

BENSON AND JARREAU AT THEIR BEST

More than 30 years in the making, but worth the wait—Monster Music® presents George Benson and Al Jarreau's first-ever HDS High Definition Surround SuperDisc *Grein' It Up*. This landmark HDS recording and masterful collaboration between two of jazz and R&B's most celebrated crossover artists proves once again that musical artistry, exceptional song writing and breathtaking production never go out of style.

Whether it was friendly competition or just mutual respect, both George and Al are at the height of their powers on *Grein' It Up*. George's meticulous guitar playing, steeped in the blues and bop, is the perfect counterpoint to Al's soaring, unbridled vocals. Their dynamic exchanges give this collaboration a truly one-of-a-kind sound, whether they're reinterpreting George's "Breezin'" or riffing on Al's poignant original "Let It Rain."

Noel Lee, the Herd Monster, a longtime friend of George's, was instrumental in finally bringing these Grammy® Award-winning superstars together for the album's 13 tracks, as diverse and engaging as their careers, spanning jazz, pop, R&B and more.

"This album has really been a labor of love for everyone involved and me personally, since

George has been a friend of mine for more than 20 years," says Noel. "Being able to capture George and Al's artistry in HDS has been a true highlight of my career."

Noel personally helped mix *Grein' It Up*'s HDS tracks with highly regarded surround sound engineer Don Murray, whose recent credits also include B.B. King, "Reflections" and Michael McDonald, "Motown I & II."

"When taking on a project like this, you can never predict the results, but I think we've exceeded everyone's expectations," adds Noel. "It is a crowning achievement for both artists as you will soon hear."

Adds Murray, "This is a watershed album in regard to surround sound quality. You can truly hear that it was conceived in surround sound."

Not surprisingly, a phenomenal assembly of guest musicians were drawn to this world-class collaboration. The greatest coup: Sir Paul McCartney singing the Sam Cooke classic "Bring It On Home To Me." It was pure studio serendipity that landed McCartney on the track. He happened to be working in the room next door, setting up the album's magical take. Also in support: trumpeter sensation Chris Botti and soul diva Jill Scott, Patric Austin and Patrice Rushen.

Jazz greats Herbie Hancock (piano), Marcus Miller (electric bass) and Stanley Clarke (upright bass) also join the band on two Miles

Davis staples. Hancock and Miller stretch out on "Long Come Tirtu," a version of Miles' "Tutu," while Clarke lends a vintage swing to a lively rendition of "Four."

The deft touch of Grammy® Award-winning Concord producer John Burk (Ray Charles, *Genius Loves Company*) is also heard throughout. He and Noel guided the recording process and collaborated with George and Al on the album's engaging selection of songs.

Moving covers of Billie Holiday's "God Bless The Child" and Daryl Hall's "Every Time You Go Away" showcase why these crossover hit makers have sold millions of records.

"They're explosive together," says Burk. "They have a way of igniting each other."

GEORGE AND AL ON THE HDS HIGH DEFINITION SURROUND EXPERIENCE

"High Definition Surround gives the music another dimension that you didn't think existed. You just have to experience it because it puts you right in the middle of it all—where the music comes alive."
—George Benson

"In High Definition Surround, you can reach in and touch George's guitar, you can reach in and touch the singer's lips. It's like being there as the music is created."
—Al Jarreau

