

TOTO Bio

Few ensembles in the history of recorded music have individually or collectively had a larger imprint on pop culture than the members of TOTO. As individuals, the band members' imprint can be heard on an astonishing 5000 albums that together amass a sales history of a HALF A BILLION albums. Amongst these recordings, NARAS applauded the performances with 225 Grammy nominations. Band members were South Park characters, while Family Guy did an entire episode on the band's hit "Africa." As a band, TOTO sold 35 million albums, and today continue to be a worldwide arena draw staging standing room only events across the globe. They are pop culture, and are one of the few 70s bands that have endured the changing trends and styles, and 35 years in to a career enjoy a multi-generational fan base.

It is not an exaggeration to estimate that 95% of the world's population has heard a performance by a member of TOTO. The list of those they individually collaborated with reads like a who's who of Rock & Roll Hall of Famers, alongside the biggest names in music. The band took a page from their heroes The Beatles playbook and created a collective that features multiple singers, songwriters, producers, and multi-instrumentalists.

Guitarist Steve Lukather aka Luke has performed on 2000 albums, with artists across the musical spectrum that include Michael Jackson, Roger Waters, Miles Davis, Joe Satriani, Steve Vai, Rod Stewart, Jeff Beck, Don Henley, Alice Cooper, Cheap Trick and many more. His solo career encompasses a catalog of ten albums and multiple DVDs that collectively encompass sales exceeding 500,000 copies. His touring schedule annually reached points across the globe via his solo ensemble, and multiple side projects. In 2013 alone, his plans bring him to Australia and New Zealand with Ringo Starr's All-Starr Band, through Europe staging a long run in support of his solo career, and multiple continents with TOTO. Over the past quarter century he has collaborated live with artists as diverse as Larry Carlton, G3 with Satriani / Vai, and John Petrucci. He is also featured on a live DVD with Edgar Winter, is a key member of Los Lobos, a cult fusion band with two albums and a DVD release, and in Soul Bop with Bill Evans, Randy Brecker, Robben Ford, Darryl Jones and others when not focused on TOTO and solo activities. In 2001, he won a Grammy Award with Larry Carlton for the live album No Substitutions, and again in 1982 for George Benson's "Turn Your Love Around" which he co-wrote.

Keyboardist David Paich has co-writing credits on the Boz Scaggs songs "What Can I Say," "Lowdown," and "Lido Shuffle" from the multi-platinum album Silk Degrees. In 1978, he penned (alongside David Foster and artist Cheryl Lynn), and produced the hit single "Got To Be Real" which catapulted her to stardom, and is remembered as one of the defining moments in disco. He has also written songs recorded by Cher, Glen Campbell, Chicago, Billy Preston, and George Benson. He has been arranger and / or keyboardist for Michael Jackson, Neil Diamond, Jackson Browne, Don Henley, Stevie Nicks, The Doobie Brothers, Heart, Foreigner, Steely Dan, Seals and Crofts, P!nk, Bryan Adams, Rod Stewart, Paul McCartney, and Sir Elton John. He produced such notables as Aretha Franklin, George Benson, Tremaine Hawkins and the great Sarah Vaughn.

Drummer Jeff Porcaro worked on hundreds of albums and was a participant in thousands of sessions. He performed behind the kit for Steely Dan's Katy Lied and others, and performed on albums as diverse as those from Dire Straits, Jackson Browne, Donald Fagen, Rickie Lee Jones, Michael Jackson,

Paul Simon, Madonna, Al Jarreau, America, Peter Frampton, the Bee Gees, Stand Getz, Barbara Streisand, Warren Zevon, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen and countless others. His brother Steve Porcaro's session credits include Michael Jackson (composer, "Human Nature"), Jefferson Airplane, Yes, and many others. On the live side, outside of TOTO activities he has toured with Gary Wright (1977) and Yes' Chris Squire (1992). He wrote or co-wrote at least one song on each of TOTO's first six albums. Currently, Porcaro continues to score the hit TV show Justified on FX Network, which he has created for the past three seasons alongside countless other projects for film and television. Middle Brother Mike Porcaro became an official member of TOTO in 1982, with recorded performances prior that include his cello track on "Good For You" (TOTO IV). Lukather shares, "After the departure of Hungate, we were joined by brother Mike Porcaro to make the family of TOTO complete! The grooves became even more intense." In addition to touring with Michael Franks on his very first tour, significant contribution to the albums of Seals & Crofts whom he also toured with, he performed on hundreds of records, including on Santana's smash "Supernatural" and KISS.

