

Jay Middleton – Long bio

Jay Middleton is a vocalist/songwriter who has been entertaining people at thousands of live shows for almost four decades running. Middleton has written songs that have charted in the US Top 40 charts with lots of national airplay. With his bands, he has toured across the US performing at many top clubs & venues and opening for and sharing the stage with many famous artists.

Twenty-seven years after his last song hit the Top 40, Middleton has returned with his latest album “Forward”. The album is being called “a seamless evocation of timeless musical values – soulful but sophisticated, sturdy songs with instantly accessible melodies that give Middleton a platform from which he can truly soar.” ¹

Many decades of personal friendships and musical connections aligned around the writing and recording of “Forward”. The songwriting partnership of Middleton, producer Carl Wheeler and guitarist Vernon Black was the initial foundation of the project. Some of the finest musicians that the vibrant SF Bay Area music community has to offer coalesced around Middleton’s new songs to produce an album that critics are calling “the deeply considered, wickedly detailed work of mature talents.” ¹

The record has “a polished, scrupulously produced sound that unfolds kaleidoscopically into a variety of configurations. The music is a throwback to the polished R&B/Pop blend of the early ‘80s, that brief but golden era when the disco tide receded, and hip hop had yet to make the scene.” ¹

The songs were written during the outbreak of Covid - a time of great strife and transition for all of us. The themes are purposefully hopeful and optimistic in the face of all the negativity and division that surrounded us then - and still surrounds us today. Songs about the struggles, hopes and dreams that we all share and experience trying to move ourselves “Forward” through life.

Jay Middleton lives in the SF Bay Area where he enjoys being a husband and proud father of two children and family dog Bucky.

¹ Joel Selvin review of “Forward”, November 1, 2022