

AL BERNARD

(Bassist/Band Leader)

Al Bernard was born in New Orleans on December 3, 1938. He was educated in New Orleans, and later, in Los Angeles where he majored in music at Los Angeles City College. At the age of 15, Al was bitten by the "jazz bug" when he "sat-in" with Kid Ory's Band. Al's father had brought him to hear Ory's band at a club in Los Angeles.

Upon his return to New Orleans in 1964, Al has been one of the busiest bass players in town. He worked 6 nights per week with Santo Pecora's Tailgate Ramblers and also with a band led by Sharkey Bonano at the Famous Door on Bourbon Street. Al later joined the Blue Room Orchestra at the Fairmont Hotel where, for many years, he was privileged to perform with some of the "Greats" such as Cab Calloway, Billy Eckstein, Mel Torme, Joe Williams, Keely Smith, Rosemary Clooney, and Nancy Wilson. After the Blue Room years, Al also had the opportunity to work with Louis Jordan for a couple of months. During the middle 70's, Al had a four years stay with the Dukes of Dixieland. He was also a member of Al Hirt's band for two years. He has done tours of Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Japan with Tim Laughlin's New Orleans All Stars and a tour of Finland and Sweden with "Jimmy" La Rocca's Original Dixieland Jazz Band, and tours of Japan with his own band, Al Bernard's New Orleans Jazz Sextet with Kim Prevost. In 2000, Al performed for the first time in China. When Al is town, he performs on a regular basis with Amy Sharpe, Don Suhor, and Brian Ogilvie at the Court of Two Sisters Restaurant located in New Orleans' French Quarter.

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