Amongst all of these accomplishments on the performance side, few had a deeper impact than Michael Jackson's international hits the Thriller and Bad albums. On "Beat It," Luke played all the guitars (aside from the famous Eddie Van Halen solo) and the bass parts, and Jeff Porcaro played drums making it more TOTO than most people are aware. They also contributed to the Jackson / McCartney duet. Despite their world-wide commercial success as TOTO, the members of the band continued their session work, collaborating with artists such as Don Henley, Van Halen, Steely Dan, Boz Scaggs, Paul McCartney, Chicago, and Eric Clapton. Additionally, David Paich brought in the entire band to work together on a movie score for David Lynch's Dune, based on the best-selling science fiction novel that has since become a cult phenomenon

In the new millennium, compositions from the band's catalog have found new life through nods from the likes of Jay-Z who sampled one of the most recorded and re-recorded songs in history "Africa," while in 2002 Roger Sanchez had a worldwide smash with "Another Chance" which included a sample of "I Won't Hold You Back." Sanchez's Top 10 U.S. Pop single entered the chart at #1 in the UK and went on to sell millions of copies.

On the songwriting side, the members' additional accomplishments worth citing are no less significant. Credits include The Tubes Top 10 hits "She's A Beauty" and "Talk To Ya Later" (written by Lukather with Fee Waybill and David Foster), Nathan East's "Easy Lover" with Phil Collins and Phillip Bailey, and of course the Michael Jackson hit "Human Nature" penned by Steve Porcaro which was really simply the entertainer fronting TOTO on a track the band wrote, arranged and performed on. Luke was nominated alongside Quincy Jones, Steve Porcaro, and David Paich for a Best Arrangement Grammy for "Human Nature."

"Rural Still Life"

In 1970, David Paich met Jeff Porcaro and his brothers Steve and Mike. He was asked to and joined his band that played under the moniker "The Merciful Souls, which soon became Rural Still Life, 'named after an obscure Tom Scott album. The band resembled a cross between Blood, Sweat & Tears and Mad Dogs & Englishmen, and they blazed a trail across the San Fernando Valley. The group became locally legendary in the environs of Grant High School. Herein began the musical bond between Paich and the Porcaro brothers that would last for decades.

"Schools Out"

When David and Jeff left high school they joined Sonny and Cher, which is where they met a bass player from Texas David Hungate, synth prodigy Steve Porcaro took over the band. Virtuoso gunslinger guitarist Steve "Luke" Lukather joined, and it was here he met the other Porcaro brothers and Paich. They dropped 'rural' and became "Still Life. Again the bar was raised, the repertoire expanded, and the local legend grew. The band keyed in to their renditions of unreleased Steely Dan songs at gigs, and selections from the top progressive rock songs of the day.

"Silk Degrees"

David and Jeff played on an album by guitarist Les Dudek, that introduced them to Boz Scaggs. On this album, the three future TOTO members made musical history. The sound they collectively created with Scaggs went on to sell over 5 million albums in the United States alone, and established Paich as a bonified writer. The recording also delivered his first Grammy Awards of many, and gave him the confidence to pursue their next endeavor TOTO.

Playing live shows with Boz, Dave and Jeff brought brother Steve Porcaro back into the picture, and they toured all over the U.S Luke joined Boz shortly after, and became renowned for his live solos during that time.. The record companies took notice, and the career that has stretched decades under the name TOTO began.

"TOTO"

With a line-up solidified in 1976 with drummer Jeff Porcaro, keyboardist David Paich, guitarist Luke, keyboardist Steve Porcaro, bassist David Hungate and singer Bobby Kimball, Paich set about writing what became the eponymous debut album.

