how did, why?

Desi Norman:

I asked for it.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Yeah, and then... Soon, then he says, uh, "So you don't wanna play piano anymore, huh?" I said, "Well, yeah but I wanna play Vox." First, I didn't even know what the instrument was, I didn't know what the sound was. And he was playing some jazz records one day and I said, "Pop, Pop, what's that, what's that, what is that?" And he says, "What is what?" And I said, "That sound, that right there. What is that?" And he says, "Go look it up."

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]

Yvonne Clayton:

(Laughs).

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Desi Norman:

So, I figured out, you know, what it was. Um. And, uh, started in practicing again. The keyboard was laid out like a piano so it wasn't too hard to pick up.

Jennifer S.:

And did you teach yourself at that point?

Desi Norman:

Yes.

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

I figured I had enough piano knowledge behind me, uh, to make the switch.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). And did you continue with the piano or?

Desi Norman:

Not so much lessons but I did continue to play.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). So then when you were in high school, 'cause you went from one high school to another, did you play in high school too? In the band?

Desi Norman:

Yes I did.

Jennifer S.:

In both?

Desi Norman:

In both. In both schools, yeah. And then that's where I met, uh, Dorian Parreott. And, uh, he was a, he was a really good teacher. He... I'd be in the band room, playing the piano. I mean, like, deep into it. Deep into it. And he'd, he'd come over and he'd say, "Aren't you supposed to be in class?" And I'd go, "Yeah." [Laughs]

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

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Desi Norman:

And he says, "You're, you're gonna, you're gonna drive me crazy," you know and he'd, he'd walk out. And so I'd go back to playing. And-

Tom:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Then the next thing I know, there's like three or four teachers standing in the doorway and they weren't angry, they were just listening.

Jennifer S.:

Wow. [Laughing].

Desi Norman:

Right, so I was shocked. Then they got angry. "Where've you been," you know.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughing]. So first of all, listen, [inaudible 00:14:33].

Desi Norman:

[Laughing].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughing].

Jennifer S.:

Uh, so when, so after high school, then what's next?

Desi Norman:

Um. After high school. I, uh, I got, I went on the road with Grant Green. I met Grant at the Orchid Lounge. Uh, I was in a band at the time called The Chosen Few. I was playing at the Turf Club. And Grant was looking for a vibe player. And so he sent two of his men down to see and they, they called him and they said, "Grant, there's a vibe player here. He's playing R&B." And Grant says, "Wow. Ask him if he wants to come down and play a set with me." And so I did. And he asked me if I wanted to go on the road with him. And at that time, I, I wasn't 21 so I said, "Well, I gotta ask my father." Uh, so. Called my father, he says, uh, "Invite him to dinner." So-

Tom:

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Whoa.

Desi Norman:

We're all sitting at the table and, uh, Pop made Grant promise to take care of me, uh, on the road. 'Cause he knew I wanted to go. And so, uh, I went on the road with him. We went all the way to L.A. and back. Um, you know, different clubs. A week here, two weeks there. Um. But when we were in Detroit, I stayed with him at his house.

Jennifer S.:

Oh wow.

Desi Norman:

Yeah, 'cause he, he wouldn't let me stay with the other guys since they were trouble [laughs].

Jennifer S.:

So he did, so he did really keep his eye on you.

Desi Norman:

Yeah, yes he did.

Jennifer S.:

That's amazing.

Yvonne Clayton:

Even when your father's [inaudible 00:16:21].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs] Yeah. Yup. Oh, there's one thing I'd like to mention. I was, I was a minor and, um, my father knew Odyssey Moore and he knew, uh, his son and, uh, uh. Pat, uh, the jazz guitarist. Pat Martino was at the Orchid Lounge and I wanted so bad and go see, go and hear 'em. I could hear 'em from outside but I couldn't really hear and see what they were doing, you know.

Desi Norman:

And so, Pop called and talked to, uh, and he says, uh, "Get him a seat in back, get him a coke and a bag of chips." And, and he tipped 'em and so I sat there real quiet, you know, just like no one would know I was there. And I'm watching these guys play and the organ player just blew me away. This guy, he's playing with his right hand, he's playing with his left hand. He's playing the, uh, pedals with one foot and he's working the vine with the other foot and he's eating a bag of Cheetos-

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

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[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

In between his, in between his [slangs 00:17:40] and I'm, I'm like this and he never missed a beat. He was, like, fabulous.

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

And I just, to this day, I just, you know, that, that blows me away.

Jennifer S.:

That's amazing. And, but how were you at that point?

Desi Norman:

Oof. I'm gonna guess 16, 17.

Jennifer S.:

Wow, what an experience.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

So when you mentioned that you were at, playing at the Turf Club. So that was at that same time or a little bit, like late teens?

Desi Norman:

Late, yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Late teens. Okay, wow, to [inaudible 00:18:10]-

Desi Norman:

Late teens. That was later on, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Okay. So, Orchid Lounge first? Or you're listening at Orchid Lounge and then-

Desi Norman:

Right.

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Jennifer S.:

You have... Okay.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Amazing. So can you tell us a little bit, what it was like to play at the Turf Club?

Desi Norman:

Um. The Turf Club was, it was a great experience. It was loud. It was, it was very musical because all the music was top quality that came through here. Charles Earland, and all, all of those great jazz players and um, you could, you could stand outside and hear, you know, just about everything that was going on.

Um. Yeah, I, I couldn't wait for the next act to come through, you know, even though I was playing there. Not on a regular basis but,

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

I guess, maybe once a month we were in there.

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

So. Played Big Bills. Played all over those clubs.

Jennifer S.:

Hmm. Did you have a favorite?

Desi Norman:

Orchid.

Jennifer S.:

The Orchid?

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

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[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Can you-

Desi Norman:

That was a beautiful club.

Tom:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Wow.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]. I was just gonna say, can you describe to us what it looked like? Inside, for those of us who weren't... did not have the opportunity to be there?

Desi Norman:

Well, it had, like, it had... I remember purple chairs and, and the bar was huge and horseshoe-shaped. And, uh. [Laughs]. I guess my seat was in the back there.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

But um, yeah. Everyone would come out and hear the, uh, the jazz acts. You know, Charles, uh. George Benson came through there, um, and Grant. Uh. Oh. A big number of jazz, uh, musicians.

Jennifer S.:

Wow. And then the same-

Desi Norman:

[crosstalk 00:19:56].

Jennifer S.:

Question for the Turf Club. Can you describe to us, 'cause we don't have a lot of pictures inside so we have people's memories of what it was like to...

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Desi Norman:

Now the Turf was a little hazier.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

I, I, do not remember exactly what that looked like inside. Um. Neither do I remember Big Bills. I do remember playing there but, um-

Jennifer S.:

You remember playing, this is-

Desi Norman:

I just, [laughs], can't-

Jennifer S.:

That's interesting. Several of the musicians we've talked to say, "I remember playing," you know, let's focus on playing. That's what you were there for.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Right, right.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

That's funny. I don't remember what those looked like either. I just remember, they had a pole and it had dancers.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah, it did.

Yvonne Clayton:

Do you ever play at the [inaudible 00:20:40]?

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Desi Norman:

Yeah, oh yeah. [Vance 00:20:41]. Yeah, I played there many, many times. Um, There's a lot of different people. Uh, there was a guy that I played with, uh, Gene McCormick. I played with him there, I played with, actually I played with David Sancious there on one night. And we had a little battle. Uh, in, in, in, in a certain song he would play eight measures and I would play eight measures and it went back and forth, back and forth and I remember the people just going crazy, you know. 'Cause we were tryna outdo each but, uh, we kind of broke even. [Laughs], you know.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]. Wow, I wish I'd been there for that, [laughs]. Um, and then, so I'm just doing the math of those and late, late 60s is basically is the time that you were going Orchid Lounge, Turf Club, that kind of-

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

In that era?

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Um, and any other places on Springwood Avenue you can remember? In particular?

Desi Norman:

Well, I remember the, um, the clothing store I guess. Was that on-

Jennifer S.:

Fisch's.

Desi Norman:

Fish's, yeah. Um, wow I don't remember too much else. I, I remember a five and 10 cent store. Uh, as, as a kid we used to all get candy and stuff there. Um. And Max's Army & Navy was around the corner. I worked there a couple summers uh, um, in high school. That wasn't on Springwood, it was on Main. Um.

Jennifer S.:

And you were young when you were, I mean, you were young to be sort of in these clubs-

Desi Norman:

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[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

You already explained, you know, that you were-

Desi Norman:

Probably not of age, [laughs].

Jennifer S.:

At that age. And did you feel, um, how did you feel the other musicians, uh, treated you at that time, being that were in the, little bit younger?

Desi Norman:

They treated me well, as far as I can remember. I, I, you know. We were all like a brotherhood. Um, you know. Someone's hungry, we all chipped in if, you know, get some food or... 'Cause we're like, you know, brotherhood, that's what it was.

Jennifer S.:

And then so, after, um, 1970, early 1970s when things changed on Springwood, you still played in the area?

Desi Norman:

Yes.

Jennifer S.:

Okay. Where, where did you go-

Desi Norman:

But after the, um, after the riots, everything just changed. It was not the same at all. So a lot of those places were gone and, uh, they weren't really at that time talking about rebuilding.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

So. Um. Yeah I played, I played at different places around, you know, up and down the shore. Um. I don't remember any names of the places. Um.

