

Created by: Edward F. Nesta

Chuck Loeb - Presence



Presence is about rich melodies and a fresh groove; Chuck Loeb is a musician who knows how to work the human elements, and the presence of his personnel to bring a release to life.



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Presence: *Good to Go, Rikki Don't lose That Number, Window of the Soul, Starting Over, Llevame, Presence, The Music Outside, The Western Sky, Hangin' With You, Mr. Martino, Shed a Little Light*

Personnel: Chuck Loeb: guitars, keyboards, drum programming; Dave Mann: saxophones, flutes, horn arrangement; Ron "Buttercup" Jenkins: bass guitar; Will Lee: bass; Matt King: piano; Brian Killeen: bass; Josh Dion: drums, percussion; Carmen Cuesta: vocals; Mike Ricchiuti: piano, rhodes; Carl Carter: bass; Nathan Ecklund: trumpet, trombone; Till Brönner: trumpet, flugelhorn; Wolfgang Haffner: drums; Christian Diener: acoustic bass; Mitchel Forman: strings, string arrangement; Andy Snitzer: alto sax; Tom Schumann: piano; Brian Dunne: drums

Presence is Chuck Loeb's debut release on [Heads Up International](#). Chuck Loeb, an accomplished guitarist, arranger, composer, and producer, has spanned four decades and seven solo albums, making his mark across genres, and different media (TV and motion pictures); he works a melody as few musicians can. Chuck is a student of music, though he possessed natural talent and was self-taught, he studied at Berklee College of Music, and with jazz greats such as Jim Hall and Dennis Sandole. In addition, he has played with jazz legends such as Chico Hamilton, Stan Getz, Ray Barreto, and Hubert Laws. He is a mainstay on both the New York and international music scene, logging numerous hours as a session musician and playing with various groups over the past 20+ years. His latest release **Presence** is about the human element in making music and in everyday life. As Chuck states, "It is about the effect that an individual's personality has on the music, both in the context of a recording and in a live setting."

There are eleven tracks on **Presence**, nine written by Chuck, and all eleven arranged and mixed by him. His style of creating music around a strong melody is heard throughout the release. The first track *Good to Go* is smooth jazz with some bounce to the melody, the song was a collaborative arrangement with Andy Snitzer and Paul Brown; it was a track that seemed to float between the three musicians and as Chuck states, "When it was good to go, we decided that we might as well just call it that." The Steely Dan classic *Rikki Don't Lose That Number* is the second track, Chuck takes the tempo down and infuses Dave Mann on saxophone and flute with his guitar work. The tracks *Window of the Soul*, *Starting Over*, and the title track *Presence* are poignant tracks that highlight Chuck's talent for using phrases and motifs to control and embellish melodies that make you want to play the songs over-and-over again.

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The track *Llevame* features Carmen Cuesta on vocals and has Chuck working quadruple duty covering all of the instruments (guitar, keyboards, fender and synth bass, and drum programming). This track was written more than two decades ago, but after hearing its Latin rhythmic sound you can understand why this melody never left Chuck's head; he dropped in a new bridge and finally recorded it.

The track *Mr. Martino* is a tribute to the legendary guitarist Pat Martino. This track contains a groove that picks up with the first note and carries it throughout the song. Chuck's splendid guitar work sets up the track, with Brian Killeen and Josh Dion holding down the bass-line while Matt King's fingers dance on the keyboards.

Chuck closes the release with another classic, this time from James Taylor, entitled *Shed a Little Light*. The melodies are superb as Chuck layers in a horn section (saxophones and flutes), along with piano, organ, bass, drums, and of course, guitar, for an upbeat track to close out this great release.

Websites where you can procure **Presence** are [Heads Up](#), [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#), [CD Universe](#), and [Max Albums](#).

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