The young band aspired to hear their own music on the radio, and in 1978, "Hold The Line" ran up the Billboard charts peaking at #5, delivering a multi-platinum debut. Worldwide, the song hit #1 in territories across the globe. The band was nominated for a Best New Artist Grammy up against Elvis Costello, The Cars, and Taste of Honey, who won the ballot. Luke remembers when he first heard the song on Los Angeles' KMET sharing, "David called and woke me up screaming that 'Hold The Line' was on the radio. I turned it on and had that moment every artist experiences the first time they hear their music played publicly. It was euphoric. Soon, the song was on the radio everywhere." This was the first of a parade of enduring, evocative singles that have become the soundtrack for generations. Songs that include "Africa," "Rosanna," "99," "I'll Supply The Love," "Make Believe," "I Won't Hold You Back," "I'll Be Over You," "Georgy Porgy" and many others capture the depth that define the deep connection the band's 17 albums continue to have with the global fan base.

In 1979, TOTO released their second record, Hydra. A bit of a harder edge than TOTO's first record, Hydra features the Top 10 track "99", a song inspired by the George Lucas movie THX-1138 about a society where people were given numbers instead of names. In point of fact, music video of "99" features the band in an all-white room dressed in white, a set piece designed around Lucas' visionary film. Following the release of Hydra, TOTO turned their musical talents in a new direction, and in

1981 their third record, *Turn Back*, was released. Co-Produced by the legendary Geoff Workman of Queen, Journey, and The Cars fame, the album is a heavier cult classic.

"TOTO IV"

After an extensive schedule in the studio, TOTO released the iconic TOTO IV in 1982. The record immediately exploded onto the charts, producing the smash hits "Africa," "Rosanna," and "I Won't Hold You Back" which spent ten weeks at #1 at AC, alongside being a massive hit at pop radio, rocketing the band to instant international stardom. TOTO IV went multi-platinum and yielded 5 singles.

In 1983, while TOTO IV continued to sell millions of copies worldwide, TOTO reaped the benefits of their hard work and commercial success at the Grammy Awards, winning six different categories, including the coveted Album of the Year for TOTO IV and Record of the Year for "Rosanna." The record also won awards for Producer of the Year and Best Engineered Recording, while "Rosanna" also earned Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocals and Best Vocal Arrangement. In addition, Luke won for Best Rhythm & Blues Song – "Turn Your Love Around" – which he co-wrote with Jay Graydon and Bill Champlin.

Toto IV yielded accolades flooding their way, and over the next two decades, the band continued to thrive worldwide, with occasional changes in personnel. Just prior to the TOTO IV world tour, Mike Porcaro replaced David Hungate. Like his brothers, Mike was an accomplished session musician, and having played with the band members in high school, Mike was a perfect replacement. Thus the band's first-class playing and fun-loving dynamic continued despite the personnel change

"More Toto Years"

During pre-production of Toto's fifth record, Bobby Kimball left the band and was replaced by Le Roux's Fergie Frederiksen. In 1983, TOTO was commissioned to write a theme for the XXIII Olympic Games being held in 1984. The composition was titled "Moodido – The Match". Then in late 1984, TOTO released *Isolation*, cleverly titled to explain the band's two and a half year absence since the release of TOTO IV. *Isolation* featured the hit single, "Stranger In Town," and the record's harder rock edge immediately appealed to the fans.

Following the *Isolation* Tour, Fergie Frederiksen was replaced by Joseph Williams, son of famous film composer John Williams. Joseph was a high school friend, and in the case of Lukather there was a history of playing in bands together. Luke offers, "The friendship with Joseph has never waned through all these years and is strong to this day." In 1985, the band played on the charity record *USA for Africa*, and Steve Porcaro and David Paich are featured on the song "We Are the World."