Jennifer S.:

Jason's

Desi Norman:

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But I do remember [Springley 00:23:44].

Jennifer S.:  
Springley, (laughing).

Desi Norman:  
Yeah.

Yvonne Clayton:  
Did you travel outside of the city, I mean, outside of the state? Like, Philadelphia, New York, Washington, D.C. which-

Desi Norman:  
I did, um, I did a, a gig with a guy from Baltimore and it was a big band. You know, and it had the horns and everything. And, um, that was a great gig, I really enjoyed that. I didn't enjoy driving down there and back but, then, the, the music was, made up for it.

Jennifer S.:  
And then the vibes the whole way through?

Desi Norman:  
Yeah, yup. Loading them up, you know, getting 'em down the stairs and putting 'em in the... So. They're not a piccolo.

Jennifer S.:  
[Laughs].

Desi Norman:  
[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:  
I see, it's a lot of work, it's a lot of work. Um, and then in Asbury Park, were you playing in other places in Asbury Park later?

Desi Norman:  
Um, yeah.

Jennifer S.:  
Oh-

Desi Norman:

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Wherever we could, you know. Wherever we, wherever there was live music and we would go in and talk to them, see if we could get a, a night.

Jennifer S.:

Uh, and now I know that you play now with Dorian but when did you, do you remember the first time that you played with Dorian? Approximate around.

Desi Norman:

Mm-mm (negative). No I don't.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

I just remember, uh, you know, him being there-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

And at that time, he was playing drums and trumpet and sax and, you know, it was-

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

Being an instructor, he knew all of those instruments-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

So. He was very good, you know. I admired him a lot, I learned a lot from him.

Jennifer S.:

I'm sure he's had quite an influence, [laughs].

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Um, did you, do you know Cliff Johnson?

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Desi Norman:

The name sounds familiar.

Jennifer S.:

The sax player, he's in his 90s now.

Desi Norman:

Oh Cliff, yes.

Jennifer S.:

Yes, yes, yes.

Desi Norman:

Yes, I, I've worked with Cliff, yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Yes. Well-

Desi Norman:

I like Cliff.

Jennifer S.:

He's amazing too. Um, it's been interesting to hear as we speak to different musicians from different eras, little bit different generations, um, there's just a lot of crossover which makes sense.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Um, in, in the local area. Um. Melissa, did I forget anything? I'm not... I was thinking about the things that you sent me last night. That I'm missing, I feel like I'm missing something.

Melissa K.:

Oh. I was trying to find some information about your career, your life, before we talked with you and of course there's, uh, sadly, not a lot published on the Internet which hopefully we're here to change some of this so that you have some recognition. But I came across this article from, I think it was 1985 and I'm not sure if it was you but it was a reggae band. Were you ever in a reggae band?

Desi Norman:

Many reggae bands.

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Melissa K.:

Many reggae bands.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Melissa K.:

I think that, uh, they had a shot of you there with, uh, Jah Love.

Desi Norman:

Jah Love and the Survivors. Wow.

Melissa K.:

You were a Survivor.

Desi Norman:

[Laughing], yeah.

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Yeah. Um. Yeah, I played with them. I think that was my first band or reggae band. And then from there, I played with, uh, Stanley Roots and the Tribe.

Jennifer S.:

Oh, wow.

Desi Norman:

And then from there, I played with, uh, a gentleman named Theo Jackson. Jamaican guy, guitarist, uh, and we had a band so... But it, uh, reggae and calypso is fun in the summer but it's not really I wanted to do.

Melissa K.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

I mean it was a-

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Melissa K.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

It was a moneymaker, you know. When the jazz guys were sitting idle, I was working 'cause I could play all that stuff, you know. Um. But it kind of left me a little hollow because I wasn't getting that, that jazz kick.

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah. It wasn't satisfying.

Desi Norman:

No. It wasn't. It was work.

Melissa K.:

Well, it came to a point where jazz was, I guess, being listened to or played less as-

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

Melissa K.:

You know, obviously time went on so, uh, I think that it's really interesting that as a vibraphone player, that instrument fits into so many genres so to speak. Uh, yeah, reggae seems like a really good fit. I never thought about that before. It kind of has that steel drum kind of sound to it, little bit-

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Melissa K.:

Which I saw you playing at our event a couple, uh, weeks ago.

Desi Norman:

Right, I, I play steel pan too. Um, I tried to fit the, the vibes into reggae. For some reason, it, it wouldn't work and the Jamaican guys who were, I guess, purists, they didn't like it 'cause it was a, a sound that they weren't trusting to.

Melissa K.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

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And so, um, one time Jah had to go back to Jamaica, it was a hurricane. And, uh, was it Hugo or one of those? And he had to go back to Jamaica so he was gone, like, two weeks and in those two weeks, every night I played my vibes with the band and they loved it.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

And soon as he got back, "No, De' you can't play 'dem [inaudible 00:29:02]," you know, so-

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

So what did you play when you-

Desi Norman:

Keyboards.

Melissa K.:

When you just played regular keys? Okay.

Desi Norman:

Yeah. Double and chop. That's the style in reggae, it's, the chop is the top.

Melissa K.:

Oh.

Desi Norman:

Bing. Bing. Bing. And the bubbles, ooh, ah, ooh. Ooh, ah, ooh. So. Full of that, you know, and the jazz guys like, uh, "This isn't getting it."

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

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[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

This isn't getting it.

Jennifer S.:

That's so interesting and you also, I'm trying to figure out [inaudible 00:29:31], I know, but you mentioned earlier that you played with Chris Lowell?

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Um-

Jennifer S.:

So at what point, sort of what decade would that be? 'Cause I'm trying to place things...

Desi Norman:

That might've been in the 90s. Early 90s.

Jennifer S.:

Okay.

Desi Norman:

Yeah. Because Buddy was still around. Buddy was, you know.

Melissa K.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

He was still driving the band with the bongos. And um, I, like I said, never saw anybody do that. You know? And get all those different tones and things out. And with brushes. It's just amazing. But yeah, he was, he was very good. Chris was a, a great vocalist. I, I also, uh, worked with Sandy Sasso.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

For some time. Um.

Jennifer S.:

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And I know, we know that Chris was a mentor to Sandy.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Uh, she was speaking about that. Uh, so many great musicians, I mean, this area just is amazing. How much talent in this area.

Desi Norman:

Ugh. Back in the, in the day when I was growing up, you couldn't, you couldn't walk almost, you couldn't walk a block without hearing music but you couldn't walk maybe two blocks without hearing someone practicing music. And so all the kids in the neighborhood, you know, well not all, but a lot of them were budding musicians. And uh, I knew 'em all. I knew 'em all.

Jennifer S.:

Um, and it's interesting too, and we spoke with Al Griffin and he spoke about, you know, playing over at Griffin's and practicing, you know, on Springwood Avenue and the same thing, that he would see his friends walking down the street, "Where'd you get that drum," and you know, that's always, it's, there's a lot of history of people just interacting and, you know-

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

"Are you going down to the West Side Community Center? Okay, I'm coming with you," that type of thing.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Um, did you play at the, did you, were you involved with the West Side Community Center?

Desi Norman:

I've played there, yes. Mm-hmm (affirmative). I don't think there's too many venues in Asbury I haven't played.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]. Doesn't sound like it, [laughing].

Desi Norman:

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I've, I've been around.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

And I've loved every minute of it. I played with, uh, with Dee Holland and, um-

Jennifer S.:

That was my next question.

Desi Norman:

A phenomenal keyboardist. Organ piano, you know, she was just the greatest. And, and you could call a song and she would know it. And I'm like, [laughs]. It, I, I, I thought I'd be, I was being funny.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Um, "I Cover the Waterfront", you know, it's an old tune from the turn of the century, I think. And she'd go, "What key?"

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

I'm like, "Uh, let's not do that, it'll take"...

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

So. But yeah, she was, she was very, very versatile with the... And knew, and knew all of those tunes, like, by heart. She didn't need the music, you know.

Jennifer S.:

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[inaudible 00:32:27].

Desi Norman:

And that's another thing that I, I learned with Grant. When we would play, there were no music stands on the band stand. They didn't allow that, you know.

Jennifer S.:

[inaudible 00:32:38].

Desi Norman:

You picked it up as you went. And if you didn't pick it up fast enough, [laughing]-

Jennifer S.:

[crosstalk 00:32:42].

Desi Norman:

You would be back on Ridge Avenue.

Jennifer S.:

Ridge Avenue, [laughing].

Desi Norman:

So. Um, I was with Grant about four years. And that was my college education. My father saved up for me to go to, um, Manhattan School of Music. And he had all the, uh, funds. I had to write a, a composition in order to get accepted and they sent, they sent the envelope back, you know, you've been accepted and I was, you know. And right at that time, Grant to the Orchid Lounge.

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

And so, I had a decision to make, um, so I went with Grant. And, but, I, I learned more with him than I ever would've learned at, uh, [Manhattan School of Music](#).

Jennifer S.:

That's cool. I'm sure, what an experience.

Desi Norman:

Yup, Manhattan School of Music.

Jennifer S.:

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So you, so, can you talk a little bit more about those four years? So when you said you went to L.A. and back and then you were in Detroit, staying with Grant. Um, do you remember any of the places you played? Think like, different venues?

Desi Norman:

Well, there was this big club in Detroit, it was called Watts Club Mozambique and it was a huge place. Um, I think that seating capacity must've been over a thousand.

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

It was, it was humongous. And I was playing in there one day and, uh, Roy Ayers came in. Now this is back in the 70s when they had the big hats and the furs and the, the, the, the six-inch shoes-

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

You know, with the goldfish in 'em and all that. And uh-

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs]. And he had, like, women on his shoulders, you know. And, and he came in. He sat down. He's listening for a while and, uh, and then on the break, you know, he says, he says, uh, "Hey kid come here. Come here." And I went over to him and some stares, pleased to meet you and you're fabulous and he says, "You know, I've been listening. You're, you're using the wrong mallets. Your, your, your things set too high, this is not right, that ain't right." 'Cause he came up and he played a song with, with Grant and, uh. [Laughs]. He didn't have anything positive to say at all.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

It's just, you're doing it all wrong, you know. [Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

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[Laughs]. Little humbling.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs]. Yes.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Yes.

Yvonne Clayton:

Did you ever play [inaudible 00:35:15] vibraphone?

Desi Norman:

Um, no. Never did. Never did. I remember, um, letting, a, a guy play my, my instrument and he was, he was like beating it to death. I mean, there was no, there was no subtlety. Everything was one volume. Loud. [Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

And, I mean, it was killing, you know. I said, "Okay. At least everything's intact, so-"

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]. It survived.

Desi Norman:

Nothing broken.

Jennifer S.:

It survived.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

And so, in that time, um, when you were Detroit and then... So, I'm sorry that if I am missing and we're confusing something but when you, at Orchid and Grant came to hear you playing, you were, you'd already been playing at the Orchid Lounge, obviously, at that point.

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Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Um. And then, you went and you traveled and you were in Detroit and other places. Um, can you compare at all or just give us some description between the Springwood Avenue scene and, say, Detroit or wherever else. Some other, whatever place you'd like to talk about?

Desi Norman:

Well, Springwood Avenue at that time was on par with almost any jazz neighborhood in any city in the country. I mean, people knew about Springwood wherever we went. And I would say, you know, "I'm from New Jersey," and they'd say, "Well, how's the Orchid Lounge?" You know and, you know way out in, uh, in Nevada somewhere-

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Or, you know. People just knew that Springwood Avenue. And it, uh, it fascinated me. Um, like I said, there were so many clubs in Springwood, on Springwood that it, it was, it compared to any other jazz locale anywhere. In, in the country that I played at.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

Um.

Jennifer S.:

And we love, I mean, I love hearing you talk about that because and other musicians have certainly talked about that and part of it is that, um, that kind of feeling is something that is sadly gone so people that are here now are amazed by that.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

You know, and people that are saying, "Wow, really?" You know, and it's just, it, it's really a generational thing that is, um, such an amazing piece. The descriptions that everybody gives are very similar. It's amazing, the words and everything. Just, you know, how, how vibrant it was. Um. When you, so when you came back from, you had your four years, you traveled, um, and then you were coming, so now we're in late 70s right? Or mid-70s, somewhere in there? When you finished up with Grant.

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Desi Norman:

I, I got, I finished with Grant about '79, '78, somewhere in there.

Jennifer S.:

Okay. Um, and when you had mentioned that you had played with Dee and was that, um, do you remember when you played, you, I know I just asked you this but I've-

Desi Norman:

That was, that was before.

Jennifer S.:

Okay, before. I'm just trying to get a timeline in my mind. And how did that come about?

Desi Norman:

That's a good question.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]

Desi Norman:

Uh. Hmm. I don't know how musicians just run into each other and, and, you know. We start talking, "You play this, I play that."

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

And I'm like, "Okay, let's do something." And next thing you know, we're, we're playing. There's a club on, um, Main Street

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

In Asbury called Saturns and we played there a lot. Uh. Another nice club.

Desi Norman:

Not there anymore.

Jennifer S.:

No, sadly. Um, and did, did you feel like [inaudible 00:39:09] was, had it's...?

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Desi Norman:

Yes. Quite a few times. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

I'm sure, I know I saw you there that's a, [laughing]...

Yvonne Clayton:

Jason's?

Jennifer S.:

Oh, quite a few times. No, yeah. That's too much. He passed away.

Yvonne Clayton:

I know.

Desi Norman:

Yeah. The Wellington. Then there was a place out on, uh, oh I forget the highway. There was jazz club and maybe it the Wellington.

Jennifer S.:

Was it the [inaudible 00:39:46] or?

Desi Norman:

It was, it wasn't in Asbury.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

But, uh, I, I can't think of the name.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

Played there a lot.

Yvonne Clayton:

You ever play at the Shore Motel?

Desi Norman:

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Where's that?

Yvonne Clayton:

Also on 3rd [inaudible 00:39:56] because Chris-

Jennifer S.:

Lowell?

Yvonne Clayton:

Lowell was telling us that she had played there a few times.

Desi Norman:

The Shore Motel?

Jennifer S.:

It's a, by the Circle.

Desi Norman:

Oh yeah, yeah. No I don't think, I don't remember ever playing there.

Jennifer S.:

How about some of the clubs on, in Long Branch? [inaudible 00:40:25] that.

Desi Norman:

Um there's a, there was a jazz club in Long Branch called the Off Broadway and I played there. We were like the, the, the in house band-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

For years.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

Sarge was the, uh, the owner. Or manager.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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Desi Norman:

Um. And then there was Scruples. A place down by the police station on Main Street in Long Branch. Not there anymore. They played a lot of jazz there. Um. There was a, a very avant-garde band that played there and I, I, I went to listen and I always liked them. And I told them what I played and I knew one of the guys, the guitar player, uh, Tom Somebody. And he said, "Bring the vibes if you have them." You know, so I did. [Laughs]. Yeah so I played there. That was interesting.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]. Um, and how do you find now, I mean, now we know, it's you playing, thank goodness, [laughs], around about, how do you find it now in terms of finding venues and places to play locally?

Desi Norman:

Well, it's, jazz is, sadly, is not the same, uh, as it was. So it's harder-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

To get work. Um. What I do now is I just leave my business cards all over and, uh, you talk to musicians, tell 'em my availability and, uh, I get calls.

Jennifer S.:

I'm sure.

Desi Norman:

I'm kind of free-lance right now.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

I'm not, you know. There was a, a time where I played with Stormin' Norman. Have you ever heard of him?

Jennifer S.:

I have heard of Stormin' Norman.

Desi Norman:

And Steel Breeze?

Jennifer S.:

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Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

Yeah. Well, we played at Jenkinson's and, uh, just all over the place. He, he worked at some really nice places. Atlantic Highlands, it was a big restaurant up there that we played there. Um. Quite a few places. Like, the names are a little hazy.

Jennifer S.:

No, you've given us a lot of names. We appreciate that. (Laughs)

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Some new ones, some others, some old ones. Um, so what would, what is something you would like someone walking down Springwood Avenue today, uh, to know about the music and history of Springwood?

Desi Norman:

That it's, it's an ongoing thing. Uh, we, we're trying to bring it back. We're, we're never gonna give up on it. Uh, music's in my blood and... Uh, just keep listening.

Jennifer S.:

Sounds good. Um, now it, you, you may have heard that we're in the, involved in efforts to try to save the Turf Club. Um, in some form.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

And so, we wanted to make sure you know about that and that we're hoping, um, eventually, that that would be a music venue again in some form.

Desi Norman:

Great. Great.

Jennifer S.:

Uh, very early stages. [Laughs].

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Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

We're trying. Um, and so is there anything else, Yvonne or Melissa? And there's a lot, there's a lot but I-

Melissa K.:

It's a lot.

Jennifer S.:

Feel like we got some-

Yvonne Clayton:

Just, and not necessarily right now 'cause if we can help, maybe you can help us kind of recapture some of where was the bandstand in the Turf Club. And were there chairs? And...

Desi Norman:

Well. Actually the Orc, the Orchid I remember better.

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah, I do too.

Desi Norman:

I don't remember the Turf so, so much. I remember it was, you know, the doorway was right there on the corner as you walked around.

Yvonne Clayton:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

Um, Big Bills was down the street. Um. You know, you could, you could walk from one club to the other.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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Desi Norman:

And, and, and just hear all the music you wanted, you know? Unbelievable.

Jennifer S.:

Cliff did, had this, you, I'm sure you heard it in the video but Cliff spoke many times about, Cliff Johnson, about playing, uh, at the Turf Club and then walking around and going to listen to someone else during his intermission. Go in another place-

Desi Norman:

That's-

Jennifer S.:

People come over and hear-

Desi Norman:

That's what musicians did on their break.

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

You know, we didn't sit in there and, and drink, and you know. We would go and listen to some, somebody else playing. Um. One time when I was with Grant, we were playing in Boston and, uh, there was a club called Paul's Mall-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

And another club, they were like, right next to each other. And Bill Withers was in the one club and we were in the other club and on the break, everybody would switch.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

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Desi Norman:

To go hear what everyone else was doing and playing, you know.

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

Amazing.