In 1986, the band released their sixth record, *Fahrenheit*, featuring the hit single "I'll Be Over You," which sat atop the U.S. AC chart for 11 weeks at #1 alongside entering the Top 10 at Pop, and reaching the peak position on airplay charts worldwide. Prior to the *Fahrenheit* World Tour, Steve Lukather traveled to Japan, where he played with legendary guitarists Jeff Beck and Carlos Santana. While in Japan, Luke met Simon Phillips, a seasoned drummer from the UK who had played with such artists as The Who, Mike Oldfield, and Mick Jagger.

Upon Luke's return to the United States, TOTO left for the Fahrenheit World Tour, which lasted until the Spring of 1987. The Steve Porcaro penned "Lea" was a smash in South America, while Luke's "I'll Be Over You" and Paich's "Without Your Love" were Top 40 hits in the U.S. and other territories. Jeff Porcaro directed the video for "Till The End," featuring a young Paula Abdul. Miles Davis made a rare guest appearance performing on "Don't Stop Me Now." Luke recalls, "Miles simply did not do this so we were flattered. He called me after and asked that I join his band, but with the tour leaving for three months the next day I could not do it. What an honor to simply be asked."

TOTO's next studio effort, appropriately titled *The Seventh One* (1988), was one of the band's best-sellers. The album received international acclaim, scored two hit singles that peaked at #1 in "Pamela" and "Stop Loving You," and fueled a sold-out tour. The album sold millions, and was certified platinum in territories across the globe. At the close of *The Seventh One* Tour, Joseph Williams left the band to pursue a solo career, and what became a very successful career composing and performing for film and television. He was a schooled musician like the other members of TOTO from an early age, and as his father John Williams had, he has thrived in Hollywood. Select credits include scoring for the science fiction series *Roswell* and *The Lyon's Den*, he wrote the original English "Lapti Nek and the Ewok Celebration" lyrics for *Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*. He has also had a successful career on the session side as a vocalist, and most notably can be heard as the Adult Simba performing on songs including "Hakuna Matata" and "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" in the original Disney animated film *The Lion King*.

1989 saw a brief break from the TOTO scene for the band members to pursue other projects, but in 1990, TOTO came together in the studio once again to plan a greatest hits compilation entitled *Past to Present*. Four new songs featuring unknown singer Jean-Michel Byron were included on the *Past to Present* record, and the first single, "Out of Love" became a hit in Europe, while the album went Platinum in most countries.

At the end of 1991, the band recorded *Kingdom of Desire*, the band's ninth studio effort. As the summer of '92 rolled around, the band toured Europe. Highlights included headlining the Montreux Jazz Festival at the request of Quincy Jones and the beloved Claude Nobs, and co-headlining *Rock in the Ring* with Sting in front of 50,000 fans in Germany.

On August 5, 1992, only a short time before *Kingdom of Desire's* release and the start of the tour to promote the album, tragedy struck. Jeff Porcaro, while spraying a pesticide in his garden at home, suffered a severe allergic reaction to the chemicals and died from a heart attack. The band, Jeff's family, friends, fans, and the worldwide music community mourned the passing of a man, who was not only one of the greatest drummers of his generation, but was, as Luke has consistently said, "a true soul brother" and an incredibly giving and selfless individual. To this very day, the band continues to honor Jeff's legacy and dedicates their performances to his memory.

When Jeff passed away, TOTO found themselves confronted with whether or not the band should go on. With the *Kingdom of Desire* Tour just around the corner and their resolve shaken, TOTO decided to go ahead with the tour because they felt that Jeff would have wanted them to. In selecting a drummer to replace Jeff, the band decided that they wanted someone who would put their own signature to the TOTO sound rather than try to copy Jeff. Luke suggested Simon Phillips, whom he had remembered from the Beck / Santana Tour. Phillips bravely accepted the task of filling in for Jeff on the *Kingdom of Desire* Tour.

Despite the fact that the tour would go on, TOTO were still unsure what the future of the band would be. The Kingdom of Desire Tour became a very special tour for the band and the fans, as many people felt that it might be TOTO's last tour together. TOTO performed more than three hours each night, playing songs from each and every album and adding a tribute of "With A Little Help From My Friends" dedicated to Jeff. The magic of the band's performances during that tour captured the hearts of the fans, and at the end of the tour, the band decided to stay together and move forward, asking Simon Phillips to join them permanently.