Jennifer S.:

Wow, I always get so jealous. Well, I, I always wanna go hear music whenever I talk to any, [laughing].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Um, is there anything else that you'd like to share with us that we're missing? And also we always want you to know that we are not going anywhere so, if something comes to mind at any point, um, just get in touch with us 'cause, you know.

Desi Norman:

Okay.

Jennifer S.:

We can do this again, we can talk on the phone, whatever. We're not going anywhere. This is an ongoing process.

Desi Norman:

Okay. And uh, you know, even though I don't live in Asbury anymore I would definitely love to see, uh, it come back in some form, uh, as, the jazz.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

Um. I'm almost, [laughs], ready to say any music, (laughs), would be an improvement but-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

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Since I'm a jazz artist, I'm gonna lean that way.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). And part of what, of course, this is about in this whole story is that music is, people know Asbury Park for music, um, all along. And that now, you know, that this piece of music is, of course, what informed a lot of music that you hear today-

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

But it's not, it's kind of a missing, the story is missing so that's what we're trying to, to fill in.

Desi Norman:

I remember playing at the Stone Pony. Uh, opening for Jimmy Cliff.

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

When I was with Jah Love. Uh. I also remember playing there, uh, opening for this, uh, bass player. He was very famous at the time but he was real loud, I couldn't, I had to leave. [Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

I don't know if you've ever been in the Pony but-

Jennifer S.:

Yes. [Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

Yes. [Laughs].

Desi Norman:

That, that stage and that wall-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

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All was, it was all speakers. I mean it was just, I could [inaudible 00:47:26].

Jennifer S.:

It was that bad.

Desi Norman:

Uh, it, and, and, what, and, and the tech says, "Watch this." It was before they started playing and he struck a match and he held it on the stage and he hit a note on the guitar and it blew it out.

Yvonne Clayton:

Ooh.

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

I'm like, "That's not, that's not good. That can't be good for your ears."

Yvonne Clayton:

That's enough.

Jennifer S.:

No, no, no.

Desi Norman:

Um. And so, when they started playing, I listened for about 10 minutes and, uh, I had to go. [Laughs]. It was just way out of my threshold, this far sound levels.

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

And um. You know, I, I have a little touch of tinnitus today from, uh-

Jennifer S.:

All the years now.

Desi Norman:

Yeah, all the years of playing. And it [inaudible 00:48:10] right now.

Jennifer S.:

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[Laughs]. Uh, and another piece that, this, is that that's really important, uh, is the sharing between generations as I said. So one thing we've tried to do when possible, um, is to connect younger musicians with musicians that are, or aspiring musicians, I should say-

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Um, so we would love to be able, if you're willing at any point to talk to younger musicians and just-

Desi Norman:

Absolutely.

Jennifer S.:

Kind of share-

Desi Norman:

I'd love to.

Jennifer S.:

If, uh, that's an, a really important piece.

Desi Norman:

I'd love to help them, you know, like, uh, the older guys when I was growing up that, that helped me, you know? "Naw, son, don't play like that. Let me show you how to..." I mean, you know, so someone has to show you sometimes-

Jennifer S.:

Yeah.

Desi Norman:

You have to have a, a guide.

Jennifer S.:

Yeah, the, the experience.

Desi Norman:

You know, there's some things you can pick up on your own but not everything.

Yvonne Clayton:

So who are some of the people that helped you other than Dorian?

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Desi Norman:

Well, I had a, a teacher that lived, um, off of Springwood. An elderly lady, um, think she's passed now. She was my piano teacher for many years and then when I moved to, um. I just got it in reverse, in Belmar, I studied with this lady, Mrs. Nettleman, on 21st Avenue. She's gone too now. So they, they, they were old when I was a kid. [Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

So.

Jennifer S.:

I wonder if that's the same woman off of Springwood that somebody else spoke about. A piano teacher.

Desi Norman:

Yeah, she was a real dark-skinned lady, very nice. I can't remember her name but a musician, Bob Lee, he's a bass player. He, he, he moved to California and he called me and said that he wanted to do something for her because he studied with her also.

Yvonne Clayton:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

And I said, "Sure, let's, you know, let's do it." And I didn't hear anything back from him and his number was garbled on the thing, I couldn't call.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Yvonne Clayton:

Oh.

Desi Norman:

So. Think that one got away.

Jennifer S.:

Oh, that's too bad. I know, um, and you didn't play in the church when you were little?

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Desi Norman:

Um. I had a, I had a kind of a desire to do it.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

But then after I heard the lady that usually plays, you know, I was like, "Oh no. I'm not going up there."

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Behind her. [Laughs]. 'Cause she was laying it down, you know.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Um, all the hymns and things. The keys and, and, uh. I played a lot with Gladstone. Bless his soul. He, uh, he would call me, you know and say, "Des, let's have some fun." [Laughs]. I'd say, "Sure, what, what do you got in mind?" And he would tell and, and we'd go do it, you know.

Jennifer S.:

That's amazing.

Desi Norman:

He's, he was a fabulous musician. Never saw him mad, angry. Was always jovial.

Jennifer S.:

I've heard similar comments from many.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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Jennifer S.:

That he was really amazing. Um. I know Yvonne and I saw you playing at the Trib, or not the Tribute but the fundraiser for that summer he was-

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Though. Um. But definitely made his mark on a lot of people.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yes he did.

Yvonne Clayton:

And that was the beginning of us for us. That night was the beginning when we said, "This is what we'd like to do." And we started writing down musicians names that we wanted to interview and people wanted to talk to and how we're gonna do this.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Feels like just yesterday. [Laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Um, yes, so yes. You've been on our list for a long time, [laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

We're really happy to have you here, uh, and yeah, this, the, the pieces that you're sharing. I mean there's all these connections but then every person, you're bringing a whole new, a whole new element to the story so we really appreciate that. Um. Is there anything else?

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Desi Norman:

Oh.

Yvonne Clayton:

Do you have any recordings of yourself playing especially, like, with The Chosen Few or back in the 70s kind of days?

Desi Norman:

No. No I don't. [Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

No?

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

Photographs? Did you record your [inaudible 00:52:44]...

Desi Norman:

Photographs? No. No.

Yvonne Clayton:

No photographs, huh.

Desi Norman:

Uh-uh (negative).

Yvonne Clayton:

Did you record your [inaudible 00:52:50]?

Desi Norman:

What happened was, his last vibe player was from Indian, Indianapolis and he quit on him. And Grant went to Japan and came back and then I got with him. So I missed the tour. Uh, and he was always talking about Blue Note was gonna give him in, uh, set him up and send him somewhere else but we never, we never did go.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

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But we did tour the country so I got see a lot of America and meet a lot of folks. You know, there was a lot of, uh, hungry jazz people out there that just love to hear.

Yvonne Clayton:

Did you ever [inaudible 00:53:35]?

Desi Norman:

No. Mm-mm (negative). Um. I liked, I liked Lynn. He wasn't my favorite. My favorite was Cal Tjader and Milt Jackson. After I heard those guys-

Yvonne Clayton:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

I, I said-

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

There's no one, there's no one else.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

There's no one else for me to listen to. I'd rather listen to them.

Yvonne Clayton:

I would too.

Desi Norman:

And they were both, it's funny because they were both drummers. And I came from the piano side. Uh, so. They had a lot of the, um, the, the drum stuff, maneuverability down where I didn't. I would play, when I first started playing, I played for 15 minutes, my arms felt like lead weights.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

You know, it's just... But, you know, over time it just got to be second nature.

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Jennifer S.:

Yeah, your vibes muscles. Um, are [laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs], yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Are there, I find that so interesting that you did come from piano. Um, is it more, it's more typical to come from percussion, do you think? I mean, generally.

Desi Norman:

I think it is, yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Do you know any other people that came from piano?

Desi Norman:

No.

Jennifer S.:

That play. No. [Laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

That's why I say, it sounds, it seems like it would be...

Desi Norman:

No.

Jennifer S.:

More, that's really interesting.

Desi Norman:

Or, I did play with, uh, Bill Carter.

Jennifer S.:

Oh did you?

Desi Norman:

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Oh yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Oh, actually, it's funny you say that. Bill Carter is going to arrive on our doorstep in about 10 minutes, I think.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

He's just dropping something off, yeah, yeah. He's coming. I, I think [inaudible 00:55:01].

Desi Norman:

Yeah, I played with Bill. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Um, when was that?

Desi Norman:

A while back, [laughs].

Jennifer S.:

A while back, a while back? [Laughs].

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

I, I, I don't, yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Not recently, no though, right?

Desi Norman:

No, no.

Jennifer S.:

No, okay. Yeah, yeah. Um.

Desi Norman:

I have to ask Bill if he remembers The Chosen Few. I think he might've been in that band, I'm not sure.

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Melissa K.:

It sounded very familiar. One of the people we've interviewed was in The Chosen Few so maybe-

Jennifer S.:

I'm guessing it was Bill.

Melissa K.:

That was Bill.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Melissa K.:

So you were in The Chosen Few together with Bill.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

So interesting.

Yvonne Clayton:

Crossovers.

Desi Norman:

A lot of those, those guys, you know, I should remember but I don't. I, I remember Bill because I, I, I saw him just last week.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

But-

Jennifer S.:

That, that helps right?

Desi Norman:

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Yeah. But, um, I remember a guy named Billy. I, I don't remember his last name. And it was a big band. You, you know-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

Just like seven or eight guys. Um, which is kind of unusual for a jazz, uh, thing. But we were playing, not only jazz, we were playing R&B, we were playing, you know.

Yvonne Clayton:

Did you do the Latin [inaudible 00:56:18].

Desi Norman:

Um, yes I did. With, uh, the big band from Baltimore-

Yvonne Clayton:

Oh, okay.

Desi Norman:

They played a lot of Latin stuff. I loved it.

Jennifer S.:

Um, I think I forget to ask about Cuba's, or was that before-

Desi Norman:

Cuba's?

Jennifer S.:

Cuba's.

Desi Norman:

Oh yeah.

Jennifer S.:

You [inaudible 00:56:38].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs]. I don't think there is a place, a bar on Springwood that I hadn't played.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

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Desi Norman:

Starting, you know, starting from all the way down the end. Just work your way down.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

Hit one after the other.

Yvonne Clayton:

Was the Capitol still open when you were [inaudible 00:56:55]?

Desi Norman:

Yes. Mm-hmm (affirmative). My wife's father was the manager there.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs.]

Desi Norman:

[Laughs]. So. Um. He, he was always popping up when you least expect it.

Yvonne Clayton:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

And he knew me so, I'd turn around and there he was so.

Yvonne Clayton:

Does he still [inaudible 00:57:18]?

Desi Norman:

No.

Yvonne Clayton:

Too bad.

Desi Norman:

Mm-mm (negative).

Yvonne Clayton:

Does your wife have any memories of the Capitol or was she ever there or?

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Desi Norman:

I don't think so 'cause she's younger than me. So I don't think she would [inaudible 00:57:39]. And she's a Belmar girl, see, I don't think she hung out too much in Asbury.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughing], okay.

Desi Norman:

Um. Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

So then, you, you would've been playing in the Orchid when Duval was there

Speaker 4:

[inaudible 00:57:55].

Jennifer S.:

Oh, dear.

Desi Norman:

(Laughs).

Jennifer S.:

Sorry about that. I'll put her right outside.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Break.

Molly (dog):

[barking].

Jennifer S.:

I know you wanna see Yvonne.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

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[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[inaudible 00:57:56]. Come here. I know. [inaudible 00:57:56] okay?

Yvonne Clayton:

Put, put, put, put.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Molly:

[inaudible 00:57:56].

Yvonne Clayton:

Put, put, put.

Speaker 4:

[inaudible 00:57:56].

Tom:

[inaudible 00:57:56].

Speaker 4:

[inaudible 00:57:56]. I was playing with 'em.

Melissa K.:

[inaudible 00:57:56], thank you. Your, [inaudible 00:58:43].

Melissa K.:

It's going to the director's cut.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

That's what I said. [Laughs]. Oh my goodness. Um. I just had a thought too about the Turf, it wasn't, it was something...

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Melissa K.:

It was, started with Duval.

Jennifer S.:

Oh Duval, thank you. Um, just that, so you were playing the Orchid when Duval was running the Orchid? Okay.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Okay, thank makes sense. Um.

Desi Norman:

Well, Odyssey, well Odyssey was there too. I think Odyssey was running it when I was-

Jennifer S.:

Duval was working there, probably or?

Desi Norman:

Duval, yeah, he was under him.

Jennifer S.:

Oh, that's interesting. Bet he definitely has some great stories everyone coming through there and just what it was like.

Desi Norman:

Oh yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Yeah.

Desi Norman:

That was, to me, that was the club. I mean, I liked all the, the venues, you know-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

But the Orchid just had something special about it.

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Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

I mean, the, the, the, the quality of musicians that came through there was just crazy. Um. Yeah, like, you know, Charles Earland and all of those big names.

Jennifer S.:

Through the Orchid.

Desi Norman:

Yep.

Jennifer S.:

Well, we had, when we had the opportunity to have NBC Live do a little, um, segment about Springwood Avenue, Yvonne and I were standing where the Orchid Lounge was and people were going by and yelling, "Orchid Lounge." It was really amazing, people really had...

Desi Norman:

I came in that way to come here. Uh, I came right by it. Sad.

Jennifer S.:

It is sad that, um, when you hear, you hear it in everyone's voice.

Yvonne Clayton:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

About this [inaudible 01:00:27]. And Yvonne just shared a picture recently of her at the Orchid Lounge.

Yvonne Clayton:

Of me at the Orchid Lounge, sitting on one of the purple chairs.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

The [inaudible 01:00:35] imprinted.

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Yvonne Clayton:

Before she [inaudible 01:00:36].

Desi Norman:

Yeah. Yeah.

Yvonne Clayton:

I guess, one person I remember playing was Shirley Scott.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Yvonne Clayton:

Um, and it's, I don't know forgotten or that's just one of those memories that I just never got over. It's like.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Oh.

Desi Norman:

And um, and she was married to Stanley Turrentine, right? And Stanley came through there.

Yvonne Clayton:

I didn't know that.

Desi Norman:

Yeah. St-Stanley came through there

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Desi Norman:

And I think Shirley played organ. Uh, she was his organist. And I remember hearing Stanley when he first started, you know, that night, and I'm like, "Well, it's a sax, you know, what can we... I've heard saxes before," and-

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

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Desi Norman:

Never heard this sax before.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Oh my goodness. He made the thing talk. Oh, the sounds he could get out of that.

Jennifer S.:

Wow.

Desi Norman:

Incredible. And uh,

Yvonne Clayton:

[crosstalk 01:01:42].

Desi Norman:

Pat Metheny came through there and a lot of big names.

Jennifer S.:

Why do you think, uh, the Orchid Lounge in particular attracted these big names? I mean, a lot of clubs did there but this is not the first time we've heard that Orchid Lounge was sort of the place for bigger names, big names, everyone to go to.

Desi Norman:

It might've had something to do with the money. [Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

Maybe they were able to pay a little more than the other clubs.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

I, I don't really know, I mean. The acoustics were good in there, for one thing. Um, but they were [getting 01:02:25] Big Bills stuff. You know, they were, they were getting Cuba's, they were getting, uh...

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Jennifer S.:

Turf Club.

Desi Norman:

Turf, they were getting, um, the one on [35 01:02:35], used to be there. It's a daycare now. Vance owned it.

Yvonne Clayton:

Oh [01:02:40]. Oh.

Desi Norman:

Great acoustics.

Jennifer S.:

Oh [inaudible 01:02:44].

Desi Norman:

The Red Room, yes, yes. Mm-hmm (affirmative). So that might've had something to with, uh, why they got the level of talent that they got.

Jennifer S.:

Uh, it would seem that was a lot, there's a lot of interaction between people playing in New York, Atlantic City, Philadelphia, you know, the whole region.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

And then, Asbury Park was part of that.

Desi Norman:

Right.

Jennifer S.:

Part of that.

Desi Norman:

It was a big part, you know. You played, you played the city and you played Philly and back then, you had to play Asbury. It's just the, it was just the way it was, you, you know. It's like on tour, you know, coming through the area.

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Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

And, um, they would set up how many nights you, you were gonna be there and just knock 'em out.

Jennifer S.:

Um, I think it's just so interesting, when we were talking very early, sorry to go back again but the, that, how you could hear music all the time but when you were a kid, now I'm going way back. Because I just was thinking about Al Covington and that whole crew talking about, um, just staying in neighborhood-

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

That they would just be, you know, going from place to place and you would just hear music. And it's just, that's the part that... it's so amazing to hear about and to picture. I mean, I can't, I've never experienced anything like that so, like, I wish I-

Desi Norman:

But like you say, it wasn't just musicians that were doing that. You, you know. It was the people. Like the tourists, the, the people that just love music-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

And they, they were doing it too. They were following us back and forth, you know. Sometimes they would stand outside, I don't know if they wanted to pay to get in or whatever-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

But, you know. I, I couldn't-

Jennifer S.:

And is that some-

Desi Norman:

I, I, I would listen but I had to go see what they were doing.

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Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

(Laughs).

Desi Norman:

I had to go see those fingers, you know. I had to...

Jennifer S.:

You couldn't just listen, yeah.

Desi Norman:

No, [laughs].

Jennifer S.:

There rest are a lot of stories of people, when they were, before, they could get into the club. I mean, Yvonne included but a lot of stories about wanting to get in but having to, like, standing outside and hearing 'cause they were too young to get in.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

That was, uh. Charles Trott, Charles Trott talks a little bit about that.

Desi Norman:

Yeah. Um. Well my father knew, knew all those club owners so-

Jennifer S.:

Your father?

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Yeah. So that help-

Desi Norman:

So, he could-

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Jennifer S.:

That hel-

Desi Norman:

He could kind of get me in there to-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

To see what was going on.

Jennifer S.:

And your father was a musician too?

Desi Norman:

No.

Jennifer S.:

He just knew the owners.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

He, he, he just knew a lot of people.

Desi Norman:

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

He knew everybody. [Sunny Norman 01:05:20].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

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He was, he used to ride a motorcycle and, uh, he had a lot of friends, you know. Um. The V.F.W. and places like that.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

I remember playing there. That long, it had a long walkway. It was concrete wall there. And you had to walk to the back. All-

Yvonne Clayton:

Oh, yes.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

On the backs, on the block where the Turf Club was, is now. Uh, that location or the?

Desi Norman:

No.

Yvonne Clayton:

No.