In December of 1992 after the tour, TOTO returned to Los Angeles for a Tribute to Jeff show. Joined by legendary musicians Donald Fagan, Michael McDonald, James Newton Howard, Don Henley, Eddie Van Halen, David Crosby, Denny Dias, and George Harrison, the band performed all night, adding to the extensive Kingdom of Desire Tour set list from their own discography as well as hits from the other guest artists, many on which Jeff himself had played during his session work. Steve Porcaro and percussionist Lenny Castro joined the band on stage as well, and to this day, the Tribute to Jeff remains a milestone on TOTO's long list of special performances.

At the beginning of 1993, TOTO started work on their first live record entitled Absolutely Live, which featured highlights from the Kingdom of Desire Tour. After its release, the band members went on hiatus to pursue other projects.

1994 found the band briefly reunited to take part in the Night of the Proms tour in Europe, a massive production featuring a full choir and orchestra that fuses classical music and pop / rock. The band played before audiences of over a hundred thousand in Belgium, Holland, and Germany. At the close of the Proms, the band once again continued work on outside projects.

But in 1995, they came together once again and started working on their first studio record with Simon Phillips on drums. After finishing their studio work, TOTO played a string of summer festivals in Europe where they showcased three of the new songs, which were very much acclaimed by the fans. That fall, TOTO released their eleventh record, Tambu, and their first single, "I Will Remember," went gold in several European countries and in Japan. TOTO spent the entire spring and summer of that year on the Tambu World Tour, visiting Europe, Japan, and South America. Furthermore, England saw TOTO opening for Tina Turner in addition to playing their own shows. At the close of the Tambu World Tour, the band took another break to continue their session work and other solo projects.

In 1997 the band celebrated its 20th Anniversary. In the spirit of the anniversary, David Paich and Luke started searching through old tapes and recordings for the release of a very special new record, TOTO XX. In late 1997, the band toured South Africa for the first time, eventually joining a South African choir and drum team to perform "Africa" in Johannesburg.

In 1998, Luke and Paich put the finishing touches on TOTO XX, including the fabled "Africa" track from Johannesburg, and it was released in May, after which it rapidly climbed the European and Japanese charts. While a full tour was never planned, TOTO teamed up with former members Bobby Kimball, Joseph Williams, and Steve Porcaro for several special release parties in Europe, performing all of their old hits as a single team. At the close of the TOTO XX release parties, Bobby Kimball rejoined the band as a vocalist, and TOTO began recording their first new studio record in almost five years.

In March of 1999, TOTO released their *Mindfields* record and earned a Grammy Nomination for Best Engineered Album, Non Classical. They embarked on an immense world tour in February of that year. After several highly successful months in Europe, the band went on a sold-out Japanese tour in April. In May, TOTO toured the United States for the first time in six years. That Summer, TOTO started mixing a new live album, *Livefields*, showcasing the *Mindfields* Tour and Kimball's return to the microphone.

The arrival of the Millennium opened with TOTO finishing their tour and several of the band's members working on solo projects. Steve Lukather won a Grammy with guitar-legend Larry Carlton, and the band found themselves sharing the stage with Eric Clapton in Mexico in October 2001.

2002 marked the 25th Anniversary of the band's illustrious career, and TOTO went back into the studio to record *Through the Looking Glass*, paying tribute to their roots and musical heroes by recording versions of classic songs that got the band started. The record was released in October, and the band left for their 25th Anniversary Tour later that month, visiting all of Europe and closing the run in the Far East at the end of December.

In January 2003, TOTO continued the anniversary tour and recorded a live DVD in Amsterdam. Mixed by Simon Phillips in April of that year, the *Live in Amsterdam* DVD was an immediate hit among the fans, and remains the band's best-selling DVD release that continues to see strong sales weekly. Accompanied by a CD of the show, the DVD sold very well. After the release of their DVD, TOTO returned to the *Night of the Proms* in Europe from October until December and played in front of over 600,000 fans. Touring with INXS, the tour featured a 90-piece orchestra, and was one of the highest grossing attractions worldwide according to Pollstar in their annual published chart.