Desi Norman:

It's, um-

Jennifer S.:

Or farther down?

Yvonne Clayton:

On [inaudible 01:05:58].

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

It's up by, up by Ridge Ave, I think.

Jennifer S.:

Okay, farther.

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Yvonne Clayton:

On Springwood and, um, I think the building is still there.

Desi Norman:

Okay.

Yvonne Clayton:

I think the building is still there. What you, when you had, [inaudible 01:06:09] to walk down and go in the back, the back door.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Yvonne Clayton:

Sorry back door.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]. Oh, 'cause-

Desi Norman:

That was a-

Jennifer S.:

This was the Elks, it was the Elks that was behind Turf Club, right?

Yvonne Clayton:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

The Elks was...

Desi Norman:

Yes, I think so.

Jennifer S.:

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Okay.

Yvonne Clayton:

Elks was around the corner from the Turf Club.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah, Pops got me in a lot of those places just to listen.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

You know. And I think it, it was good because I got to hear what the instruments sounded like played by a professional.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Desi Norman:

Not just played by someone that knows a little bit about it.

Jennifer S.:

Right, right.

Desi Norman:

And, um, you know, just like Pat Martino for example. I, I'm not a guitarist but the way he played was just phenomenal, you know. And if you play instrument and you can move people, that is the battle right there. That's what it's all about. Being able to communicate your thoughts through your instrument. And move the audience.

Jennifer S.:

Well, so you certainly do that.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]. And that's, that's definitely the passion part of it that, you know, we hear, I mean there's, you can hear it talking to the musicians about, that that's, that's where it comes from, the heart.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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Jennifer S.:

Um, well we're so glad that we've had, got the opportunity to hear you play. I wanna hear you play more, [Laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

In the Turf Club, [laughing].

Desi Norman:

Yes.

Jennifer S.:

Um, but there's others of all things that we have a, um, we have a big map that we're kind of, uh, what's the word, fact-checking. Um-

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Just locations of things and there's just things on the way that we're asking the different musicians that, you know, the memories that when we're working on that, you know, we might ask you, "Do you remember this?" Along the way-

Desi Norman:

Sure.

Jennifer S.:

As we go.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Um, we're also working on hopefully soon, uh, an interactive platform called Pass It Down.

Yvonne Clayton:

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Pass It Down.

Jennifer S.:

Um, if you wanted to talk about that. I didn't wanna...

Yvonne Clayton:

Um, what Pass It Down is, it's interactive means, it's something that you, if you think of something, you can download your memory.

Desi Norman:

Oh, okay.

Yvonne Clayton:

But if you have pictures, you can scan your pictures in and other people can go and look and see what you've downloaded. Or-

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Yvonne Clayton:

I can do it. You can go and see what I've downloaded. Or if there's something you think, "Where was the Turf Club?" On a map, you can go and-

Desi Norman:

Right.

Yvonne Clayton:

Look at the map and you would say, "Ugh, that's where it was" and what was next door and, and how far away was the Elks from the Turf Club.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Yvonne Clayton:

So, that's the kind of information we're gonna have. Plus, all of the interviews that we've done. So, if you wanted to hear what other musicians had to say, it's an opportunity.

Desi Norman:

Perfect.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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Desi Norman:

It's a wonderful thing.

Jennifer S.:

Yeah. 'Cause the other piece that we want to have, I know, we know other people are working on it, have worked on it. But some of the examples that you've given us at these clubs of who's played, you know, just-

Yvonne Clayton:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Having that information somewhere where someone can go and find out, you know. 'Cause it's not, it's, it's not accessible now.

Desi Norman:

Right.

Yvonne Clayton:

Right.

Jennifer S.:

So, that's a big part of the story. Um.

Yvonne Clayton:

So these are stories that haven't been told and now we're having the chance to tell them, and preserve them, and-

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Yvonne Clayton:

Pass them on to others and hopefully, especially, hopefully, our young people have an opportunity, have new appreciation for jazz and why it's different from other, um, other expressions of music.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

So, yeah. I was just saying to [inaudible 01:09:59]. So Malcolm, who we've gotten to hear a lot from the background, my son, is four and that in that summer program, when I picked him up the other day, they

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had watched, um, you know, clips of musicians playing on, you know, little interviews and things like that. And then they were making instruments and playing instruments, you know, at the age of four, talking about what it was like on Springwood Avenue. I was like, "Wow."

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

That's what it's all about, [laughs].

Desi Norman:

Wow.

Jennifer S.:

That's what it's all about so. So we wanna thank you and again, anything else comes to mind, you just let us know and, um-

Desi Norman:

Sure will.

Jennifer S.:

We really appreciate your time.

Desi Norman:

And thank you for having me.

Yvonne Clayton:

We really appreciate you taking the time out to do this with us.

Desi Norman:

Thanks.

Yvonne Clayton:

And if you haven't seen our videos, you can go online and see them.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Melissa K.:

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Thanks.

Jennifer S.:

Good?

Desi Norman:

Thanks. [Laughs].

Melissa K.:

Good. Guess that's it.

Jennifer S.:

That's it. Yup. Little dog and kid in the background.

Desi Norman:

Know how, you know, as a musician I don't. And a child, I don't know how it, you know, I could do anything with-

Jennifer S.:

Without having had that-

Desi Norman:

Without having Spring. That's how important it was-

Tom:

You start [inaudible 01:11:07], correct?

Melissa K.:

Your, yeah.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]. That's-

Yvonne Clayton:

What's interesting is that there's so many things that you, you as a group talk about that are common.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Yvonne Clayton:

But then everybody else has a, everybody has just a-

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Desi Norman:

A slightly different slant.

Yvonne Clayton:

Little [crosstalk 01:11:23] off.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Yvonne Clayton:

And that's what makes this so fascinating for me.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). And also hearing you, I mean, everyone, every, thankfully I mean we're so grateful to that, that, you know for us it's a gift to hear but we also are glad that people are having the chance to share. And Cliff had said to us, you know, and he was one of our earliest interviews as well and he said, "I'm so happy to talk about, 'cause no one wants to hear this."

Desi Norman:

It's true.

Jennifer S.:

But I said it's not true-

Yvonne Clayton:

It's not true.

Jennifer S.:

Because people really do wanna hear it, you know, and, and that's, um. When he said that, we said, "Oh, that not the..." And just the evidence, I mean there's evidence of people are, are asking us for this material and wanting to share it. I mean, it's just, the stories are so important. Yeah.

Yvonne Clayton:

And just local people who were so happy to hear that this is something we're doing and when we say we're trying to save the Turf Club, it's like, "What can I do to help?"

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Yvonne Clayton:

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And the thought of, 'cause it's not, it's not just for us, it's gonna be like a cultural center. A place where a young Desmond can go to learn how to play an instrument and hear some music and also see some memorabilia.

Desi Norman:

I'd certainly like to be a part of that. I, I would love to mentor, uh, some, a, a young vibist or someone that's interested in, you know, even the steel pan. Or...

Yvonne Clayton:

I mean, if you could-

Desi Norman:

Whatever instrument I could teach or show 'em. They wanted me to teach piano for a long time and I, I just, I say, "You know, I don't think I have the patience." [Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

I, um.

Jennifer S.:

See you in a sec. I'll get it, I'll get it now.

Yvonne Clayton:

I'm closer.

Jennifer S.:

I think it might be Bill.

Desi Norman:

'Cause I remember how I was [laughing] when I was that age.

Jennifer S.:

I know I [inaudible 01:13:09].

Yvonne Clayton:

Hey, [inaudible 01:13:13] how you doing?

Jennifer S.:

That's Bill, [laughs].

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Yvonne Clayton:

It's Bill.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]. You're so cool, [laughing].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Bill:

[inaudible 01:13:20].

Jennifer S.:

Hi, Bill, how are you?

Bill:

Oh, [inaudible 01:13:22].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

Come on in.

Jennifer S.:

We were just talking about you.

Yvonne Clayton:

Have a seat.

Bill:

[crosstalk 01:13:26].

Desi Norman:

Hey, what's going on?

Bill:

Good, good, good. Good to see you.

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Desi Norman:

Yeah, man.

Bill:

All right.

Desi Norman:

Hey, listen. Do you remember The Chosen Few?

Bill:

Yeah I remember The Chosen Few, yeah. Yeah, I remember. Yeah. They were, were, were our biggest competition.

Jennifer S.:

Oh. [Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Okay.

Bill:

Yeah. Yeah, what about 'em?

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

No, I just-

Bill:

Oh, yeah, yeah, The Chosen Few.

Desi Norman:

I just, 'cause we were talking and, you know.

Bill:

I, most of the, the, I didn't really know, you know. Like, uh-

Desi Norman:

There was a guy, Billy, Billy something.

Bill:

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Yeah, something like that but like, most, most of 'em, I didn't know-

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Bill:

They were like, uh.

Desi Norman:

It's been a long time, too.

Bill:

I know, I know the two saxophonists. It was [Ronnie Brighton 01:14:08] and Clarence Clemons. But like, uh-

Desi Norman:

Yup.

Bill:

The rest of the guys, I didn't know.

Yvonne Clayton:

Oh. Clarence Clemons-

Desi Norman:

Big man.

Yvonne Clayton:

Was in The Chosen Few?

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Bill:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

I must [crosstalk 01:14:18] JT was probably... JT.

Yvonne Clayton:

Oh.

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Desi Norman:

See, see. It's been-

Melissa K.:

JT.

Yvonne Clayton:

JT.

Desi Norman:

See, it's, it's been so long, you know, I...

Bill:

Yeah. [inaudible 01:14:23] you know. Matter of fact, uh, Chosen Few, they, they used to, you know, we used to switch centers with 'em. Like, uh, JT Bowen the center one and, and [Odith Warfield 01:14:33]-

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

Was another guy that, you know, that was center with 'em and like-

Desi Norman:

So his memory's better than mine.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs]

Bill:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

All together, you know-

Desi Norman:

I just, just don't remember it, you know.

Melissa K.:

It all comes together with others.

Bill:

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This, this my man here, Des, uh, Desmond, Desi, yeah.

Jennifer S.:

That's, can I gonna take a picture of you two?

Bill:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

This wasn't planned but I just want a picture of you two.

Bill:

Yeah, that's fine. [inaudible 01:14:54]?

Jennifer S.:

Oh, take a picture of you two. Is that okay?

Bill:

No, that's all right, yeah. Yeah, that's good.

Jennifer S.:

It was funny because we were talking about-

Bill:

Melissa, yeah, uh.

Melissa K.:

Yeah, Melissa.

Bill:

Oh yeah, thank you for the letter.

Melissa K.:

Oh, you're so, thank you. Thank you.

Bill:

I really appreciate that, yeah, thank you.

Melissa K.:

That's the very least we could do.

Bill:

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This is the DVD.

Jennifer S.:

Thank you so much.

Yvonne Clayton:

Oh.

Jennifer S.:

Um-

Bill:

Yeah, man.

Desi Norman:

Unbelievable.

Bill:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Man.

Jennifer S.:

Yeah, we were talking about, um-

Desi Norman:

You could've [inaudible 01:15:18].

Bill:

Yeah, [laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Yeah Des, Desi was talking about you and I said, "Well's about to show up any minute."

Bill:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Now that you speak of it.

Bill:

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He's a hard man to catch up with.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Bill:

Yeah, we'll be, we'll, we'll be, uh, back in the saddle again soon, I hope.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

You know.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

Yeah.

Desi Norman:

Absolutely.

Jennifer S.:

And, oh and well you remember Tom was at the event too.

Bill:

Yeah, yeah, how you doing?

Tom:

Good to see you again.

Bill:

Good, good, good, good, yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Um. So this, so this is um, Bill's uncle, correct?

Bill:

My uncle, right, yeah.

Jennifer S.:

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Uh, and, we wanna get some visibility for, this is-

Yvonne Clayton:

Oh, okay.

Bill:

This is like, this, this, this count, is well, about an hour or something like that but it's dark enough where it, you know, it explains really it's a thing on to, how, how he made some of these films and stuff, you know and-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

And, you know, he grew up on the, that uh, Dewitt Avenue.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

Okay? It, the house is still there. Last house on the, on the right as you're going down there. Dewitt Avenue. And, uh, you know, he grew up, he was born in the north but he grew up in Asbury.

Melissa K.:

Okay.

Bill:

And, um, you know, he tells me all kinds of stories or he used to, you know, tell me some stories about, you know, when he was growing up and stuff. But he loved Asbury Park. And at the time-

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Bill:

Hey, how you doing? You know and finally, get him, get, get him some recognition you know. And coming for years now so. Once you, once you see that, uh, DVD, you'll understand why.

Yvonne Clayton:

Okay.

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Jennifer S.:

Uh, look forward to watch this. Now has this been played? I know, I know who you told us but I can't, I remember talking about it, or remember what you said. Has this been played locally?

Bill:

No, no. The only person-

Jennifer S.:

Shown?

Bill:

The only person that has the copy is Charlie [Horner].

Jennifer S.:

Okay.

Bill:

Charlie, yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

Okay. And like, it hasn't been played locally and if you need the information on how to get in touch with the daughter-

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

Who, you know, who knows more about this production and everything, you know, you just let me know. And I'll, I'll get you direct their number.

Jennifer S.:

I will 'cause it'd be great if we can figure out a way to get, um, do a showing, you know, in town.

Bill:

Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah.

Jennifer S.:

There's enough venues these days.

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Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

I, for, for the, not for-

Bill:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Not for me. I feel like there's things happening with, um-

Yvonne Clayton:

We'll figure it out.

Jennifer S.:

Different programs so you could figure something out.

Bill:

Right, yeah, yeah.

Yvonne Clayton:

Should be, should be on Netflix.

Bill:

Well once we, once we, once we, once we see that the, it's very interesting. Especially if, if you know someone's [inaudible 01:17:43] the film, something like that.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

Um, he, uh, it's, he, uh, really explains on how he, how to make some of these films and stuff, you know. Uh, you know, talked a lot about that. Talked, talked about what he did during the service and stuff like that. And, this here, it's, uh, it's a professional production.

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

It, it's not like a home movie or anything like that.

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Jennifer S.:

It's not done in someone's kitchen?

Bill:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Bill:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs]. With the dogs [crosstalk 01:17:53].

Bill:

Some of, some of them was done in the backyard, you know. Some of them were done in the backyard.

Jennifer S.:

We get that gritty feel.

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

And Kathleen, this is Mr. Norman that, uh-

Kathleen:

Hi, nice to meet you.

Desi Norman:

Nice to meet you and how are you?

Jennifer S.:

Kathleen is part of our-

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Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Kathleen:

Oh, I'm good.

Jennifer S.:

Team. And also the assistant director at the library in town. Um, so we just had a great, uh, interview. This is our, look at this, stepped it up a notch, right?

Kathleen:

I know, we look like pros here with these lights.

Melissa K.:

Lights.

Jennifer S.:

Right, yeah.

Tom:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

Amazing.

Melissa K.:

We did have one pro.

Kathleen:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

We did have one pro in the background, that-

Bill:

But then, you know, like, like Desi and I, you know, we, we, we played together in a group. We had a group together, it was, and, with Dee Holland. And like, uh, we had a great time.

Jennifer S.:

Wait, you were both with Dee? I mean, I know you both played separately, but altogether?

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Bill:

Yeah, yeah, with, with-

Jennifer S.:

Oh my goodness.

Yvonne Clayton:

Get out.

Bill:

Yeah, in a group with Dee, yeah.

Melissa K.:

Which group was this?

Desi Norman:

Um, the name?

Melissa K.:

Yeah. Who was that-

Bill:

Oh, um-

Melissa K.:

What did you call yourselves?

Bill:

We went by a couple of different names but one of the names I remember, Misbehavin' with [crosstalk 01:19:12].

Melissa K.:

Oh, that was Misbehavin'.

Jennifer S.:

Oh.

Bill:

And Jazz, the Jazz Corps.

Melissa K.:

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Jazz Court?

Bill:

Yeah, Jazz Corps. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Melissa K.:

Jazz Corps.

Bill:

With, uh, [Sammy Wilson 01:19:19]. Mm-hmm (affirmative). Sammy Wilson was there and, uh, Chino.

Melissa K.:

Uh-huh (affirmative).

Bill:

Chino and [Thelma 01:19:23], you know, Mike Lee was in there too.

Desi Norman:

Mike Lee played and then [Tile 01:19:29] played-

Bill:

Yeah, and Miles, uh, [Dirty 01:19:33] Miles, he was in there too.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Melissa K.:

Wow.

Jennifer S.:

Wow and when, what-

Yvonne Clayton:

You got that.

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

What decade was that?

Bill:

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Oh, uh, let's see, when was that? 80? It had, um, came about, something about-

Jennifer S.:

Some [crosstalk 01:19:39].

Desi Norman:

God, don't.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Bill:

'81, '82, something like that. Yeah, something like that. Yeah. We would help [inaudible 01:19:54] for Big Bills and also for, um, Bob Davidson's club and uh. Where we was at. Uh, [Avalon 01:20:02] or what's the street corner? It's right, you know, between Deal and Asbury, what's that?

Jennifer S.:

On-

Bill:

That thing on-

Jennifer S.:

On, on Allenhurst?

Bill:

Is it [crosstalk 01:20:06]? [inaudible 01:20:06] Huh? You know, with the Bob Davidson's place on um-

Jennifer S.:

Oh, [crosstalk 01:20:12]? The place on the lake?

Bill:

Yeah, [crosstalk 01:20:18] going over the bridge, yeah.

Jennifer S.:

That, was [crosstalk 01:20:21]. Yeah, and it-

Desi Norman:

It was stuck you into something else and then-

Bill:

Yeah, yeah.

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Jennifer S.:

Yeah it's, it's many things you [crosstalk 01:20:21]. Yeah, it's like the low-

Bill:

Right yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Low area in Allenhurst. Um, a Big Bills. 'Cause of, yeah. [Laughs]. I was thinking right after they have-

Yvonne Clayton:

Wow.

Jennifer S.:

Go sit down with a Mac II one time.

Melissa K.:

Yeah.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Bill:

Well, uh, yeah. And Desi, he's a, he's a famous man already.

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Bill:

[inaudible 01:20:43], yeah.

Desi Norman:

Stop.

Jennifer S.:

As are you, sir. Um-

Bill:

He's been very good.