TOTO continued touring in 2004, visiting South East Asia, South America, and Mexico before returning to the United States in May. They played two full shows with the Honolulu Symphony in Hawaii and later the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in Georgia. The tour continued through September of that year, where TOTO was invited to the prestigious Tokyo Jazz Festival, during which they played with Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter.

2005 marked another monumental change in the TOTO lineup. David Paich, semi-retired from touring to stay home with a sick family member, was replaced by Greg Phillinganes on tour. Later that year, Greg permanently joined the band, thereby returning the band roster to six members with two keyboardists. A world-class player whose credits include Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones, and Eric Clapton, Greg has brought a new energy to the band on stage as well as in the studio, where he helped record TOTO's seventeenth release, *Falling In Between* that features both Joseph Williams and Steve Porcaro. The album brought TOTO back to the worldwide charts, with significant success in most countries. The band was lauded with some of the best reviews of their career, and a sold-out tour that was topped off with a gig in Paris that saw the band perform for a sold-out crowd of 17,000 in Bercy.

Throughout 2007 to 2008, old friend Leland Sklar toured with TOTO as the bassist, hand selected by Mike Porcaro. Sklar is the most recorded bass player of all time, and the entire organization was appreciative of his clearing a very busy schedule to commit his talents to the band at a difficult time. Lukather shares, "TOTO has been gifted with the best parade of bassists walking the planet from Hungate, and then Mike Porcaro, to Leland, and then Nathan East. It really has been amazing."

In 2008, the band filmed and recorded *Falling In Between Live*, a new live double CD and DVD. At the close of the tour, the band were joined in Japan by Joseph Williams, David Paich, and the legendary Boz Scaggs for a memorable performance. At the close of the tour, the band members announced that they were going their separate ways to pursue their own projects.

In 2009, David Paich performed at The United Nations in honor of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and Dr. Kevin Cahill who were presented with Millennium Development Goals Awards for their lifetime of humanitarian service. Accompanied by the Harlem Boys Choir and members of Paul Simon's band, the seven-time Grammy Award winning writer performed "Africa," which he co-wrote with band mate Jeff Porcaro.

In February 2010, the band announced that Mike Porcaro was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. They planned a tour to generate funds to support the care of their brother, and to raise the public's consciousness about the disease. As they begin to prep for their first world tour in over a decade that includes an extensive U.S. itinerary, this dual commitment continues to be on their collective agenda.

Toto World Tour 2013 will feature Luke, Paich, Steve Porcaro on keyboards, Drummer Simon Phillips (The Who, Judas Priest, David Gilmour), bassist Nathan East (Eric Clapton, Stevie Wonder, Phil Collins), and singer Joseph Williams. Prior to the TOTO schedule, Luke is touring with Ringo Starr's All-Starr Band, and will be performing an extensive European run in support of his recently released seventh solo studio album *Transition*.

With the absence of both Mike and Jeff Porcaro, the success of 35 years can be bittersweet. Tragedy struck in 1992, when Jeff died of heart failure. Luke recalls, "He was not only my band-mate, but my hero. He was a few years older than us, and already in Steely Dan when we were still in high school. My goal as a kid was to someday be able to play with musicians of his caliber, and that of David Paich. Looking back, I truly feel honored to have been gifted with the amazing talent surrounding me and the band over the past decades through today." For Paich, he offers, "Playing helps me get through the heartbreak of not having Mike and Jeff with us. Whenever Toto is on stage, playing the songs we created together, I see them both sitting there. I'm reunited with my old friends again." As they set the stage for a two-year celebration of the band's 35th Anniversary, Paich offers, "When we were younger, we played with a rock attitude - even though we were playing sophisticated music. Now I think our songs and our performances bring out more of the subtleties and more of the concern we have for the world and for other people. As you age and feel the love and support of so many fans over the years, your feelings for your audience deepens. Instead of worrying about your girlfriends, you empathize that people are hungry and still out of work, and that makes you want to reach out."

Tragedy struck again in 2015, when Mike Porcaro lost the battle with ALS. Steve Lukather: "To say goodbye to another brother, it's always hard. And it was not an easy out. I don't know if you've ever known anybody with ALS, but it is a cruel disease. It takes somebody very slowly. (...) To have two brothers from the same family gone now - that should never happen to any parent, or sister or brother. (...) I just know that I'm a better man for having known Mike. Right now I'm just going to go jump into the pool with my son and remind myself what real love is all about."

Historically, few ensembles in the history of recorded music have individually or collectively had a larger imprint on pop culture than the members of TOTO. As individuals, the band members' performances can be heard on an astonishing 5000 albums that together amass a sales history of a HALF A BILLION albums. Amongst these recordings, NARAS applauded the collected works with 225 Grammy nominations. Band members were *South Park* characters, while *Family Guy* did an entire episode around one of their hits, and most recently Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell scored their honeymoon video to "Africa."

As a band, TOTO has sold over 40 million albums, and today continue to be a worldwide arena draw staging standing room only events across the globe. With over 40 years together and thousands of credits and accolades to their names, TOTO remains one of the top selling touring and recording acts in the world. They are the benchmark by which many artists base their sound and production, and they continue to transcend the standards set by the entire music community, being simply synonymous with musical credibility. Their repertoire continues to be current via high profile usage on both broadcast television and in films. They are pop culture, and are one of the few 70s bands that have endured the changing trends and styles to a career enjoy a multi-generational fan base.

It is not an exaggeration to estimate that 95% of the world's population has heard a performance by a member of TOTO. The list of those they individually collaborated with reads like a who's who of Rock & Roll Hall of Famers, alongside the biggest names in music. The band took a page from their heroes The Beatles playbook and created a collective that features multiple singers, songwriters, producers, and multi-instrumentalists.

In 2015, Toto released their first new studio album in ten years – TOTO XIV. The album exhibited world-class musicianship, masterful arrangements, topical lyrical commentary, and melodies that the collective genius of Lukather, Paich, Porcaro, Williams and their assembled band-mates brought to life. It debuted Top 10 in nine countries around the world and became their most successful album since 1988 in the U.S. and UK.

In 2016 they released the Blu-Ray/DVD/CD title Live At Montreux which quickly charted around the globe as well.

TOTO announced the set of shows in support of the band's 40th Anniversary beginning in 2018. The 40 Trips Around The Sun Tour will begin in February 2018 in Europe. The tour will be the band's most extensive run in years and will be a worldwide tour to celebrate the band's enduring career.

Along side the launch of the tour, TOTO along with Legacy Recordings have created a brand new Greatest Hits package, also titled: 40 Trips Around The Sun. The album will feature brand new previously unreleased music along side newly remastered classic tracks worked on by Elliot Scheiner & Gavin Lurssen and his team. The core Toto members, Steve Lukather, David Paich, Steve Porcaro, Joseph Williams re-entered the studio this past year to work on the material. Full details on that album along side many other projects the band has in the works with Legacy Recordings will be announced at a later date.

"Myself, David, Steve and Joseph are humbled and thrilled at the long lasting success of the band," Steve Lukather remarked. "This 40th Anniversary tour is going to be a special one for us and all of the fans that come out. On top of all that, it's really exciting to be working with Sony Music again. We've spent a lot of time this year working on new music and re-mastering the older tracks."

With 40 years together and literally thousands of credits, including the biggest selling album of all time: Michael Jackson's Thriller, and accolades to their names, TOTO remains one of the top selling touring and recording acts in the world. They are the benchmark by which many artists base their sound and production, and they continue to transcend the standards set by the entire music community, being simply synonymous with musical credibility. Their repertoire continues to be current via high profile usage on broadcast television. They are pop culture, and are one of the few 70's bands that have endured the changing trends and styles to a career enjoy a multi-generational worldwide fan base.

(Thanks to Totoofficial.com)

January 2018