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Jennifer S.:

And you know, I know you know it from, uh, social media and from [inaudible 01:20:51] the night that we are trying to save the Turf Club.

Bill:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

So, um, you'll be hearing more about that.

Bill:

Okay. About, about what?

Jennifer S.:

Uh, trying to save the Turf Club?

Bill:

Oh, Turf Club. Yeah, yeah that's... See, I did, I didn't spend too much time in the Turf Club. So, I guess you go by there when you have a band that did it well enough.

Tom:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Bill:

Yeah, they [crosstalk 01:21:14] used to go in like, you know, uh, I didn't wanna caught standing in front of there so I'd go, you know, I went to Pete, something like that, you know.

Jennifer S.:

Yeah.

Bill:

But like, uh, you know, my mother would've been on my...

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

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Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

[Laughs]. So yeah, totally [crosstalk 01:21:19] it's historical up in here.

Bill:

Yeah, yeah, [crosstalk 01:21:19] did well and I didn't. That's the, you know, and, uh, [inaudible 01:21:19]?

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Melissa K.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

And uh, [inaudible 01:21:19] came to town and that was a big thing.

Yvonne Clayton:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

And then, the Turf Club, you get in touch with them. Yeah, he had the Turf Club, yeah. So, what you gonna try to restore it or something?

Jennifer S.:

Well-

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Bill:

Is that it?

Jennifer S.:

We're trying to save it to make sure it doesn't get torn down first.

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah, if it doesn't get torn down first.

Bill:

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Oh, [crosstalk 01:21:52]. Great, yeah.

Desi Norman:

And they wanna do, uh, make it into a, uh, a venue of some sort.

Bill:

A venue, yeah?

Jennifer S.:

Music venue with some-

Yvonne Clayton:

Music venue.

Jennifer S.:

Exhibits and, yeah.

Bill:

Music? A music venue, yeah?

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Bill:

Really?

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Bill:

That'd be great.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

That'd be great.

Jennifer S.:

So, mark your calendars for a gig in it.

Yvonne Clayton:

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[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Bill:

[Laughs]. That would be great.

Yvonne Clayton:

Get ready to play for the grand opening. [Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Bill:

Okay, [laughs].

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

Absolutely.

Bill:

Getting better. Yeah. And how you been doing, man?

Desi Norman:

I'm all right. I'm all right.

Bill:

Good, good.

Desi Norman:

And you?

Bill:

Yeah, I'm all right. Yeah, we just, you know. I have, I've been away for a long time so like, you know, when, um, when, uh, when we did that thing over there, we, we were just passing, you know.

Yvonne Clayton:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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Bill:

And then, uh, we did the thing over in the, uh, uh, at the, the Launch for uh-

Jennifer S.:

The launch, yep.

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

You know, I didn't have time to [inaudible 01:22:47] talk, you know, at [inaudible 01:22:47]-

Yvonne Clayton:

Right.

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

You know, [inaudible 01:22:51]felt through everything. So this is really the first time we ever, you know-

Desi Norman:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

Stood, stood in one spot.

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Desi Norman:

It's true.

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Bill:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

Busy man, [laughs].

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Bill:

Yeah, man. So like, uh, I got your call. So I'll be giving you a call, "Hi, you hear me, okay, I'm ready to go. Oh really, I know it, I know it" [crosstalk 01:23:18].

Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Bill:

You know, you, done what. Grant Green, right? Yeah, Grant Green, you know.

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Bill:

But, uh, Desi here, you know, he's always been a fantastic player, I'll tell you, you know. You know. Donna, you know, I should've done it in videos, you know. I looked in, y'all were playing at one spot, I forget where it was. She said, "Oh my god." You know, [Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

You have, you have videos?

Bill:

Can't... Huh?

Yvonne Clayton:

You have videos?

Bill:

No, I, I don't have too many videos, no, no, not, no. I wish I, I wish we did, 'cause you know, they had these, uh, phones and stuff back then, you know.

Desi Norman:

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Yeah, they did.

Jennifer S.:

Yeah, and those weren't documented as much-

Bill:

Yeah, we would have, you know-

Jennifer S.:

Or as, like, infrequent. I mean, here, because, you know, I'm sitting in the, in the audience, or people, everyone has their phones and the, but having... It's really been hard to find-

Bill:

Right, right.

Jennifer S.:

To get people-

Bill:

It's hard to find, you know, it's hard to find to pictures and stuff.

Jennifer S.:

Yeah.

Yvonne Clayton:

Pictures.

Bill:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Except for, you know, Madonna's father, he took a lot of pictures.

Yvonne Clayton:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jennifer S.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Um, I do have pictures and video, Desi, of you on that very rainy stage. It's Springbrook Park.

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Desi Norman:

Oh stop. Oh god.

Jennifer S.:

A very long day, like that was crazy.

Bill:

Oh, you're talking about, you're talking about the [Asbury Live]? Yeah, man that, that-

Desi Norman:

It took three days for my mallets to dry.

Bill:

Yeah, yeah [crosstalk 01:24:16].

Yvonne Clayton:

I can't, I, I don't believe it.

Jennifer S.:

That was so [crosstalk 01:24:16].

Desi Norman:

They were so soggy.

Bill:

I felt so bad, you know, 'cause like, you know. Then after they finished, the sun started coming out and-

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Bill:

If they just had waited just for 45 minutes-

Jennifer S.:

I know, that was a ride. I'd never believe you guys played.

Yvonne Clayton:

That was a tough one.

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Bill:

That was tough.

Desi Norman:

It was.

Bill:

Yeah.

Desi Norman:

You know, and I, I just, I said, "What am I doing?" [crosstalk 01:24:30]-

Bill:

That part [crosstalk 01:24:30].

Desi Norman:

I knew [crosstalk 01:24:31] not playing.

Jennifer S.:

[Laughs].

Bill:

'Cause [inaudible 01:24:33], I know how he is about his vibes, you know. And like, he's very, you know, [inaudible 01:24:37] and I felt so sorry he had to be out there in the rain like that, you know.

Desi Norman:

Well, I took 'em home and unloaded 'em-

Bill:

Yeah.

Desi Norman:

Just dried everything the best I could-

Bill:

[crosstalk 01:24:46], yeah.

Desi Norman:

And [crosstalk 01:24:46] accept it, you know.

Bill:

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Wait, wait, you know. I was, I was surprised, especially-

Desi Norman:

[crosstalk 01:24:48] little dirt here and there.

Bill:

You know, [Mark Coleman 01:24:48], he told me it's, you know, you dry those keyboards, it's all right, you know.

Desi Norman:

Wow, now that surprised me.

Bill:

That surprised me-

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Bill:

I said, "Wow."

Desi Norman:

Keyboards don't do well in the rain.

Yvonne Clayton:

Yeah.

Jennifer S.:

Guess everybody was saying that and then he's like, "Oh my goodness."

Bill:

He had all the electronic, the stuff in there-

Melissa K.:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill:

Unbelievable.

Yvonne Clayton:

And the drummers, for every time he hit, he'd get hit in the face-

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Desi Norman:

[Laughs].

Bill:

[Laughs].

Melissa K.:

[Laughs].

Yvonne Clayton:

[crosstalk 01:25:15], [laughs].

Desi Norman:

Yeah. It's an experience, you know. As a musician, these are things that, that we, that we do you know.

Bill:

Yeah.

Desi Norman:

In all odds.

Bill:

You know.

Jennifer S.:

Yeah.

Bill:

I'll tell you what, we come to outside [inaudible 01:25:22] again, I'm bringing a tarp and a tent-

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Bill:

And, and, and an umbrella.

Desi Norman:

I had the tarp but the-

Yvonne Clayton:

Well, well we're buying one

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Desi Norman:

Time I got-

Yvonne Clayton:

for, for the park, (laughs).

Desi Norman:

Over, it, it really was.

Bill:

Yeah.

Desi Norman:

It was already done, you know.

Bill:

Yeah needed some help. But, but despite that, y'all did a great, great job.

Desi Norman:

Thanks.

Jennifer S.:

Oh, yeah. You sounded-

Yvonne Clayton:

[Laughs].

Bill:

[crosstalk 01:25:44].

Jennifer S.:

You sounded amazing, I mean that's why I was, I don't believe that it was happening.

Yvonne Clayton:

Talk about perseverance. It's like...

Desi Norman:

Yeah.

Bill:

Well anyhow, like uh, like I said, you have any questions about it, let me know.

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Jennifer S.:

I'll def, we'll definitely follow, we're gonna watch it. Um, thank you for bringing it, bye.

Bill:

Right, I'll give you a call, man.

Desi Norman:

All right.

Bill:

All right, all right, good. Good seeing you.

Jennifer S.:

So nice to see you, we'll, I'll talk to you soon.

Bill:

Yes, I'll, I'll see, I'll see, I'll see you soon. Okay, all right. All right [inaudible 01:26:00].

Jennifer S.:

Yes, all right. Okay. Thanks.

Bill:

Melissa.

Melissa K.:

Kay, good to see you, Bill.

Bill:

All right, see you all later, then.

Melissa K.:

Take it easy.

Bill:

Okay, okay.

Kathleen:

Take care.

Desi Norman:

Um, are we done?

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Yvonne Clayton:

Yes.

Jennifer S.:

Uh, yes, but we, except for, uh-

**Interview ended.**

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